A black and white photograph of a redwood forest. The scene is dominated by tall, straight tree trunks that stretch from the bottom to the top of the frame. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a dappled light effect on the forest floor. In the lower center, two vintage cars from the early 20th century are parked on a dirt road. The car on the left is a dark-colored sedan, and the car on the right is a lighter-colored sedan with a convertible top. The overall atmosphere is serene and historical.

Save the Redwoods League

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*Spring Bulletin 2008*

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE  
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS AND GROWING

*On The Redwood Highway in Humboldt County,  
California, circa 1918.  
Photo: H.C. Tibbitts*

# Better from the Executive Director

In 1917, a walk through the primeval redwoods of Humboldt County started a ripple that continues to spread across the redwood forests. Today, you and I can take the same walk thanks to three conservationists who started the movement to save the redwoods. We also owe our gratitude to the countless individuals who sustain the movement to save the redwoods.

Much has changed in the past nine decades, but not the sense of wonder and awe inspired by these incomparable forests. I feel it every time I step into an ancient redwood grove: peace, calm, and the harmony of the natural world. I also feel gratitude — particularly for the Save-the-Redwoods League members who have saved these groves for future generations.

In this special 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary *Spring Bulletin*, you can learn more about the League's establishment and its accomplishments. The *Fall Bulletin* will include more about the work that lies ahead for the League. I think you will particularly enjoy reading the Redwood Memories submitted by League members. We were delighted by the outpouring of wonderful stories that members sent in response to our request. Your letters inspired me so much that I brought them home to read at the dinner table with my family. It is remarkable how closely your feelings echo those that the three founders described from their quiet walk together 91 years ago.

In 1918, as today, the ancient redwoods were in high demand for their timber value. Another immediate threat to the forest today is residential development. The League's Master Plan for the Redwoods, a science-based conservation strategy for the coast redwoods, gives us tools to identify where protection efforts are best focused, ensuring that your funds are used as effectively as possible. This *Bulletin* describes three recent land projects that demonstrate our continuing



photo: Paolo Vescia

Executive Director Ruskin Hartley

commitment to protecting old-growth redwoods, creating viable parks, and conserving the connecting forest landscape.

Today the State of California faces a budget crisis that threatens to close several redwood parks established by the League. In the face of this calamity, I draw courage from the knowledge that Save-the-Redwoods League overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges in the past. It is worth recalling that, when this movement started, there was no state park system at all. The park system we enjoy today was inspired by the need to steward the redwood groves the League had protected and make them available to the public. What started with a single grove in Humboldt County has now grown to more than 250 parks that preserve the natural and cultural history of California. It's a remarkable system that deserves our continued support and investment.

As Save-the-Redwoods League celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, I invite you to join me in celebrating many remarkable accomplishments and facing the future of the redwoods with courage and determination to preserve this legacy. Thank you for your dedication and support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruskin K. Hartley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ruskin K. Hartley

# Following the Steps of a Conservation Giant

Welcome to this special issue of the *Spring Bulletin* commemorating Save-the-Redwoods League's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On the next page is the story of how the organization was established and how it plans to expand redwood protection. Page 6 tells the story of one of the League's founders and his family's history of commitment to the organization. With your support, the League has come a long way in nine decades.

## SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE MILESTONES



Redwood logging like this in Scotia, Calif., around 1918, spurred the establishment of Save-the-Redwoods League. Photo: H.C. Tibbitts

US Congressman William Kent (left) and Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service, in 1919 were among the first to pledge funds to Save-the-Redwoods League. Photo: F. Ransome

The General Sherman (shown) is a giant sequoia in Sequoia National Park. Save-the-Redwoods League has a long history of protecting giant sequoias. For example, in 2000, the League and its partners acquired the Dillonwood Grove of giant sequoias for Sequoia National Park. Photo: Ruskin Hartley



