

## Prez Sez

I am honored to have been elected as President of Calaveras Big Trees Association.

Many thanks to Anne Saunders who has done a fantastic job as President these last two years under difficult times. Her leadership has been an inspiration and incentive to tackle problems and pursue goals. She will stay on the CBTA Board as President Emeritus and will continue serving CBTA and the Park with special value to me as major advisor.

The new Interpretive Center will be the major focus in the coming months. It has been a very long road for many of us to try to get to "ground breaking" but patience is a virtue. The architectural plans show us a tantalizing view of the future with a most remarkable building and a museum that will be the envy of parks all across the US.

We plan to continue our committed support for the many important interpretive programs at the park made possible partially from the revenue at the Visitors Center. There are not many state or national parks which offer so many quality programs.

Lastly, we are embarking on two campaigns to increase membership and generate income for CBTA. We will be mailing invitations to many Calaveras County businesses offering membership at different levels which include advertising in The Bulletin and other incentives. And later in the year we will be holding a raffle with many great prizes.

If you have comments or concerns or want to be more involved in any of these missions please call the CBTA office and leave a message for me or e-mail me at: [sntreehugger@comcast.net](mailto:sntreehugger@comcast.net).

Margaret Bell

## Family Day Update - August 16

The day is coming soon and sign-up sheets are filling in, but if you are still wondering if you can help out on Family Day, the answer is YES! There are many more slots to be filled. We still need some extra help in the afternoon with "Cocked Hat" bowling, parking, serving ice cream, nature crafts, and oh yes, maybe some of you would like to try out your artistic talents at face painting any time of day.

Everyone's help will make Family Day successful. This year there are many new docents and I hope you all come to see what a great time families and friends can have on this eventful day!

If you have signed up for a half-day shift, please enjoy the rest of the day visiting all the interpretive presenters. From reptiles to butterflies, birds of prey, fly fishing, solar telescope viewing, Miwok demonstrations, storytelling, juggling (new this year), barbecue lunches (by Arnold's Order of the Moose), music, carriage rides and so much more.

I would like to especially thank the artist David Gayneaux who created the poster this year. His design so beautifully illustrates our concept of Family Day. I would also like to give a special thanks to Dennis Pinion who has printed all the posters being distributed throughout the county. Thank you so much!

If there are any questions or if you'd like more information, please call me at 795-7980 or 754-1149. See you there!

Jayne Henning Childress

### Inside:

CBTA Seminars  
Summer Intern  
Scholarship Winner  
And More

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## Jim and Carmen Hickling

I'm sure many of you remember Jim and Carmen Hickling - dedicated CBTA members and Big Trees Docents. Jim and Carmen brought their considerable talents and interests to the park during the 1980s and 1990s, much to our benefit. Sadly, we recently learned that Jim passed away this spring. Carmen just celebrated her 98th birthday and is living in a convalescent home in Lafayette.

I am honored to share a few memories of the Hicklings with you. Jim worked as a technical expert for Shell Oil, starting out pumping gas and working his way up because of his expertise. Completely self-taught, he was a go-to person when a new part or machine was needed to be invented and created for a project. Carmen was an enthusiastic and creative kindergarten teacher with a true passion for learning and teaching. They were a great team. When Carmen wanted to learn to ice skate, Jim made her a pair of ice skates. When Carmen became interested in pottery, Jim designed and built her a kiln because they didn't like any of the kilns on the market.

When they came to Big Trees they brought their teamwork with them. They both became interested in wildflowers and became immersed in wildflower projects. They extensively photographed park wildflowers, assisting our resource staff in identification and creating a wildflower slide show that is still being used today. Jim spent many hours organizing slides, fixing our slide projectors and working on anything of a technical nature. Carmen was always enthusiastic about my interpretive projects and would share her thoughts and ideas about the best way to accomplish my goals.

They have also been significant financial contributors to Calaveras Big Trees, donating funds for a Memorial Grove in the South Grove and providing major support for the new Interpretive Center. They both loved this special place and would express great joy at driving the "river road" - as Carmen called it - to see the dogwoods in bloom, the phantom orchids and wild azaleas. The Hicklings were truly devoted to this extraordinary park and their contributions will continue to support this park for many years to come.

Wendy Harrison

## Sixth Annual Welcome Brunch

I want to thank everyone who helped with the April Welcome Back Brunch. It was a lot of work but well worth the effort. I had fun and I hope everyone else did. There was record attendance of one hundred. Twenty more than last year.

Hope to see all of you next year!!!!

Bunny Firebaugh

## Summer Intern

Each summer CBTA funds a student intern position through the Student Conservation Association to support the interpretive programs at Calaveras Big trees State Park. This summer we are very fortunate to have Nicole Forthofer as our intern. Nicole will be a junior at Purdue University in Indiana this fall and is majoring in wildlife biology. She hopes to work in wildlife research and rehabilitation after she graduates. During her internship here she will have the opportunity to work in many areas of the park operation. Her major responsibilities are presenting programs such as Jr. Rangers, Cubs and North Grove Walks. She is also involved with visitor center operations and will hopefully conduct campfire programs as well. She has been helping the resource crew, doing bird and bat surveys, pulling weeds and assisting with special projects. She assists with kiosk operations as needed and does ride-a-longs with the Rangers to learn about their duties and responsibilities. She must be doing a great job, since all the staff are arguing about who gets to hire her after she graduates!

