From the President

As you read this, I hope the birds and buds are convincing us that Spring is here!

Knowing how much the abundant rain and snowfalls are needed has made all that shoveling a bit lighter, at least for me. And, of course, the Park has been an absolute fairy land for weeks.

The Board was sorry to receive the resignation of Margaret Bell as Board President in January. Margaret has been a long time supporter of CBTA and the Park. Though she will not be continuing in this capacity we are pleased that she will remain on the Board. Her hard work and dedication are very much appreciated.

In these changing times even our organization is affected. We are not exempt from the necessity for belt-tightening and close scrutiny of expenditures. We are cautiously optimistic that visitors will continue to enjoy the Park in large numbers and will support our gift shop as well. So far this has been the case. We are putting more emphasis on publicity and informing locals and others of the wide range of summer programs offered here.

Thanks to you, our members, and our capable staff and supporters we are in a position to again make it financially feasible for the State to continue the outstanding programs that the Park has become known for.

Those “enduring giants” have survived so much yet stand majestically and silently reminding us that better times will come. Take a walk in the Park and take comfort in the presence of our local treasures.

Anne Saunders, Interim President

Annual Meeting

This year’s annual meeting and potluck picnic will take place on Saturday, June 13, at 11:00 am in the picnic area behind Jack Knight Hall. CBTA members are urged to attend and participate in the election of the 2009-10 Board of Directors. Anyone interested in running for office may contact Lisa Shinn at 795-3840.

Come and meet our student intern, staff members and new volunteers. It is a perfect way to start our busy summer season.

Calendar of coming events:

- April 25 - 11:00 am - Welcome Back Brunch, Jack Knight Hall
- May 2 - 10:00 am - Seminar, Birding by Ear, Jack Knight Hall
- May 23 - 10:00 am - Seminar, Summer Wildflowers of Ebbetts Pass, Jack Knight Hall
- June 7 - 3:00 pm - Spring concert with Anne Saunders, Jack Knight Hall
- June 13 - 11:00 am - Annual Meeting & Potluck Picnic, Group Picnic Area
- June 27 - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Hike-a-Thon, North Grove, South Grove
- August 13 to 31 - Arts of Bear Valley, Jack Knight Hall
- August 15 - 10:00 am - Family Day, North Grove Area
Spring Concert
A Spring Concert designed to lighten up your heart and chase those blues away is in the works for Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 pm in Jack Knight Hall. My keyboard player and arranger, Sue Hart, and I are coming up with some great music, both classical Italian and French works from my past and familiar vintage popular songs mixed in with a few more recent Broadway tunes. Dennis Brown, actor, singer, pianist, will join us once again with his dynamic vocal renditions and keyboard magic. CBTA sponsors the concert and all proceeds benefit park educational programs. A wine and hors d’oeuvre reception and raffle will follow the concert. Tickets are $20 may be purchased through the office at 795-2318.

Seating is limited so get your tickets early. Hope to see you there!

CBTA Seminars Spring 2009
Saturday May 2 - Birding By Ear
David Corman will be at Jack Knight Hall to present his program on “Birding by Ear,” followed by a short field trip in the North Grove area where you can try out your newly acquired skills. So bring your binoculars and bird book if you have them. David has helped us with programs at our Family Day and has been doing a similar program for the Golden Gate Audubon Society in Yosemite National Park for a number of years.

Saturday May 23 - Summer Wildflowers Of Ebbetts Pass
Join Pat Stone for his presentation about the summer wildflowers in the Highway 4 area. Pat is a long time leader of the Sierra Foothills Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. He is an excellent photographer and also excels at leading wildflower trips. His program will be followed by a wildflower identification walk in the Park.

All programs begin at 10:00 am in Jack Knight Hall at the Park. All interested persons (including non-members) are invited to attend. The entrance fee to the Park is $7.00 per vehicle ($6.00 with a senior present) but there is no additional fee for the program.