**1917** Logging devastation along Redwood Highway spurs establishment of League in 1918

**1918** First donation to purchase redwood land

**1921** First forest acquisition: Bolling Grove

**1928** Campaign to win public approval of bonds to establish state parks

**1931** Purchase of 9,410-acre Rockefeller Forest for Humboldt Redwoods State Park

**1945** First grove donated for Montgomery Woods State Reserve in Mendocino County

**1954** League and partners acquire grove of giant sequoias for Calaveras Big Trees State Park

**1960** Avenue of the Giants Parkway dedicated in Humboldt Redwoods State Park after 40-year acquisition process

**1981** Purchase of old-growth redwood grove for Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

**1997** Purchase including 200 acres of old growth in Mattole River headwaters for Sinkyone Wilderness State Park

**2002** Largest land acquisition by acreage and cost: 25,000-acre, \$60 million Mill Creek project

**2007** 1000<sup>th</sup> memorial/honor grove established

**2007** Completion of last of four regional plans that comprise the Master Plan for the Redwoods

**2008** Since its establishment, the League has assisted in the purchase of more than 177,000 acres of California land

One visit to Northern California's ancient redwoods in 1917 was all it took to spark the creation of Save-the-Redwoods League, rescuer of the tallest beings on Earth. In that year, as construction of the new Redwood Highway tore through the forest, three prominent conservationists witnessed the destruction of towering coast redwoods. These great trees, some taller than 30-story skyscrapers and more than 2,000 years old, fell to the saw only to make, among other products, grape stakes and railroad ties.

The conservationists were appalled to find that not one of these astounding redwoods, which grow only along the Northern California-Oregon coast, was protected for public enjoyment. The next year, in the spring of 1918, conservationists channeled their sense of urgency and organized the League to ensure that the ancient forests survive forever. They also aimed to establish redwood parks, support scientific study of the coast redwood, and foster educational programs that would increase public understanding and appreciation of the wondrous conifers.

Thanks to you, our loyal members and friends around the world, Save-the-Redwoods League has achieved much to realize the founders' vision. Since its establishment, the League has been a leader in effective land conservation. It has assisted in the purchase of more than 177,000 acres to protect redwoods; created a system of 51 California redwood parks and reserves that capture the diversity of the redwood forest for the public to enjoy; increased understanding of the forests through a competitive Research Grants Program; and, through the Education Grants Program, supported more than 140 redwood education and interpretation projects for people of all ages.

## For 9 Decades, League a

Despite these successes, there is still so much work to do: The League must continue to answer many urgent calls for redwoods stewardship. To ensure the redwoods' survival, the League in 2007 completed the last of four detailed regional plans that comprise the Master Plan for the Redwoods, a science-based conservation strategy. Through the plan, the League has identified and prioritized the 15,000 acres of unprotected ancient coast redwoods for protection.

The League's past has been as exciting as its future will be, which is why, to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> year, the *Bulletin* presents this look at how the organization reached this momentous juncture, and how it will ensure the trees we all cherish will endure with your support.

### THE BEGINNING OF A MOVEMENT

The three prominent conservationists who were instrumental in establishing the League were John C. Merriam, University of California paleontologist; Madison Grant, chairman of the New York Zoological Society; and Henry Fairfield Osborn, president of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. In 1917, Osborn and Grant invited Merriam, a professional colleague, to join them for a trip to see the coast redwoods in Northwestern California. They heard the new Redwood Highway had opened up the area to more logging and tourism, threatening the ancient trees.

Along the Mendocino County coast, they passed long-standing logging



*The Dyerville Flat area in Humboldt County is dense around 1918. The area's beauty inspired the establishment of the Save-the-Redwoods League.*

operations. Farther north, along the Eel River, they saw practically undisturbed forests. As they continued north, they reached the Bull Creek-Dyerville Flat area in Humboldt County, an area dense with gigantic, primeval redwoods reaching more than 300 feet high. In the presence of such awe-inspiring beauty and serenity, Merriam, Grant and Osborn felt compelled to remove their hats and speak only in whispers.

That evening, they agreed that a state or national park was needed to save some part of the north coast redwood forest for future generations. Eventually, Grant worked with Merriam and others to form Save-the-Redwoods League in 1918, pledging \$100 toward the effort. In 1919, Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the National Park Service,

# and Redwoods Stand Tall



with gigantic, primeval redwoods in this photo taken  
ment of the League. Photo: H.C. Tibbitts

and former U.S. Congressman William Kent pledged \$15,000 each to acquire redwoods from logging companies along the highway if Humboldt County provided an equal amount. Humboldt County voted to match the Kent-Mather gift and acquire as many redwood areas along the highway as it could afford.

