

# CALAVERAS BIG TREES ASSOCIATION

## 2012 SEMINARS

### Saturday May 5 - Bears of Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Dr. Paul Ustach, Biology Professor at San Joaquin Delta College will present a program about the Bears of Calaveras Big Trees State and the surrounding Sierra. Although we do not see them often, bears are among the most popular animals in the Park. Dr. Ustach has presented a very popular seminar about reptiles and amphibians here at the Park in 2009. He continues with a long college tradition of bringing his students to Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Recently he has been volunteering during the summer in Yosemite.



### Saturday May 19 - BUTTERFLIES



Jim Mori of Sonora will present a program on the butterflies of our Park and the surrounding areas. Mr. Mori has long shared his expertise and interest in butterflies with Park groups. He has presented to docent groups and at Family Day. He has also provided the excellent collection of butterflies which is displayed in the Park's natural history collection located in the Visitor Center. Mr. Mori is an entomologist, retired from the State of California and has had a deep interest in butterflies since he was a child.

### Saturday June 9th - THE MYSTERY OF BIRD SONG

Presented by David Lukas. How do birds learn to sing such beautiful songs? Why do they produce many different types of vocalizations? David will help answer some of these questions and share his insights into the magical world of bird song—from the ways we study bird song to the anatomy of how birds produce sounds and some of the social behavior that explains common bird vocalizations. David is a naturalist and author who has been living in the Sierra Nevada and leading bird programs in California for nearly 20 years. His newest book is "Sierra Nevada Birds", and it is the first comprehensive guide to all the birds that occur in the Sierra Nevada.



### Saturday September 29. - SEQUOIA RESEARCH



Presented by Dr. Howard Shellhammer, who was part of the team from San Jose State that conducted the first major study of the role of fire in the reproduction of the giant sequoias. Fire and other aspects of giant sequoia ecology were studied, mostly in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks during the late 1960's and early 1970's. The studies resulted in two popular publications, "The Giant Sequoias of the Sierra Nevada" and "Giant Sequoia Ecology..Fire and Reproduction". Dr. Shellhammer will speak about recent continuing giant sequoia research

### Saturday October 6 - GO NATIVE

Presented by Steve Stocking, retired biology professor from Delta College. He will present "Go Native" about those native plants which will do well in this area, particularly above 2,000 feet. Native plants are well adapted to the soils and climate of our area and typically do well with less water and care than many non-natives, once established. Many also are particularly good for attracting native birds and butterflies. Steve has been the CBTA "Seminar Chair" and Board member for four years. He established the native plant garden at Delta College in 1978 and is the Education Chair of the local Native Plant Society and grows many natives at his home in San Andreas.



**All Seminars will be held in Jack Knight Hall at Calaveras Big Trees State Park from 10:00 am-12 noon Admission to the Park is \$8 per car.**

**The seminars are free and open to the public. Pack a lunch, bring the family and plan on spending the day among the Giant Sequoias. For more information call Calaveras Big Trees Association at 795-3840 or visit our website at [www.bigtrees.org](http://www.bigtrees.org)**