

Here Comes the Fashion Show

The Spring Fashion Show has moved to the Fall this year. Please support this major fundraiser featuring great fashions for the holiday season. Our resident elf is busily making cheese boards for the table decorations. Like his bird houses last year, these will be for sale and will go fast.

Charlotte Hunt

**CALAVERAS BIG TREES
ASSOCIATION**
PRESENTS THEIR
**3rd ANNUAL
FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON**
Saturday, October 27th
at Snowflake Lodge in Blue Lake Springs

Time: 11:30am

Admission Price: \$25.00

Fashions From
Joan's Boutique in Sonora **The Out House** in Arnold
Shirt Tales in Murphys **Two Rivers** in Arnold
The Boutique at Jillian Day Spa in Murphys
The Calaveras Big Trees State Park Visitor's Center

For Reservations Call
Marilyn Larson 209-795-6768

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE USED FOR THE
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AT
CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK



From the President

This has been an impressive summer at the Park! We have seen more visitors, presented more interpretive programs, had larger attendance at Family Day, increased numbers of visitors and sales in the Visitor Center Gift Shop as well as at the Arts of Bear Valley show. In addition we have enjoyed hundreds of compliments from folks who have taken part in all that the Park has to offer.

And the good news continues. We are informed that the new interpretive center will go forward and that we will be pleased and proud of the end result. In November we will be presented with a national award for excellence in support of interpretation.

All of the above is wonderful and exciting news and it would not be a reality without our close family of volunteers, members, CBTA board and staff and our Park staff and docents. Working in harmony with all members of this family hasn't always been a simple matter but I believe we have created an outstanding union which grows stronger with each passing year.

With passion and dedication to our park and inspiration from the giant sequoias, who knows how far our dreams and visions will take us. It is my hope that we contribute to each visitor's renewed respect for the wonders of nature.

Park Superintendent Jon Burgasser leaves us with a better understanding of communication and a determination to continue the good work that he has so ably started. We wish him the very best in all that he undertakes. Our old friend Vince Sereno will be stepping in temporarily.

Anne Saunders

Jon Burgasser's Farewell

Dear Park Family:

It is with mixed emotions that I have left the position of Superintendent of Calaveras Big Trees S.P. and Indian Grinding Rock S.H.P. My last working day for the two Parks was September 21. I have accepted the position of Public Safety Superintendent for the Sierra District of California State Parks. My assignment there will involve a number of state park units stretching from Mono Lake in Mono County to Plumas-Eureka in Plumas County. It will be a new type of assignment for me with many new things to learn.

I do have many different emotions at the thought of this change. Serving with all of you as a Ranger, a Supervising Ranger and then as the Park Superintendent has been an incredible experience for me. Being part of a team that has served so many visitors, protected the best of California's natural and cultural resources and educated so many has been nothing short of awesome. Just today in my travels before writing this note I have seen the work of Park volunteers and our partner non-profits front and center in daily service to the Park.

The degree of your commitment has given me great respect for all of you and pushed me to do my best in serving you, the Park and our thousands of visitors. It is that same commitment, coupled with the duty to protect and interpret the timeless natural and cultural resources of Calaveras Big Trees and Indian Grinding Rock, that will continue to inspire the staff and your next Superintendent. Thank you for the opportunity to have served with you and for you.

Jon Burgasser

Open House and Winter Sale

The special sale date for CBTA members, docents and state staff will be Friday, November 16, from 10 am to 3 pm.

Everything in the Gift Shop will be 20% off to the general public on the weekend (except fundraising, holiday and snack items). On Friday only, CBTA members who are not docents will receive an additional 10% off while docents, state and CBTA employees will receive an additional 20% off.

There will be items for everyone on your gift list. With their purchase you will be supporting the interpretive programs of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Please bring non-perishable food items for HRC's Santa's Express to share with families in need. Also enjoy hot cider and goodies while you shop.

For further information please call me at 209-795-4305.

Hope to see you there - Bunny Firebaugh



What's Next?

We say goodbye to summer and to Jon Burgasser, our Park Superintendent, who has moved on to the Sierra District. Many people have been asking, "What is going to happen?"

The short answer is that I (Vince Sereno) will be taking over on an acting basis. From June 2002 to February 2005, I was the Supervising Ranger at Calaveras Big Trees and Indian Grinding Rock, so to many of you I will be a familiar face. I moved on to various positions in the Central Valley District but I have been acting as the Calaveras Sector Superintendent since June.

I am working with District Superintendent Scott Wassmund to hire a replacement for Jon as soon as possible. We will be looking for the perfect person to continue his standards of excellence, hard work and dedication.

Vince Sereno

The Scenic Byway - What a Ride

In 2005 the section of Highway 4 and 89 between Arnold and Markleeville was designated as The Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway. This spectacular route ranges from 4000' to 8732' in elevation and offers fantastic views of nature equal to any in the Sierra. An inaugural celebration was held by the Byway Association on September 15 and Calaveras Big Trees State Park and CBTA participated with various walks through the North Grove and informal interpretative programs.

