

# Remembering Howard King



Photo by Howard King

Howard King, a dedicated redwoods photographer who helped save thousands of acres of redwood forests in Santa Cruz and San Mateo, died on June 30 at his home in Boulder Creek. He was 97. Save-the-Redwoods League has featured many of his images in publications in recent decades. King generously donated all of his negatives to Save-the-Redwoods League for its use in promoting the redwoods.

At the age of 54, Howard King took up photography to keep active in retirement. He enjoyed being out in the parks and taking photographs as much as he enjoyed developing them. King began volunteering his time at Big Basin Redwoods State Park where he worked on the trail system. The park honored him by naming a trail after him.

He enjoyed showing Big Basin to League donors interested in the memorial grove program. He met his wife while showing available groves to her and her friend.

“I think he would like to be remembered as a superb photographer, an environmentalist, and someone who wanted to be of as much use to the world as possible,” said Maria King, 94. “He had a real affinity for those trees.”

—Excerpts from an article by Paul Rogers in the Mercury News, July 2, 2003.

## NEW FALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL PROGRAM

The League depends on the regular, annual support of its members for the funds necessary to purchase and preserve redwood forestland throughout the year. This fall, the League will change its fundraising practices. For the past few years, we asked you to renew your membership annually in the spring.

However, a substantial number of members have indicated that they prefer to renew their annual support in the fall. In response, we have decided to move our annual membership renewal to the fall. This schedule will also allow us to better plan and budget in advance for our land purchases in the coming year, increasing our efficiency and effectiveness in preserving ancient redwoods. If you already renewed your membership this past spring—thank you! You will remain a member in good standing until next fall.

Members will continue to receive bi-annual Bulletins, detailing the League’s progress in preserving the redwood legacy. From time to time, we will also alert you to special land acquisition projects that you may choose to support with an additional gift.

As always, we are grateful for your contributions to the preservation of this magnificent part of our American heritage. But if, at any time, you would prefer not to receive one or more of these mailings, please let us know by calling 415-362-2352 ext. 318.



To receive our bulletin via email, send your email address to [bulletin@savetheredwoods.org](mailto:bulletin@savetheredwoods.org)

Save-the-Redwoods League 114 Sansome Street • Room 1200 • San Francisco • CA • 94104  
(415) 362-2352 voice • (415) 362-7017 fax • SaveTheRedwoods.org

