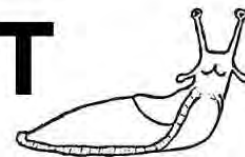




HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION



Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ALAN AITKEN

Welcome members. Winter conditions in the redwoods are coming-to-a-close, but not without a fight. Recently we had a very wet weekend. A quick check of the weather shows sunshine for the foreseeable future. The winter weather here is mild compared to many places in the country. No heavy snow, sleet, or freezing rain and only a few days when the temperature has dropped below freezing.

Good weather means more visitors. Our outstanding staff have spent the winter preparing for the summer season. Ordering merchandise, coordinating and finding volunteer staff for the summer, doing the annual inventory, paying the taxes, completing the requirements necessary to maintain our nonprofit status, etc. Thank you to all of HRIA's staff and volunteers for all you do behind the scenes.

The world is being alerted to how wonderful visiting the coastal redwoods can be. A quick Google search reveals many articles on the redwoods and Redwoods State Parks. Whether it be the Wall Street Journal or the Los Angeles Times, periodicals from coast to coast are disseminating the story of the parks and the redwoods to the world.

HRIA appreciates your continued support through your membership.

Alan Aitken

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Aitken - President
Susan O'Hara - Vice President
Justin Crellin - Secretary
Porscha Farfan - Treasurer
Carla Thomas
Mary Moore

HRIA Executive Director
Sophia Eckert

HRIA Manager
Mary Kaufman

Cooperating Association Liaison
Alyssa Barry

Mission Statement

The HRIA is an educational non-profit group working in cooperation with the California State Parks at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Richardson Grove State Park, Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, Benbow Lake Recreation Area, Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, Standish Hickey State Recreation Area, and within the North Coast Redwoods District, Eel River Sector. The mission of HRIA is to provide visitors with stimulating explanatory information on the natural and cultural history and to help visitors see these parks not only with their eyes, but also with their hearts. We lead others from mere observation to inspire in them a sense of awe in which the human spirit finds meaning, wisdom and a connection with all living things.

Upcoming

HRIA Events:

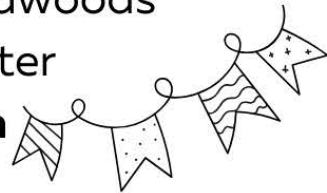
Mushroom Display Welcome
Party at Grizzly Creek
Redwoods State Park **Saturday**
June 15th



Star Party with the Astronomers
of Humboldt at Albee Creek
Campground **Saturdays June**
29th, July 27th, & August 24th



Smokey Bear 80th Birthday
Bash at Humboldt Redwoods
State Park Visitor Center
Saturday August 10th



Haunted Halloween Candlelit
Walk at Humboldt Redwoods
State Park Visitor Center
Saturday October 26th



Annual Holiday Party and Silent
Auction at Humboldt Redwoods
State Park Visitor Center
Wednesday December 4th



For more details, check
www.humboldtredwoods.org/upcoming-events

MAU MEMBERS MEET IN THE SUN

BY SUSAN COMBES, MAU MEMBER

Mounted Assistance Unit members met April 26 on a cool, drizzly Friday night that turned into a sunny Saturday, and a Sunday afternoon warm enough for T-shirts. Some 23 hard working equestrians gathered for MAU's annual spring camp out and work party. Horses were tested, camp chores were tended to, trails were explored and cleared and good food was shared.

To qualify as MAU equines, animals must be gentle, safe around the public, and comfortable with obstacles and hikers they meet on trails. Their test starts in camp, where testers determine that the animals are in good condition and their tack is in good repair. They must be respectful of a handler they don't know, willing to get into a horse trailer they have never seen, and not afraid of a bicycle or a lost, backpack-wearing hiker waving a park map in their face. Riders must be in control of the animal and be able to point out on the park map where the hiker is, how to get where they are going, how many miles it is and what the terrain is like.

On the trail, equines must comfortably cross water, step over logs, cross a wooded bridge and lead, follow or be at ease in the middle of a group. They are asked to trot away from other riders and return relaxed on a loose rein. When the group trots together they must not be flighty. Since MAU members are often clearing brush and limbs from trails, the animal must stand quietly tied to a small tree (never a redwood!) while their rider drags brush around them.



Three new horses passed their tests handily and as did two first-time horse and rider combos.

Riders and equines (we do have members who ride mules) will be tested a second time to confirm their suitability and riders then will be tested on their knowledge of the park system.

While tests were going on, other MAU members did the hard physical work in camp. Following the park maintenance tractor that dumped fill into stalls where the footing had worn away, men and women went at it with shovels, rakes, and stomping boots as they spread and flattened the sticky material. The same material was drug in heavy wheelbarrows to shovel in to ground squirrel holes that threatened legs and ankles, both equine and human.

