



# Big Tree

**BULLETIN**

C A L A V E R A S   B I G   T R E E S   A S S O C I A T I O N

## From CBTA's President

by *Marcy Crawford*

I can hardly believe that my two-year term as CBTA President is ending on June 18. The time has passed so quickly. It has been a challenging, exciting, fulfilling time for me and I have been honored to serve the Association and the Park. I will continue working with the Board on the New Visitor Center and other goals set out in our Strategic Plan.

Speaking of June, mark your calendar for the 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m., for our Annual Meeting and Potluck in the picnic area behind Jack Knight Hall. We welcome and encourage our members to attend and participate in electing the 2011/2012 Board of Directors. It is a great way to meet your Board, staff, volunteers, and our student intern and scholarship winners.

This year, we may have a special added attraction happening on June 18. As I write this article, we are awaiting word from Michael Romo, Project Manager for California State Parks, that a contract for the New Visitor Center has been awarded. The package is at the Department of Finance awaiting approval. As soon as the contract is awarded, invitations and press releases will go out announcing the long-awaited Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Center.

Please keep your calendar handy as Steve Stocking has put together some amazing seminars and workshops for 2011. The action begins on May 7. This year, Steve has scheduled five seminars and two workshops. Read about each one in this newsletter.

One final note.....with state budget cuts to our wonderful State Parks, the role of the Calaveras Big Trees Association has become even more important to our Big Trees, a local treasure and tourist attraction. Please support us by joining or renewing your CBTA membership this year so we can continue to tell the giant sequoia story for years to come. Help us tell that story!

## The CCC's at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

by *Mary Hallesy, Guest Contributor*

Most of us know the Civilian Conservation Corps was an agency authorized by the U.S. Government during the Depression in 1933. Its purpose was to hire unemployed young men for public conservation work. Set up like the military, it was staffed by Army and Marine Reserve Officers. More than two million men joined the CCC's before it was disbanded in 1942. Twenty-five of the \$30.00 a month was sent home and that was enough to feed a family of four.

But did you know the first officially approved CCC camp in the California State Park System was at our Calaveras Big Trees State Park? At Camp Calaveras SP-22, the first group was Company 590 from Kentucky. The 210 enrollees and officers arrived on June 8, 1933. Housed in tents, they lived near our present kiosk off of Highway 4. They were here for summer months only. In April of 1934, another company, CCC 1921-V, made up of World War I veterans, arrived to carry on the enhancement of our Park. These men had many projects: building roads and trails,

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campgrounds, picnic areas, comfort stations, water and sewer systems, fire suppression, and renovation of the old hotel. But the one task most visible to this day was the careful design and building of Big Trees Hall (now named Jack Knight Hall).

The next time you attend an event in this building, be it a training session, concert, docent dinner, wedding, or a seminar, take a careful look around. The massive native stone fireplace will catch your eye as you walk through the doors. Next, you'll probably notice the beautiful gable end windows that bring the outside into our views. The rough hand hewn wood boards frame our windows and become our walls. All the wrought iron work was fashioned in the CCC blacksmith shop. The chandeliers that the huge beams support were made by Paul Engleheart, a young ranger in the Park. This building was completed in 1937. The beauty and artistry still enjoyed by us today we owe to the dedication and talents of the Civilian Conservation Corp. We honor them and remember their legacy.

## Did You Know? by Barbara Radd, Guest Contributor

Visitors will often ask about the black substance on the trunk of incense cedar trees. Many people seem to think that these trees have been discolored by fire. That is not the case. The black growth on the incense cedars that is often seen in Calaveras Big Trees is a sooty mold (*Arthrobotryum Spongiosum*). Certain insects (usually scales) will invade a cedar tree's bark (usually a younger tree). These insects then exude a sugary substance that adheres to the tree. The fungus (sooty mold) finds this "honeydew" a perfect medium for its growth. The mold growing in this "honeydew" is the black substance that we see. As molds cannot survive direct sunlight, these growths are usually restricted to the lower portions of the trees and in areas of heavy forest growth. The fungus does not have a preference for which tree it grows on. However, the insects that produce the "honeydew" do have a preference for cedars. So, this sooty mold seems to grow only on cedars.