## A TRADITION CONTINUES

Today, the League continues to save redwoods in the same way the Humboldt County-Kent-Mather partnership did — by using public and private funds to acquire redwood-related land. To guide such efforts, the League follows its Master Plan for the Redwoods. The plan complements the League's work to strengthen the connection between people and the redwoods through research, education, and outreach.

The League's conservation strategies in the Master Plan incorporate the theory and principles of conservation biology. Key principles of conservation biology prompt the League to acquire land to protect large blocks of contiguous redwood habitat that capture the diversity of the forest. These blocks cannot thrive for long if they are protected in isolation from each other. So the League's strategy is to ensure these blocks, or core parks and reserves, are connected with wildlife and habitat corridors. At the heart of the plan is the principle that maintaining healthy ecosystems is more efficient and effective than trying to preserve one species at a time. This is why the plan incorporates protection of land that surrounds and buffers redwoods, but does not necessarily contain redwoods, for example.

"The Master Plan presents an ambitious vision for saving the redwoods," said Executive Director Ruskin Hartley, the plan's author. "It gives the League a solid context in which to evaluate conservation opportunities and facilitates a nimble, well-informed response. The plan also identifies where we need to focus our work, and sets the context for the partnerships that are

essential to expand the scale of redwood protection."

The Master Plan has grown from a long tradition of planning at the League. Visitors enjoy the results of this work today: the regional, state and national redwood parks and reserves. Guided by the Master Plan, the League is beginning a new era of redwood conservation. While the League's focus remains on the ancient redwoods, its work must expand to ensure the redwood forest survives in the face of climate change, habitat fragmentation and destructive management. The League's approach will remain focused on nonconfrontational and pragmatic conservation rooted in an understanding of the forest.

Despite having survived for millennia, redwoods can still fall in an instant to the saw. Inspired by its founders' achievements and your support, the League is broadening its efforts to save the magnificent trees. So let us move forward together with renewed commitment inspired by a quiet walk among these immortal giants.

*The League gratefully acknowledges Councillor Joseph H. Engbeck Jr. for sharing his research on League history for this article. He describes the League's role in saving redwoods in his books, *The Enduring Giants*, and *State Parks of California from 1864 to the Present*.*

## GET INVOLVED

Visit our special 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary page to download and share historic and inspiring redwood photos. Check this Web page, your e-mail and mailboxes for more information on marking the League's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Want to learn more about redwoods and why preserving them is so important? Attend events held throughout the redwood region, all sponsored by our many partners!

# Connick Family Tree, League Share Roots

Extraordinary redwoods inspire extraordinary dedication. Consider the Connick family. While Save-the-Redwoods League celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Connicks will mark their 90<sup>th</sup> year of supporting the organization. Eighteen Connick family members spanning three generations have grown the League from a seed to a conservation giant, donating their expertise, time and financial support.

The late Arthur E. Connick is not only at the root of his family's involvement with the League — he's a root of the League itself: He was one of the organization's original incorporators in 1920, a League Board of Directors president, and an active member for more than 40 years. Before the League's incorporation, Connick, then a bank president, helped the organization's co-founders to save primeval coast redwoods from loggers in northwest California's Humboldt County. As their banker, Connick persuaded loggers not to harvest the trees while money was being raised to buy the redwood land from them.

## PASSING ON A TRADITION

Arthur E. Connick fostered redwoods stewardship in his son, Robert, by giving him a lifetime membership when he was a small child. A professor emeritus of chemistry, Robert has been a League member for nearly 90 years. Since 1975, Robert has served as one of the League's 60 governing Councillors. He also chaired the League's Research Committee.

Robert passed the tradition of League service on to the third generation of Connicks. In 1997, he nominated his daughter, Sarah Connick, Ph.D., as a Councillor. Sarah, now a League Board of Directors member and chair of its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force, brings to the organization considerable experience in public land acquisition and protection of environmental quality.

"I view my family's involvement in the League as a tremendous privilege, because it's an amazing organization," Sarah said. "The League has played a major role in how California's redwood forests look and function, and will continue to do so for many years to come."