Water troughs were drained, cleaned and refilled, and plumbing problems identified and flagged for repairs from park maintenance. The sandy rolling pit was uncovered and the sand shoveled back into place. While picnic tables were being brushed clean, thistles and a stand of a non-native, invasive flowering plant were dug up.

Winter windfall branches and some material left from the great pruning job done by the park were gathered and taken to the big fire pit for a fire that also provided warmth and opportunity to see what some of the animals thought about being close to fire and smoke. Though curious, none of them seemed to care a whit.



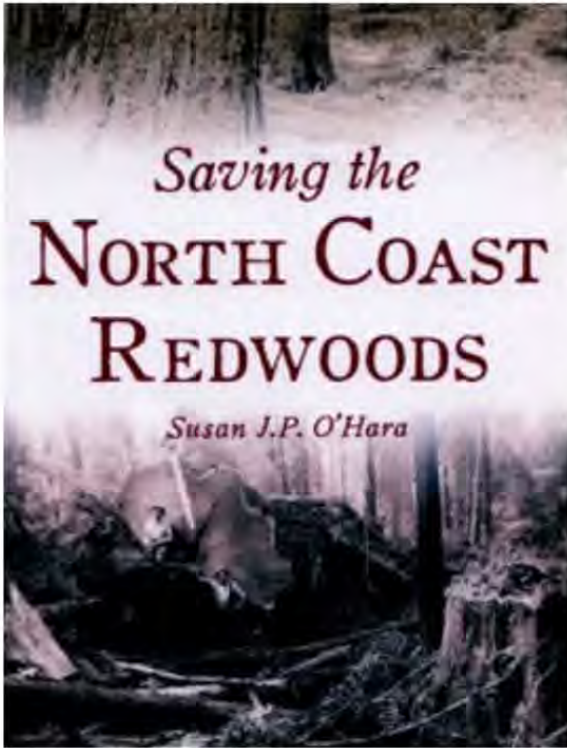
With the work all done, long-time MAU member David Pritchard BBQed tri tip with help from MAU leader Mary Moore. Hungry workers and riders gathered at the picnic tables in A Camp, adding their potluck items to the tri tip dinner. We were honored to be joined by three park rangers, John Hardcastle in uniform, and Thomas Valterria and Alyssa Barry on their time off, and HRIA Manager Mary Kaufman, along with their families and friends (pictured left).

Through the summer, MAU members will be helping keep camp spruced up and riding trails, handling small issues and documenting bigger problems for park personnel to tend to. As always, they are able to greet

and assist hikers, and should there be a need, available to assist as assigned to search and/or rescue situations.

SAVING THE NORTH COAST REDWOODS

BY SUSAN O'HARA, AUTHOR & BOARD MEMBER



The inspiration for *Saving the North Coast Redwoods* came with the 100th anniversary of Richardson's Grove this past fall. When we were talking about it at the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association Board meeting it occurred to me that many of our local parks had either just turned 100, or were to in the next few years. I decided to write a book discussing the preservation, and then protection, of the redwood state parks in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. I cover each local redwood state and then the redwood national park formation: Humboldt Redwoods (1920), Richardson Grove (1923), Prairie Creek (1923), Del Norte Redwoods and Jedidiah Smith were formed in the 1930s, Grizzly Creek (1943), and then Redwood National Park (1968).

I share about the local Save the Redwoods movement with Laura Perrot Mahan and the Russ family, as they donated the grove that formed the nucleus of Prairie Creek. Another topic common to all of the early parks was the formation of the CCCs in the 1930s, and where the camps were located. Thanks to Cal Poly Humboldt's archive, I was able to include an image of the camp at Prairie Creek. I also examine the challenges faced in protecting the park after it was formed, including marijuana eradication and protecting the Dyerville Giant after it had fallen. Retired State Park Rangers have shared some of their experiences in the park, including discovering the tunnels for gold mining at Prairie Creek's Gold Bluffs. The book includes images from Cal Poly Humboldt,