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Save-the-Redwoods League

Fall Bulletin 2003

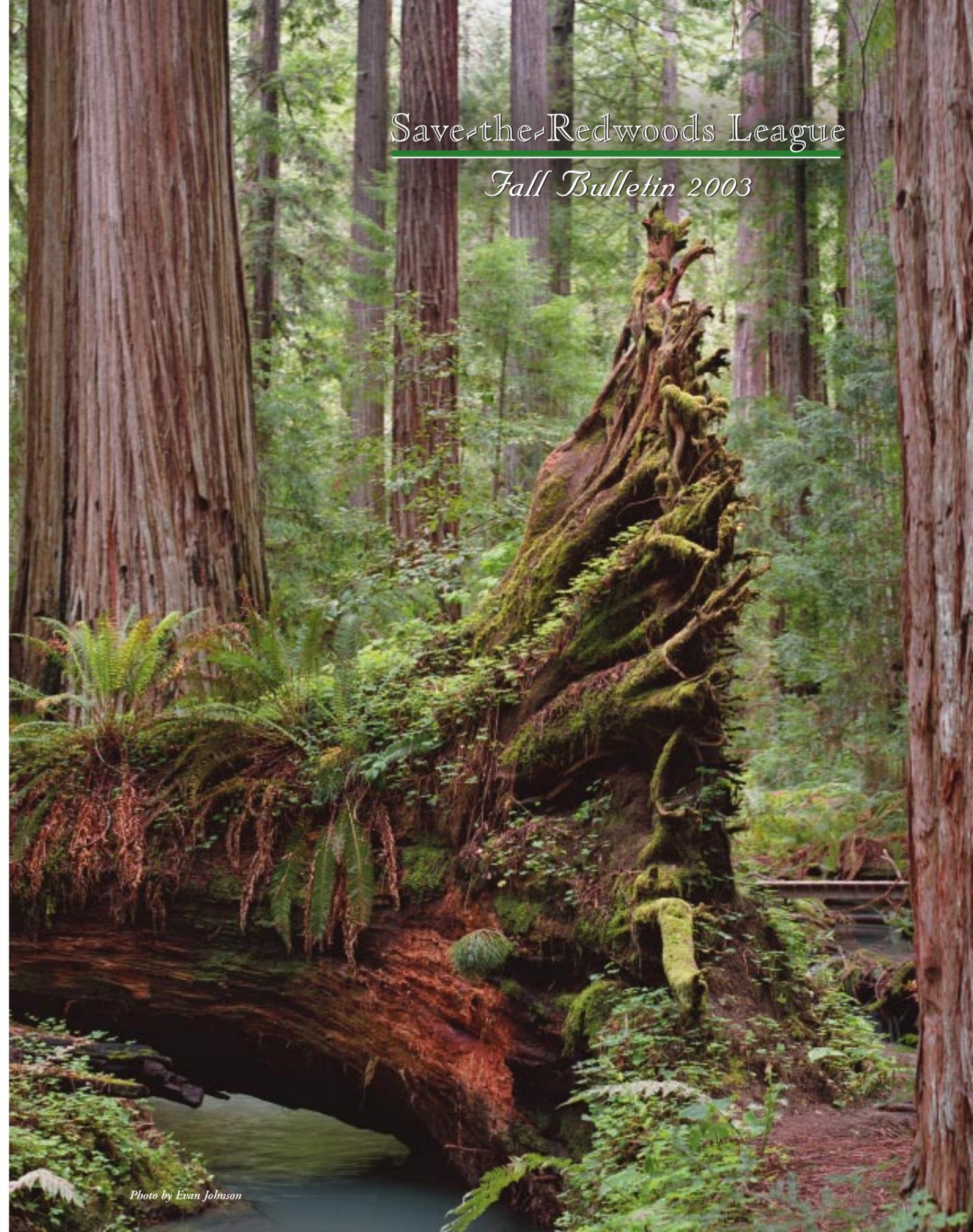


Photo by Evan Johnson



Photo by Ruskia Hartley

## Better from the Executive Director

*I want to thank each of you for your engagement in the work of saving the redwoods and for your support for the League. You are protectors of the most majestic forest in the world. Each of us has stood in the quiet stillness at the foot of the towering trees of the ancient redwood forest, looking upward into the canopy toward the invisible tops of the tallest living thing on earth.*

You might stop and wonder, what makes it possible for the ancient redwood to stand so tall. What could support a tree that stands more than 365 feet? Classic wisdom for fence builders dictates digging a hole one foot deep and burying the fence post one foot in the ground for every three or four feet of post above ground. You might imagine the redwood's root complex reaching more than a hundred feet into the earth to support such a tall tree.

In fact, the root system of the redwood is no more than five to ten feet deep. Instead of a single taproot reaching deep into the earth, the redwood is supported by an intricate interwoven system of roots that reaches wide and far just below the surface. And the ability of that root system to sustain and support the tree is magnified by mycorrhizal fungi that grow all along the roots, expanding the living surface area that extracts nutrients from the soil, carrying those nutrients into the root system that feeds and supports the tree.

In a grove of ancient trees, the roots of one tree may reach outward in all directions, overlapping with the roots of other trees, fusing, joining together, creating a single complex that supports the entire grove. These mycorrhizal fungi not only feed the trees directly below the surface, but may reach upward through the thick duff that collects on the floor of the redwood forest and emerge as truffles.

You, our members, are the far-reaching network that supports the League, the root system that is the source of the successes of the League in saving the redwoods. There is no single taproot that has supported the League's work over the last 85 years. Like the system of roots that supports the redwood, it is the complex

interwoven fabric of individuals, each reaching outward, each feeding support back to the League, that ties us together in this continuing effort and the deep pleasures of each project that expands the protection of the redwood forest.

Today, the challenges we face continue to evolve. I recently returned from a visit to the northernmost reaches of the redwoods, visiting stands of ancient redwoods that remain as islands in the midst of vast acres of industrial timberlands. We dove off logging roads into the wild understory of groves of redwoods, down the steep, steep slopes of the inland gorges of tributaries of the Klamath River. The trees got bigger and bigger, the further down the slope, the closer to the creeks, we went. These stands were inaccessible before modern logging techniques, and remain today, only because the endangered seabird, the marbled murrelet, requires the complex structure of their upper branches to nest. We are working with the company to develop a strategy to protect these stands permanently, together with buffers of younger trees that will develop over time to link the surviving ancient stands, expanding the islands of diversity in the managed landscape.