Seven other locations – Arnold at the beginning of the Byway, The Dorrington Hotel, Camp Connell General Store, Bear Valley Village, Lake Alpine Lodge, Hermit Valley, and Markleeville – also had activities to provide entertainment and history of this area to the many visitors who participated in the adventure.

David Bergum

Arts of Bear Valley Show

Arts of Bear Valley ended its sixth annual art show at Jack Knight Hall on Labor Day following an extremely well attended reception with the artists on Sunday. The show, featuring 25 painters and photographers, exceeded previous years attendance and sales numbers with an average of 102 visitors enjoying the show daily. Family Day's special art project on the porch of the hall brought over 350 eager young artists in to make colorful fish prints.

The show is co-sponsored by CBTA and Arts of Bear Valley, who were pleased to present us with a check for \$1,225.00 as our 10% share from art sales. Anne Saunders

CBTA Wins National Award

Since 1974, CBTA has provided significant and sustained support for the interpretive and educational programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in five main areas: improvement of interpretive facilities, interpretive staff salaries, event sponsorship, educational materials and the volunteer program. In addition CBTA has raised \$500,000 towards a new interpretive center that finally is becoming a reality. The Park would simply not be able to provide the same level of high quality service to our visitors without this tremendous support.

With this in mind Park staff submitted a nomination for "Excellence in Interpretive Support" to the National Association for Interpretation. It is a confirmation of what we have always known that CBTA has won the award, a real honor. NAI is the largest and most outstanding professional organization for interpretation, providing professional development through conferences, publications, newsletters and the awards program. All CBTA members should be very proud of their contributions to CBTA and Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

President Anne Saunders and I will be traveling to the national conference to attend sessions and receive the award. It is in Kansas in November but we are determined to have a good time! Wendy Harrison

Visitor Center Gift Shop

The gift shop is having an extraordinary record-shattering year. This July we exceeded the previous record month (July 2004) by more than \$7,000 for a total of just under \$42,000. WOW!!! August was the second best month ever at almost \$36,000. As of mid-September, the shop has brought in over \$167,000 in sales, which is a record pace for the year.

Thanks to everyone who shops and works at the Visitor Center. Tami Rakstad-Schaner

Our New Interpretive Center is a Go

The new facility WAS included in the final version of the California State Budget for this fiscal year. Actual construction will begin next year with bidding and contract award this fall and winter. The approval included an increase in funding so the project has increased somewhat in size and several architectural components have been added. The revised draft plan should be available for review at the Park within the next month. CBTA is to be thanked for its tremendous fundraising efforts and strong partnership which are key reasons why this project is moving forward.

Family Day Thank You

Family Day 2007 was again another huge success, with more than 3500 visitors, 1500 more than in past years. More than 100 volunteers and staff participated. Special thanks for the leadership of the CBTA board and to Wendy Harrison who initiated this special event.

Smokey the Bear, Cocked Hat Bowling, musician Joe Craven and storyteller Mark Dyken all brought in large audiences. From reptiles, birds and fish of the Sierra to Miwok culture our interpretive presenters shared their knowledge and expertise throughout the day. The crafts and The Arts of Bear Valley art project were highly attended as well, as were face painting, quilt ticket sales and the food booths. Thanks too to the special ambiance always added by the Great Mother Lode Brass and Reed Band with their familiar, historical music. Other special thanks go to CDF and the Ebbetts Pass Fire District as well as to many local businesses who have volunteered and donated their time and materials with great generosity. Jayne Henning Childress

Appleby Trust Donation

This year's annual donation to CBTA from the Margaret E. Appleby Trust was used to purchase bear-proof food lockers to be installed at the South Grove Trail parking lot. Instead of leaving food in cars while hiking, visitors will be encouraged to use the lockers to discourage curious bears from entering their vehicles.

Appleby Trust funds have been used in the past to purchase bike racks, print the bike trail guide and numerous other tangible items as agreed upon by CBTA, Park staff and the Trust manager. We are grateful for these generous annual contributions. Anne Saunders

<p style="text-align:center">In Memoriam Elizabeth Wood Hansen Rich Imrie Natalie Retamoza-Stenburg</p>

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We're on the web: www.bigtrees.org

Our Mission : To assist and support the interpretation and environmental education programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Calaveras Big Trees Association
Membership/Renewal Form
PO Box 1196, Arnold, CA 95223-1196 • 209-795-3840

Name _____
Address* _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
E-mail _____
Name of referring CBTA member _____

Please circle choice below and make payment to:
Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA)
PO Box 1196, Arnold, CA 95223-1196

Individual	\$15
Family	25
Organization/Business	100

*Please advise of any change of address

Big Tree Bulletin

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2007-08 CBTA Officers/Board

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Firewood: Dick Watson
IC Project Manager: Rich Szukalski
The Board meets monthly the last Wednesday at 1 PM.

The CBTA dues year is the calendar year (Life Members excepted). Expiration date appears on your mailing label.