## ANOTHER BRANCH OF THE FAMILY TREE

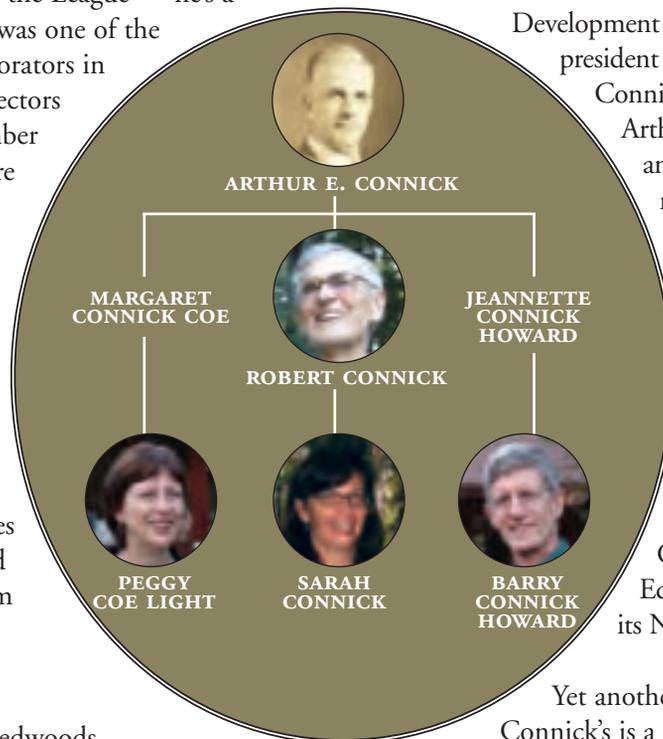
The Connicks are related to the Howards, another family with a history of dedication to the League. The late Bruce S. Howard, son-in-law of Arthur E. Connick, became a Councillor in 1963; served on the board's Development Committee; and became board president in 1980. Bruce and Jeannette Connick Howard, his wife, who is Arthur E. Connick's daughter, are among the League's longtime members. Bruce and Jeannette's son, Barry Connick Howard, took the place of his grandfather, Charles P. Howard, as a League Councillor in 1979.

"I was really proud to do that, because I've always believed strongly in the League's mission," Barry said. Barry, still a Councillor, also chairs the board's Education Committee, and chaired its Nominating Committee.

Yet another grandchild of Arthur E. Connick's is a League Councillor: Peggy Coe Light, who brings a wealth of financial expertise to the organization. She also serves on the board's Development and Nominating committees.

"Every time I come to a League meeting, I'm reminded of my grandfather," Peggy said. "Honoring his legacy inspires me to continue my work with the League. It's personal for me and it's beneficial to the League."

The Connicks and Howards exemplify the commitment of the diverse Board of Councillors, whose members generously share their expertise and connections to advance the League's mission.



# 3 Acquisitions Save Critical Land

Save-the-Redwoods League acquired three properties that support the organization's core Master Plan strategies of protecting the last remnants of California's ancient redwood forest, securing viable redwood parks and reserves, and maintaining the connecting forest landscape.

## NEAR THE SAN MATEO COAST

The League purchased 100 acres adjacent to Butano State Park in San Mateo County for \$942,000. Funded by a grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the acquisition expands protection for ancient redwood forests, watersheds, and the marbled murrelet, an endangered seabird. The League is working with California State Parks to include this land in Butano State Park.



*Redwoods on acquired land adjacent to Butano State Park, near the San Mateo Coast.  
Photo: League Staff*

## ON FRESHWATER LAGOON

The League also purchased 39 acres on Freshwater Lagoon in Humboldt County. Facilitated by a \$275,000 grant from the California Coastal

Conservancy, as well as private donations, the \$550,000 acquisition will protect the lagoon, its watershed's endangered coho salmon and steelhead, the property's redwood forest and adjacent land by preventing development. This purchase also creates a wildlife migration corridor connecting Humboldt Lagoons State Park and Redwood National Park.

## CORRIDOR FROM THE REDWOODS TO THE SEA

In another Humboldt County project, the League increased the wildlife migration corridor between Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Gilham Butte and the King Range National Conservation Area and improved protection of a valuable watershed when it recently deeded 216 acres to the US Bureau of Land Management.