The League's needs continue to grow if we are to remain effective in meeting the challenges of saving the remaining ancient redwood forest and the associated younger stands necessary for long-term survival of the ancient redwood system.

Thank you for being a part of the far-reaching network of support that makes that possible.

## League Spearheads Purchase to Bolster Protection of Whittemore Grove

California State Parks recently announced its acquisition of a 581-acre parcel overlooking the community of Redway and the south fork of the Eel River.

Purchase of the parcel from Pacific Lumber Company (PALCO) adds to State Parks' existing forested holdings in the area. The purchase also ends years of local community contention and litigation with PALCO over its timber harvest on the steep slopes of Redway. Slope failures after PALCO's last harvest led to flooding in lower Redway and significant sediment deposits in the south fork of the Eel River.

The property is adjacent to Parks' John B. Dewitt Redwoods State Reserve and contains stands of Douglas fir and redwood, including some old growth redwood. The new land will be managed in the same manner as surrounding state property under Steve Horvitz's care, the Eel River Sector Superintendent.

Save-the-Redwoods League negotiated the terms of the purchase, resolved all issues necessary for State acquisition and assigned its rights to the State immediately before close of escrow. The purchase price was \$2.5 million, paid for with Proposition 40 parks bond funds.

"Save-the-Redwoods League is very pleased to have worked with PALCO, the State and the local community to secure permanent preservation of these forestlands, expanding protection of the beautiful ancient redwoods of Whittemore Grove and John B. Dewitt State Reserve," said Kate Anderson, the League's Executive Director.

This was the first PALCO purchase brokered by the League since PALCO was acquired by MAXXAM Corporation in 1986. Although the League and PALCO historically had a relationship of trust and cooperation extending back to the earliest days of the League's existence, not a single purchase had been completed since the change in ownership.

The opportunity to complete the purchase was directly linked to PALCO's request for access over a portion of the State Reserve in order to log its land. The access route passed over lands purchased by the League and transferred to the Department of Parks with a deed restriction requiring that it be used for public park purposes. The Department determined that transport of harvested timber was not a park purpose within the meaning of the deed and refused to give access. All parties agreed that purchase and sale of PALCO's lands was the best way to resolve the issue.

Robert Manne, PALCO President and CEO, said, "Pacific Lumber Company is pleased to again complete a transaction with our neighbors in the state park that provides additional valuable parkland while being fairly compensated for it."

Ruth Coleman, Acting Director of California State Parks, called the purchase "important for the people of California and the people of Humboldt County."

View of the Whittemore Grove and the John B. DeWitt State Redwood Reserve expansion project.



Photo by Pernel S. Thyseldew

## SMALL, INCREMENTAL STEPS

The League continues to quietly and effectively secure protection for the ancient redwoods of Montgomery Woods State Reserve. Earlier this year, the League purchased an undeveloped 2-acre inholding with frontage on the south Fork of Big River for addition to the State Reserve. Along with the land, the acquisition retired a right of deeded access and secured water rights. Keeping water in the creek, preventing further road development, and most importantly assuring the land will be managed to complement the park is an important step towards securing the legacy of this secluded grove. The League's ability to react quickly to this type of opportunity is only possible through the generous support of donations to the League's Redwood Land Program. Without these strategic reserves, the land is at risk of purchase by a developer, thereby threatening the integrity of the park with residential development within its natural boundaries.



*Douglas Iris (Iris douglasiana)*  
Common on bluffs and grassy hillsides, the Douglas Iris sometimes extends farther inland in areas where human activity has opened forests to abundant sunlight.