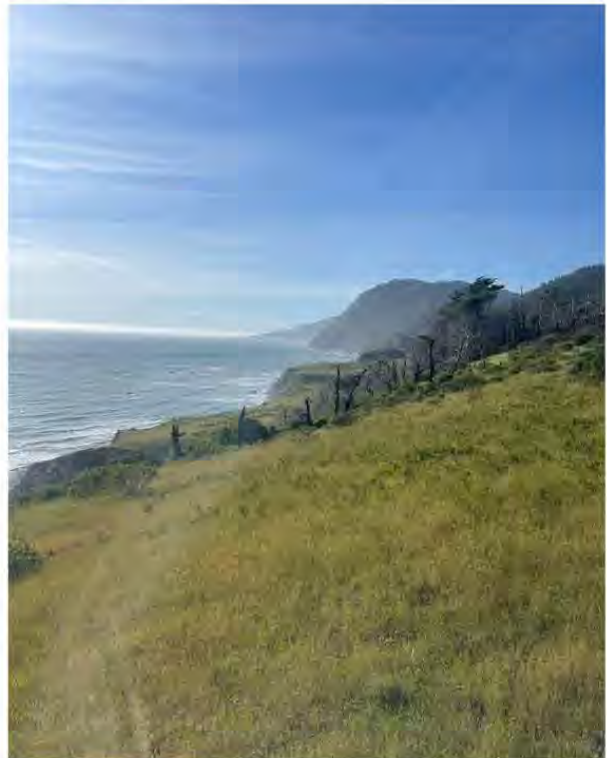


State Park Archives, Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Photo collection, the Fortuna Depot Collection, and images from private collections. Published by the History Press, a publishing company belonging to Arcadia Press; my author proceeds are being donated to the Interpretive Association to help them continue to meet their mission of sharing about the redwoods to the public. There was a book signing at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center on May 11th. Visitors and history enthusiasts joined us for questions, personalized signed copies of the new title, snacks, and great conversation.

SPRING AT LAST AT SINKYONE

BY CARLA THOMAS, HRIA BOARD MEMBER

It was another tough winter at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. The road was closed off and on for most of Jan-April. We are fortunate to have several new camp hosts who persevered. Rena Kay and Joe Hiney; Peter Wurr; and Ken Haas. Thank you to Mendocino County Department of Transportation for your trips out to reopen the road multiple times. We are looking for more camp hosts who can hike 3 miles into Needle Rock Visitor Center and stay to camp host for 2-4 weeks at a time. If you are interested, please go to <https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1012/files/DPR208h.pdf> fill out a camp host application and send it to andrea.mapes@parks.ca.gov.



Sinkyone Wilderness State Park near Jones Beach, photos by HRIA volunteer Isaac Calvillo

READ ONE OF THE VISITOR CENTER'S LATEST BOOKS: NATURE'S BEST HOPE: A NEW APPROACH TO CONSERVATION THAT STARTS IN YOUR YARD

BY DENISE STEPHENS, HRIA VOLUNTEER

You will want to read Douglas Tallamy's new book (of course, buying it at the Visitor Center!) that is promoting the gardening and conservation concepts of "home grown natural habitat," "Home Grown National Park," and "restoring wildlife (birds, pollinators and insects) to our own yards and gardens by planting native plants."



NATURE'S BEST HOPE answers these questions:

- How can I (re)connect emotionally to the natural world?
- Does one person's decisions about a lawn and plants make any difference?
- Are existing parks and land preserves sufficient to save Nature's plants and animals?
- What are native plants, and why are they important to me?
- Can I as one person really do anything that improves the "natural world"?
- Can I make "easy" efforts to experience Nature in my own yard or apartment veranda? Fortunately, the answer is yes, yes and yes!

Author Tallamy has made the effort to "Restore Nature One Garden at a Time" (the slogan of the California Native Plant Society's CALSCAPE www.calscape.org) more personal by viewing your landscaping –one plant at a time– as "synonymous with ecological restoration" (page 12) or building biodiversity into the future.

The answers are in *NATURE'S BEST HOPE: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard*.

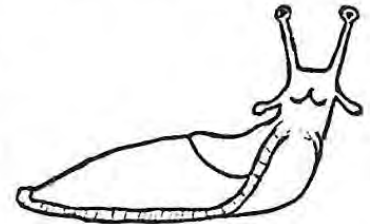


**Humboldt Redwoods
Interpretive Association
PO Box 276
Weott, CA 95571
vc@humboldtreduwoods.org**

**GIVE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE HUMBOLDT
REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**

You can help support the work of the HRIA by becoming a member. Funds raised through memberships, endowments, and donations enable HRIA to develop displays, purchase equipment, sponsor research, publish interpretive literature, and fund the expansion of our Visitor Center and its quality exhibits. A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership and endowment program. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Association. Member benefits include a 20% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars and publications stocked for sale by the Association (not available to Senior/Student members), the Association newsletter, and tax deductible membership dues. Members also have the benefit of knowing that they are participating in an organization dedicated to expanding the awareness of one of the most unique ancient forests left on Earth. **Please enroll me in the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association at the membership level circled below:**

Student/Senior	\$10	Life	\$250
Individual	\$25	Patron	\$500
Supporting	\$50	Endowment	\$1,000
Sponsoring	\$100	Redwood Crown	\$2,500



Name _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP _____
Email _____

How would you prefer to receive your quarterly newsletter:
PRINT / ELECTRONIC / BOTH