*In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.....John Muir*

## Welcome to CBTA.....

Acorn Physical Therapy, Arnold  
Black Oak Casino, Tuolumne  
Calaveras County Garden Club, Murphys  
Coldwell Banker-Action Realty, Arnold  
Louise Cordova, Stockton  
Dorrington Realty, Dorrington  
Jeanie Douglas, Camp Connell  
Ebbetts Pass Sporting Goods, Arnold  
Joe Fontana, Murphys  
Giant Burger, Arnold  
Rich and Candy Gutierrez, Murphys  
Gay Hardwick, Lodi  
Thalia Hart, Avery  
Independence Hall, Arnold  
Carol and Bob Kramer, Sunland  
Marinovich Construction, Columbia  
Lew Monell, Avery  
Murphys Village Toy Store, Murphys  
Northern California Power Agency, Murphys  
Connie Perez, Camp Connell  
RaboBank, Arnold  
Jim and Janet Reynolds, Sunnyvale  
Alex Saler, Hathaway Pines  
The Outhouse Collection, Arnold  
Twisted Oak Winery, Murphy  
Paul Wilkerson, Manteca

Arnold Pet Clinic, Arnold  
Jim Boyer, Arnold  
Jim and Nancy Carriere, Oakland  
Jim Connors, Pacifica  
Dave and Helen Darby, Stockton  
Bob Doten, Arnold  
Barbara Duncan, Murphys  
Fine-Things, Arnold  
Foothill Village Senior Community, Angels Camp  
Gold Electric, Inc., Murphys  
John Hankins, Stockton  
Frances and Brian Harkins, Benicia  
Kathy Hughes, Riverbank  
David Jeter, Gilroy  
Larry Lundy, Arnold  
Scott and Rebecca McMullan, San Francisco  
Colleen Mose, West Point  
Mara Naber, Mountain Ranch  
Karen Orso, Wilseyville  
Pioneer Electric, Arnold  
Loyd and Ann Reed, Glendale  
Mary Rippetoe, Arnold  
Mary and Jeff Stai, Murphys  
Timothy Magnuson, DDS  
Umpqua Bank, Angels Camp  
Stephen Williams, Pleasanton

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## Seminar Schedule

by Steve Stocking

All seminars are free and open to the public and will be held in Jack Knight Hall at the Park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Park admission is \$8.00/car.

*Saturday, May 7, 2011: Plants That Live on Other Plants or on Fungi.* Presenter is Dr. Tom Hofstra of Columbia College. This program, about the alternative lifestyle taken by some plants, illustrates plant parasitism, carnivory and even mycotheterotrophy. Dr. Hofstra will clarify for us the nutrition of Snow Plants and other plants of our forests which don't rely directly on sunlight.

*Saturday, June 11, 2011: Butterflies of the Sierra.* Presenter is Bob Stewart, Naturalist at Large. He authored "Common Butterflies of California" which is illustrated by his many beautiful color photographs. He will share with us his long association and appreciation of the butterflies of the mountains.

*Saturday, June 25, 2011: A Pictorial History of Big Trees.* Author Carol Kramer will share her journey of researching and producing the pictorial history of "Calaveras Big Trees", the book published in conjunction with Calaveras Big Trees Association in 2010. She will also share stories and photos that didn't make it into the book.

*Saturday, September 24, 2011: Sierra Nevada Winter Ecology.* Presenter is Joe Medeiros, recently retired from Sierra College. He has studied alpine ecology in many parts of the world including the Sierra in Winter. In addition to teaching at Modesto and then Sierra College, he worked as a Naturalist for the National Park Service in Devils Postpile National Monument. His program will illustrate the strategies used by wildlife in the Sierra in Winter.