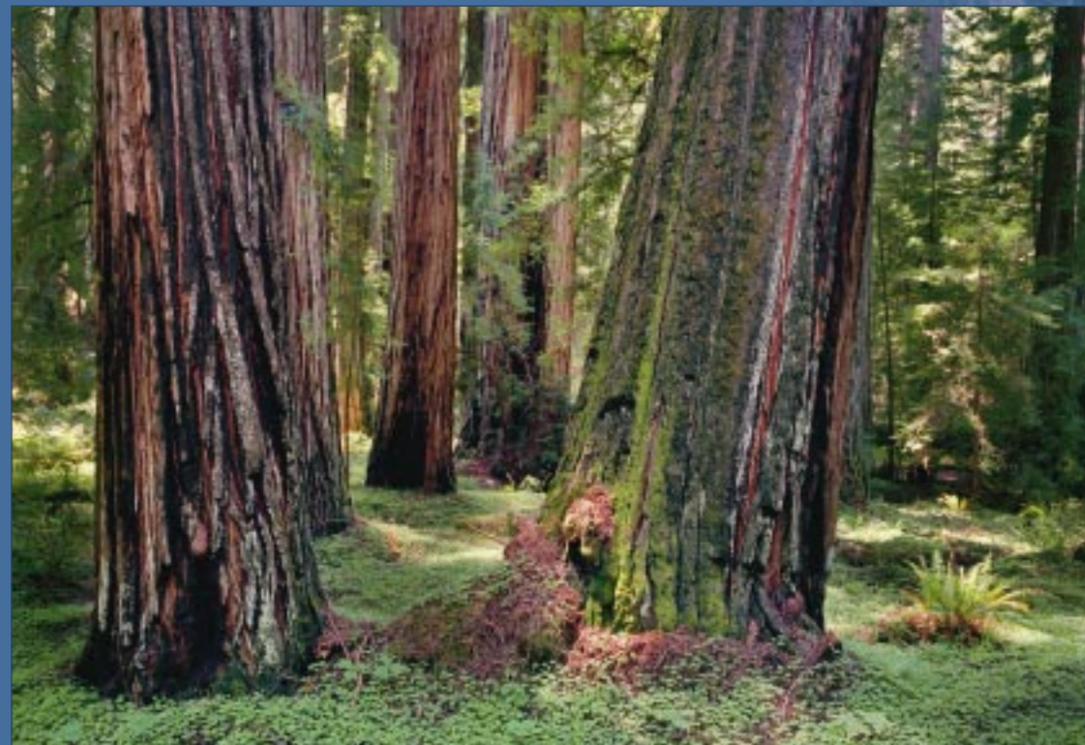
# Montgomery Woods State Reserve

## A Beautiful and Secretive Grove

In 1919 Ynes Mexia, League member and noted botanist, wrote to the newly founded Save-the-Redwoods League inquiring whether the magnificent trees of the Montgomery Grove could be saved from the fate of the "axe and the shake." Acting upon her advice, the League's first Secretary, Newton B. Drury, requested that the Committee on Redwoods Investigation consider whether the grove was worthy of protection. By 1920, Newton Drury could happily inform Ynes Mexia that, "cutting in the heart of the grove had been stopped through the efforts of officials of the League and the citizens of Ukiah."

Permanent protection was not secured for another 25 years. Starting with a nine-acre donation by Robert Orr in 1945, the State Reserve has since been enlarged to 1,142 acres by purchases and donations from Save-The-Redwoods League. The League continues to be vigilant in addressing negative impacts to the forest and pursues acquisition, where possible, to enhance protection

for the grove. Today, this grove is one of the last remaining places in Mendocino County where you can revisit the wonder of the ancient coast redwood forest – much as Ynes Mexia experienced during her first visit in 1918. The grove's special



*The solitude and grandeur of this magical park is accompanied by the musical sounds of Montgomery Creek and the forest's diverse wildlife.*

ecological role is recognized by its classification as a State Reserve – areas of the State Park system with natural and scenic characters of statewide significance where preservation of natural processes take precedence over recreation and other uses.

Located 3 hours north of San Francisco, Montgomery Woods lies at the headwaters of Big River about 11 miles west of Ukiah on the Orr Springs Road. The visitor will find this grove to be a medley of towering redwoods surrounded by a fern carpeted landscape.

redwoods with life-giving water (but making it tough going for the intrepid visitor!). When spring arrives, the wildflowers start to bloom. If you look closely you might discover a Calypso orchid amid the ferns and duff. These elusive wildflowers have a single green leaf and single pink flower that grows from fleshy rootstock. They are named for Calypso, the beautiful and secretive nymph in Homer's Odyssey who waylaid Ulysses on his return from Ithaca. Montgomery Woods also has a unique rock outcropping that supports breeding peregrine falcons.