Steve Stocking

Seventh Annual Welcome New Members, New and Old Docents
It is time for our annual brunch in the Jack Knight Memorial Hall on Saturday, April 25 at 11:00 am. CBTA will provide a delicious brunch for all the new members, new docents and returning docents. At this time you will have the opportunity to meet the rangers, Park staff, CBTA Board members and staff, new members and old 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.

Nancy Eileen Muleady-Mecham, PhD, retired U.S. National Park Ranger and a new docent will be with us to sign her books “Park Ranger” and “Park Ranger Sequel” after the brunch.

Also fingerprinting will be available after the brunch for the docents who need to but have not had this done.

Please RSVP to Bunny Firebaugh, 795-4305 or email lovetheforest@goldrush.com, before April 19th.

Hope to see you all there

Bunny

Winter Guided Hikes
Starting the Saturday before Christmas and continuing every Saturday since, the Park has offered docent snowshoe guided hikes of the North Grove for all experience levels. CBTA bought ten pairs of adult and ten pairs of children MRS Denali snowshoes to be used free of charge by those who need them. Because of the outstanding participation in the hikes it may be necessary for more snowshoes to be purchased and hopefully CBTA can meet this need.
Local Families Win Prizes In Membership-Fundraising Raffle

Five-year-old Haley Pierce assisted the Calaveras Big Trees Association by pulling the winning tickets during the Annual Holiday Open House and Sale at the Visitor Center. Haley and her family, residents of Stockton, were shopping at the sale when she was invited to participate in picking the winners.

Lamont and Pat Sanders of Camp Connell were the lucky winners of the first prize. They won seven nights in Palm Springs at the Marriott Hotel during the Bob Hope Classic Golf Tournament.

Dorothy Clifton of Murphys won the second prize, “A Day on San Francisco Bay” aboard “Sylvia’s Valet.”

David and Helen Gallagher of Arnold won the third prize, a State Park Annual Day Use Pass, good for one year.

These raffle prizes were made possible by the generosity of CBTA members Mike and Paulette Meany who donated the week in Palm Springs and Robert and Sylvia Edwards who donated the “Day on the Bay.”

Proceeds from the sale of tickets, as well as the holiday sale, support the Park’s interpretive programs. Thank you for your continuing support of CBTA.

Marcy Crawford

Hike-a-Thon

Come hike with us for the first CBTA sponsored Hike-a-Thon at the park, Saturday, June 27. Hike the North Grove, Three Senses, and/or South Grove Trails and help raise money for ongoing interpretive programs in the Park. Get sponsors or make it a family affair. Enclosed is a registration form. Minimum pledge is $75 which includes snacks along the trails and water. For a $100 pledge you will receive an 18 oz Calaveras Big Trees State Park water bottle. Come join us for a fun day in the Park and help support CBTA’s mission. More information is on our website, www.bigtrees.org.

Email Big Trees Bulletin

A big thank you goes out to the 95 Members of CBTA that chose to receive their Big Tree Bulletins via e-mail. This will help to defray printing costs and the cost of mailing out paper copies.

CBTA is asking those of you who haven’t signed up to receive your bulletin electronically to please consider this option. We could potentially save hundreds of dollars on each mailing if more of you do so.

It’s easy – just drop an e-mail to cbtvc@goldrush.com and we’ll be happy to change your preferences.

Thank you for your help!

Check Out Our Website

If you haven’t visited lately, take a look at our website at www.bigtrees.org. We are developing a new look thanks to Jock Piel who has volunteered his time and talent. Jock has the experience and background to give us a first class website. Over the next few months watch for all the new happenings at the Park, including seminars, the annual CBTA picnic, the Hike-A-Thon, the Spring Concert in June and Family Day. Photos of the Park, docents and the public enjoying Big Trees will be prominent on the website. Bookmark it on your computer and keep an eye on us.

Marcy Crawford

In Memoriam

Wilmer Barton
Rachel Haynes
Jean Welenc
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

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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

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

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Dennis Pinion, Betty-Ann Prescott,
Marilyn Regan and John Woodward

The Board meets monthly the last Wednesday at 1 PM.