*Saturday, October 1, 2011: The Future of our Sierra Parks.* Presenter is Dr. Bill Tweed who authored "Challenge of the Big Trees", a history of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. His newest book is "Uncertain Paths: A Search for the Future of National Parks". Dr. Tweed recently retired as the Chief of Interpretation for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and is currently the President of the Sequoia Parks Foundation.

## Workshop Schedule

by Steve Stocking

Workshops are designed for those who want to use these materials in their teaching or in their efforts as docents. They will be held in Jack Knight Hall at the Park from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at a cost of \$10.00 per workshop. Space is limited; call 209-795-3840 for reservations.

*Saturday, May 14, 2011: Conifer Connection Curriculum.* Presenter is Michael Roa, author of "The Conifer Connection". Open to anyone interested in learning or teaching about our forests. Wear comfortable clothes as participants will try out activities from the guide.

*Saturday, May 21, 2011: John Muir Laws School Curriculum - "Opening the World Through Nature Journaling".* This curriculum integrates art, science and language arts. The goal is to help adults and children discover (and rediscover) the natural world through a combination of art, writing and science. Activities are keyed to grade level, age and science content standards. Jack will help participants become more comfortable with nature journaling.

### *In Memoriam*

Lan Claasen  
Ross Fitzsimmons  
Roy Hammer  
Mary Henning  
Bill Holstein  
Burt Kent  
Don Lindemann  
Jim Simon

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**“March Madness” at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.....**



## This 'n That.....

It is time for our annual brunch in the Jack Knight Memorial Hall on April 16, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. CBTA will provide a delicious brunch for all the new members and docents. At this time, you will have the opportunity to meet the rangers, Park staff, CBTA Board Members and staff, new members, and reacquaint with friends. Also, you will be able to find out about and sign up for all the programs that will be going on in the Park this year. Please RSVP to Bunny Firebaugh by e-mail to lovetheforest@goldrush.com or by phone at 209-795-4305.

Save This date.....August 20, 2011. This is the date of the annual Family Day at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. We are already busy working on making this the best one ever! Thankfully, most of last year's chairpersons have graciously agreed to continue their duties this year. We will soon be asking for volunteers to sign up for the various tasks involved in making this a great day. Please contact Vaughn Smith at r.smith5@comcast.net or Scot Bishop at sfb456@goldrush.com for further information or to volunteer.

The long-awaited day is here! On Saturday, June 18, 2011, (after the Annual Meeting and potluck lunch) there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Visitors Center. We will be honoring the people who have persevered over the past several years to make this day a reality. All docents, CBTA members, and friends of the Park are invited to attend. It will be a fun celebration!

The previously announced Dinner on the Bridge scheduled for July 9, 2011, has been cancelled. CBTA plans to reschedule this event for the summer of 2012.

## FUN FACTS.....

**BLACK BEARS** are only one of two animals that have blue tongues.....the other the chow dog.

**BEAVER** teeth are so sharp that Native Americans once used them as knife blades.

**DRAGONFLIES** are one of the fastest insects, flying 50 to 60 mph.

Most **SPIDERS** belong to the orb weaver spider family...Family Aranidae...pronounced "a rainy day".

The top knot that **QUAILS** have is called a hmuh.

**HUMMINGBIRDS** are the only birds that can fly backwards.

A group of **RAVENS** is called a murder; a group of **OWLS** is a parliament; **GEESE** are called a gaggle; **LARKS** are an exaltation.

If NASA sent **BIRDS** into space, they would soon die as they need gravity to swallow.

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace  
will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will  
blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy,  
while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.*

*~ John Muir*

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Jock Piel	Webmaster
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**CBTA Staff:**

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The Board meets monthly the last Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Please call the office at 795-3840 to confirm meeting date, time and place.

The CBTA dues year is the calendar year. You may renew your membership by mailing a check payable to CBTA in the envelope enclosed with your Winter Bulletin or renew/donate through our website [www.bigtrees.org](http://www.bigtrees.org). Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

**Visit us.....**

Web Site.....[www.bigtrees.org](http://www.bigtrees.org)  
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