Next time you travel to the redwoods, we encourage you to journey from the main redwood highway and visit some of the lesser-known gems of the State Park system. These parks and reserves represent part of California's priceless natural legacy. They survive through the dedication of individuals, like Ynes Mexia, who recognize their promise, far-sighted landowners who donate their land for permanent protection, and organizations like Save-the-Redwoods League and their stalwart supporters.

The solitude and grandeur of this magical park is accompanied by the musical sounds of Montgomery Creek and the forest's diverse wildlife. "I have never seen an area that supported such a large breeding population of newts," notes Renee Pasquinelli, Senior Ecologist with California State Parks. "Perhaps it is because Montgomery Woods is the one of the very few remaining ancient redwood groves, where summer-long, moist, cool environments are sustained beneath the lofty redwood canopy." With the coming of winter, the heart of the grove often floods, drenching the

*Photos by Evan Johnson*

## A WINDOW TO THE PAST

Montgomery Woods is more than a beautiful place to visit. It is helping researchers and forest managers better understand the role and special function of the ancient redwood forest in the broader landscape. When Ynes Mexia visited the grove in 1918 the ancient forest was much more extensive than it is today. With less than 5% of the ancient redwood forest left, Montgomery Woods remains one of the few places in the central region of the coast redwood where the natural processes of the ancient forest continue.

In marked contrast to the main 3-mile loop trail which circles the largest redwoods in the heart of the grove, much of Montgomery Woods lies on remote, steep ground. Here the redwoods, while massive, occur as part of mixed Douglas-fir and tan-oak forest. Greg Giusti, of the University of California Cooperative Extension, spends his days hiking to remote undisturbed corners of the Reserve to study its small mammals. "We're finding that the western red-backed vole is the most abundant small mammal in the Reserve. It feeds on mycorrhizae fungi associated with the ancient forest. These fungi help the trees secure nutrients from the soil and thereby grow to their lofty heights. By feeding on them, the vole helps spread

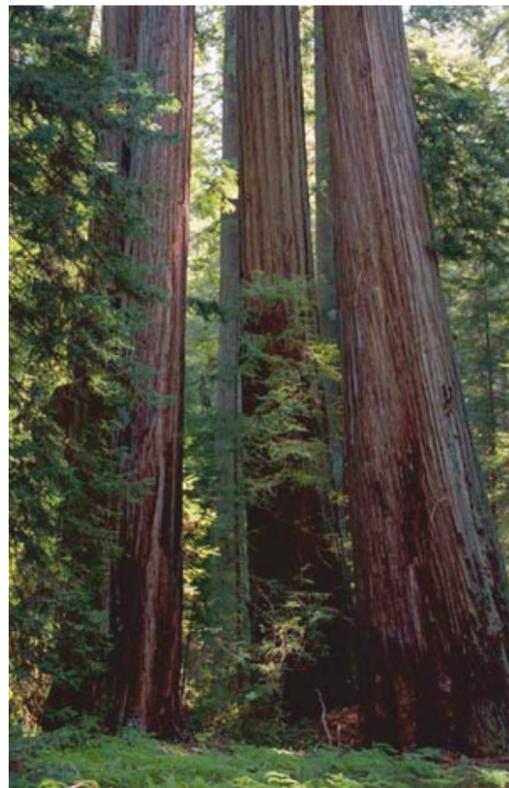
*(continued on page 6)*

the spores around the forest and may help the forest perpetuate itself,” says Giusti. “The voles are uncommon in younger, managed forests. It is possible their presence is an important indicator of the health of the ancient forest. They may also play an important role in restoring ancient forest characteristics in young managed forests.”

More Information  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

*A cathedral grove of ancient redwoods – a gift that will be experienced and loved for generations to come.*

*Photo by Evan Johnson*



## A Weekend Getaway in the Redwoods

### MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE RESERVE

Montgomery Woods State Reserve, nestled in the heart of the Coast Range, is one of the most remote redwood parks. Montgomery Woods, located approximately 3 hours from San Francisco, is an array of massive redwoods towering above a carpet of ferns. The solitude and grandeur of this magical park is accompanied by the musical sounds of Montgomery Creek and the forest’s diverse wildlife.

During a short hike through this awe-inspiring, old growth grove, picnic sites are scattered along the three-mile loop providing the perfect scenery for an afternoon picnic. In just one afternoon you will understand how the tranquility and solitude of this classic park will never fail to inspire its visitors.

classic park will never fail to inspire its visitors.