Nicole has been a great asset to all of us this summer. Not only is she very smart and a quick learner but she has a positive attitude, great people skills and pitches in whenever she's needed. She has shared with us the wonders of the mid-west such as a Corn-Hole, corn bread, corn maze stories, the Corn Festival, corn on the cob, and ...well, you get the picture. She plays on a rugby team at Purdue and works at her grandfather's cement company in Batesville driving very large tractors. She has worked at two veterinary clinics and has had all sorts of interesting animal interactions this summer. Many thanks go to CBTA for bringing Nicole to the park this summer. She has made a tremendous difference in the services we are able to provide our visitors during this busy time.

Wendy Harrison

## Garden Concert

The garden concert featuring soprano Anne Saunders took place on Sunday afternoon, July 13, in the beautiful setting of the home of Tom Cahill and Elaine Staben in Arnold. Also appearing were Sue Hart, keyboard, Keith Evans, bass guitar, and Larry McFall, drums. Anne sang several pop and show tunes as well as classical numbers. Over 120 attended the concert and were treated to delicious hor d'oeuvres and wine provided by Marcy Crawford and her group of volunteers.

Special event coordinator, Charlotte Hunt, wishes to thank everyone who helped make this a very successful fund raising afternoon for CBTA.

## Arts of Bear Valley Show

The seventh annual Arts of Bear Valley art show and sale opens in Jack Knight Memorial Hall on Saturday, August 14 and runs through Labor Day, September 1. Show hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm daily with artists on hand to answer questions.

Many of the artists are well known throughout the state and are winners of numerous awards. You will find original works in oil, pastel, watercolor and mixed media as well as photography, prints, note cards and more.

A wine and hor d'oeuvre reception open to the public will be held on Sunday, August 31 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Anne Saunders

## Annual Meeting and Picnic

The CBTA Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, June 21 at the picnic area behind Jack Knight Memorial Hall. President Anne Saunders welcomed members and reminded them of how important their support is at this time of financial uncertainty and thanked them for their continuing involvement.

Board election followed with all incumbents re-elected.

Treasurer Rich Szukalski reported that Visitor Center sales during the past year surpassed those of previous years. Staff member Tami Rakstad Schaner gave details of numbers of visitors and sales which resulted in the very successful year.

Summer Intern Nicole Forthofer was introduced by Wendy Harrison. (See separate article)



New Board President  
Margaret Bell

The Emily M. Hewitt Scholarship winner this year is Geneva Skram, a student at California State University at Fresno. Lauren Hewitt, daughter of Emily, gave a biography of her mother. (Again see separate article.)

The meeting was followed by a pot luck lunch.

Bruce Thomsen

## 2008 Emily M. Hewitt Memorial Scholarship Recipient

This year's recipient of the Emily M. Hewitt Memorial Scholarship is Geneva Skram. Geneva will be a senior at California State University - Fresno. Geneva will use the \$1000 scholarship to graduate in May 2009 with a degree in Sociology. In high school in Modesto Geneva started the school's Environmental Club which works on recycling programs, cleanup events and Earth Day Celebrations. While in college she has worked as the summer education coordinator at the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust as well as serving an internship at the Great Valley Center. Her goal after college is to focus on preserving the natural environment through education, conservation and advocacy. Although Geneva missed the annual Meeting, she plans to attend Family Day. I'm sure we can put her to good work.

Bruce Thomsen

## CBTA Seminars 2008

Saturday, September 27: Dr. Tom Hoffstra will present his highly acclaimed program "All About Lichens," covering this under-appreciated group of organisms in an introduction to lichen biology, their ecological and ethno-botanical significance, and how to recognize some local species. Tom teaches a variety of botany and natural resources courses at Columbia College.

Saturday, October 4: Bruce Castle will present "Our Disappearing Forests." Bruce is a member of Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch, a community organization dedicated to forest stewardship in our area. He will use aerial and ground photographs to illustrate timber harvesting practices in the Central Sierra. The program was previously scheduled but was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Both programs will be held at 10 a.m. in Jack Knight Hall at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The Public is encouraged to attend so bring some of your friends. If you have questions about these seminars please call the Calaveras Big Trees Park at (209) 795-3840.

Steve Stocking

**Don't Forget!!!!**  
**Family Day**  
**Saturday, August 16**

**Calaveras Big Trees Association**  
PO Box 1196  
Arnold CA 95223-1196  
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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ARNOLD, CA 95223

We're on the web: [www.bigtrees.org](http://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

President: Anne Saunders  
Vice Presidents: Dick Watson, Margaret Bell  
Treasurer: Richard Szukalski  
Corres. Secretary: Bunny Firebaugh  
Record. Secretary: Bruce Thomsen  
Bulletin: Bruce Thomsen  
Fundraising: Charlotte Hunt  
Publicity: David Bergum  
Seminars: Steve Stocking  
Website: Dennis Pinion  
New building model: Betty Ann Prescott  
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.