The \$200,000 property extends the League's Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea, which contains second-growth redwoods and habitat for endangered coho salmon and steelhead populations.

# New Grants Support Redwood Research

Save-the-Redwoods League in January 2008 awarded seven research grants totaling more than \$90,000 to advance general understanding of redwoods, their environments, and their related communities of organisms. Such research is critical for saving redwood forests because it helps determine what the trees need to thrive and how damaged forests may be restored. The Research Grants Program has made these annual grants since 1997 to a variety of scientists. Most projects receive additional funding from other institutions. Here is a look at some of the 2008 grants.

**How Many Species of Black Salamanders Exist in the Redwood Forest?** \$7,000; to determine whether salamanders that look nearly identical, are in fact different species. The diminutive black salamander is native to coast redwood forests and thrives in cool, moist environments. Because these creatures move slowly and over modest distances throughout their lives, researchers are intrigued by the possibility that

unique species have evolved in different regions of the forest. W. Bryan Jennings, Humboldt State University.

## Lower Redwood Creek Juvenile Salmonid

**Abundance Project;** \$14,967; to determine the population, status and trends of juvenile chinook salmon, coho salmon and steelhead trout in Redwood Creek in Humboldt County; and to assess watershed health, restoration activities and other qualities; Walter Duffy, Humboldt State University

## Determining Shade Tolerance in Rare, Redwood-

**Associated Manzanita;** \$10,000; to understand the plant community dynamics on the edge of coast redwood forests, which may explain the evolution of a rare manzanita species. Results may help explain how wildfire shaped the character of southern coast redwood forests and associated habitats before Euroamerican settlement.; Dr. V. Thomas Parker, San Francisco State University

## Redwood Memories

Thank you to all Save-the-Redwoods League members who recently shared their favorite memories of enjoying the ancient forests. Contributions from members like you have made possible experiences like those below. To share your memories, complete the form at the bottom of this page or e-mail your memories with “Redwood Memories” in the subject line to [membership@savetheredwoods.org](mailto:membership@savetheredwoods.org). Please include your full name in the e-mail. We may want to share your memories in a League publication. If you would prefer that we not share your story, please let us know in the e-mail.



*As a teenager on my first trip to California, I was overwhelmed by the majestic trees. They appeared to me as friends — giants engulfing me with their protective arms. I felt peace and at home secure in their presence.*

— ROSE, MEMBER SINCE 1985



*My first-ever redwoods experience was riding into Big Basin from the coast at Rancho Del Oso. I'd never been in the redwoods before and felt like I was a small object in a very large terrarium. I was overwhelmed by the trees, creeks and waterfalls. I've been hooked on redwoods ever since.*

— MICHAEL, MEMBER SINCE 1996



## Share Your Favorite Redwood Memories

Use this space to tell us your favorite redwood memory, then return it in the enclosed envelope. We might even publish your story on our Web site or in a future League publication — just check the authorization box below. Thank you.

I authorize Save-the-Redwoods League to publish my favorite redwood memory.

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## Go Green This Spring

Save resources by taking these steps.

- Receive this newsletter by e-mail only. E-mail your request with the subject line “E-mail Bulletin Only” to [membership@savetheredwoods.org](mailto:membership@savetheredwoods.org).
- Donate to the League online through our secure Web page.

## Join the Evergreen Society

Join the Evergreen Society, our monthly giving program, by authorizing automatic credit card donations of as little as \$5 a month (\$60 annually). In addition to receiving special recognition in our annual report, you can opt to receive only one annual gift acknowledgment letter summarizing your gifts for the calendar year. To join, contact Membership at (888) 836-0005, ext. 319.

## Stock Donors, Take Note

Give a gift of stock. To ensure you get credit for this gift, inform us that a stock gift is coming. Call Membership at (888) 836-0005, ext. 317, or e-mail [membership@savetheredwoods.org](mailto:membership@savetheredwoods.org) to provide the name of the stock, the number of shares, and what your gift is for, such as general operations or land acquisition. Give this information to your broker: DTC #0418; Save-the-Redwoods League account #546-30947-1-3-086 at Citigroup Smith Barney, Attn: Brian R. Peter, One Sansome St., 38th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104, (415) 984-6082.



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