### NAVARRO RIVER REDWOODS STATE PARK

After leaving Montgomery Woods State Reserve, you will be pleasantly surprised by the variety of landscapes. At every turn, you are treated to a unique change in scenery – from towering trees to the rolling hills of the coastal region. In the spring, the hillsides are blanketed with an ocean of lupine dancing to the coastal breeze. Surrounded by scattered vineyards, you have unmistakably entered Anderson Valley.



*Grove maps help League supporters find quiet forest groves they can call their own. The League has available groves in over 20 parks.*

When leaving Anderson Valley, you will meander 11 miles through what is often referred to as the “redwood tunnel to the sea.” You will again find yourself surrounded by a wonderland of towering trees now silhouetted by billowing clouds setting over the pacific north coast. While Navarro River Redwoods State Park is primarily second growth, its winding river finds its way along the scattered forest to the mouth of the ocean right below the town of Mendocino. With hotels and bed and breakfasts scattered along the coast, this makes for a wonderful weekend getaway.

Within the next 6 months, maps for all available groves through the League’s Grove Program can be found online at [SaveTheRedwoods.org](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org).

For more information about these and other redwood state parks, please visit [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

## Legacy Trees – Long Standing Links to the Past

When visiting an old redwood tree, have you ever examined the deeply furrowed bark, or crawled into the burned out hollows found at the base of certain trees? Researchers from the Redwood Sciences Laboratory did, as part of a research grant provided by Save-the-Redwood League.

Wildlife Biologists Dr. Bill Zielinski and M.J. Mazurek studied the relationship between individual old redwood trees and wildlife use within second-growth commercial forests in Mendocino County. Legacy trees are individual old-growth trees that were left alive following timber harvest. With their deeply furrowed bark, multiple crowns, fire scars and cavities they are a living reminder of the habitats present in old forests. Non-legacy trees, or commercially-mature second-growth trees that have not developed the character possessed by these ancient giants, were surveyed as a scientific control.

Using heat-sensing cameras, acoustic bat detectors and live traps, Bill and M.J. compared the number of species and wildlife use at legacy and non-legacy trees for two field seasons. They found species diversity significantly greater at legacy trees versus non-legacy

Violet-green Swallow  
(*Tachycineta thalassina*)

*Photo by Denny Mallory.  
Used with permission  
from Cornell University  
Lab of Ornithology.*



trees. They also found that insect-eating bird species, (i.e. such as the colorful violet green swallow and elusive Vaux’s swift) were more abundant, spent more time at, and nested in legacy trees. The researchers think the latter pattern may be linked to the existence of cavities in old-growth trees and a higher diversity and abundance of insects that inhabit their deeply furrowed bark. In fact, their study has attracted the interests of Humboldt State University entomologists, who plan to collaborate with Bill and M.J.

So the next time you are visiting an old redwood tree, change your perspective, look closely, and consider what a thousand year old giant provides to this generation’s collection of wild forest creatures.

### LEAGUE RECEIVES FUNDS FOR MILL CREEK RESTORATION

The League recently received its first grant for restoration work at Mill Creek. The Bella Vista Foundation, which had donated \$50,000 towards the purchase of Mill Creek, recently awarded the League a grant of \$75,000 to be used for vegetation management on the property. Representatives of the Foundation visited Mill Creek in March and were enthusiastic about the opportunity to develop and test innovative approaches to forest restoration in the redwoods across an entire watershed. This initial grant for Year 1—focused on identifying high-priority areas for restoration, developing monitoring protocols, establishing and inventorying forest plots, creating management prescriptions, and beginning on-the-ground vegetation management work—will be helpful in leveraging more and larger grants in the future from this and other major foundations. Foundation President, Robert C. Kirkwood, and Program Officer, Ben Harwood visited Mill Creek before the Foundation Board’s consideration of the grant request.



*Mill Creek (left to right): Zach Stevenson, World Wildlife Fund; Ryan Carmichael, SRL; Ben Harwood, Bella Vista Foundation; Kate Anderton, SRL; Valerie Gzinski, DPR; Rick Sermon, DPR; Robert Kirkwood, Bella Vista Foundation; and another representative from World Wildlife Fund.*

*Photo by Ruskin Hartley*