



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 *Vida Kenk*

June 27 was the 160th anniversary of cutting down the giant sequoia that we now know as the Big Stump. According to a recent article in the British news journal *The Guardian*, the outrage generated by cutting of this tree and the sacrifice of the Mother of the Forest the following year eventually led to the development of national parks. In his PBS series on National Parks, Ken Burns said that preserving natural areas for future generations was originally an American idea. Next year we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the California State Park System by having a Grand Opening of our new Visitor's Center, although we hope to have a "soft opening" towards the end of this year. A representation of the big stump is featured in the center of the plaza connecting the two buildings of the new facility.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the many people who came before us and had the foresight to preserve these sequoia groves. In recent decades, many of you have worked hard and donated funds to make the new VC a reality. The purpose of this building is to enhance visitors understanding and enjoyment of the living trees, so that they will come to love this special place. People will protect and defend what they love.

On Saturday, August 17, we will celebrate the 25 year anniversary of Family Day. This annual event is an opportunity to thank the community for their support of the Park by providing lots of fun activities for all ages, available for the just the entrance fee to the Park. Please read the article by Vaughn Smith elsewhere in this bulletin for further details about Family Day plans.

I feel privileged to become the president of CBTA at this time of transition. As part of preparing for this office, I attended a four-day workshop in April on the topic of partnerships between the Department of Parks and Recreation and cooperative associations such as CBTA. Among other things, I learned that CBTA is a model cooperative association, with a strong financial position and an active, hard-working Board of Directors. We are in a fortunate position at this time, especially in comparison with many other park organizations. The past two CBTA presidents, Marilyn Regan and Marcy Crawford, are giving me the benefit of their advice. Marcy was recently recognized as the Outstanding Senior in Calaveras County for her service to the community for her work in CBTA, the Grand Jury, and many other achievements. Well-deserved honor, Marcy!

The vital core of this organization is you, the CBTA members. Thank you for your faithful support throughout the long effort to build the new center. Special thanks are due to those of you who responded to the mid-year fundraising letter. We are turning our attention to developing ways to effectively use the new facility to introduce the next generation to the wonders of our natural, historical, and cultural heritage. Our continuing goal is that every visitor will walk in awe among the giants.

Summer Interns

by *Mary Anne Carlton*

Once again, The Student Conservation Association (SCA) has supplied Calaveras Big Trees with two outstanding summer interns. The mission of the SCA is "to build the next generation of conservation leaders and to inspire

stewardship of our environment by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land". What better place for them (and us) to do just that but at our Park. The interns are funded by CBTA through a special student intern trust.



This summer's interns are Mia Keady from Lincoln, NE (pictured on left) and Felicia Bratti from Glenallen, MO (pictured on right). They arrived together just before Memorial weekend. As Felicia put it..."Nebraska was on the way so I picked up Mia on the way West." They became friends and had adventures before they even got here!

Mia is attending Nebraska Wesleyan University majoring in Biology. She has experience working with children in various settings. Studying the ecosystems of Belize helped her escape spending last winter in Nebraska. She's a musician and athlete.

Felicia accepted our offer to work at Big Trees on her birthday and said it was the best present ever. She will be returning to Mineral Area College in Missouri before transferring to a four year university. Her major interest is Environmental Science. Felicia also has experience

working with children and has travelled to many exotic foreign countries. Our interns are busy helping our visitors learn about Calaveras Big Trees by leading North Grove walks, presenting campfire programs and working with our young visitors through the Cubs and Junior Ranger programs. They have also worked with Resource Management doing owl surveys and cleaning out thistle and mullein.

And for fun? They have kayaked Lake Alpine to see the Super Moon, been backpacking on the East side, went swimming in Mono Lake, visited SF and Berkeley, biked Yosemite valley, hiked to Vernal Falls, watched fireworks over Lake Tahoe, walked in the Arnold 4th of July parade and saw a bear on one of their North Grove hikes.

I would say we are building the next generation of leaders and inspiring stewardship with Mia and Felicia.....they are keepers!

Fall Seminar Schedule

by Vida Kenk

The public seminars presented by CBTA in Jack Knight Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on two Saturdays this Fall will both present environmental topics in a historical context. These seminars are part of CBTA's educational mission. Admission is free to the public (after paying the Park entrance fee of \$10.00/vehicle).

September 28 - *Finding David Douglas*. Historian Lois Leonard, Director and Co-Producer, will introduce the first video to chronicle the life of Scottish naturalist and world traveller David Douglas (1799-1834) for whom the Douglas Squirrel and Douglas Fir are named. Douglas introduced more than 200 new plant species from America to the gardens and forests of Europe. Filmed at the sites Douglas visited in Canada, Hawaii, California, Oregon, and the British Isles, this beautiful video weaves art, music, and history into an inspirational story of adventure, hardship, and scientific discovery. Produced by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission in collaboration with several other agencies, this video has been accepted by PBS for future broadcast.

October 12 - *75 Years of Change in Yosemite*. Dr. Jerry Smith from San Jose State University will present photographs of subalpine sites taken over many decades, documenting subtle changes that are occurring in this fragile ecosystem. Much of the gathering of information continues to be done by volunteers who are contributing to this ongoing research. Dr. Smith will be updating information that he presented several years ago at Yosemite National Park.

Park Update

by Gary Olson, Superintendent 1

Summer is in full swing and the temperatures have been climbing. The campgrounds are open, usually close to capacity on the weekend, and day use visitation is increasing. The combination of rising temperatures and increased visitation is helping CBTA ice cream sales.

The new Visitor Center is getting closer to completion. The contractor has taken down the fence and removed his office trailer from the Park, giving us back some parking spaces. We are still waiting for the contractor to complete several items and we need the full occupancy permit from the fire marshal before we will be able to move in. We hope that this will be completed before the end of July. The interpretive exhibits are scheduled to be installed mid-August. Once that is completed we will look at a date for a soft opening. It is highly unlikely that the new Visitor Center will be open for Family Day. Once the fire marshal occupancy permit is approved, CBTA will be notified as to when they can begin moving operations into the new book store area. I anticipate a request for volunteers to assist with the move within the next few weeks.

The dump station project is moving along and on schedule. The building is under construction as we speak and they anticipate completion in September. The sewer pipe relining project will begin in September after the holiday weekend and will last for approximately 2 months. This will greatly help increase the efficiency of our systems and remove a significant amount of ground water from our spray fields, thus extending the life span of our septic system.

You have probably noticed a fee increase which became effective May 24. The new day use fee is \$10 per vehicle, \$9 for seniors. We also have special day use holiday rates of \$12 (\$11 for seniors) while camping increases to \$40 per night for July 4, Memorial Day, and Labor Day weekends.

Devin Johnson, our Maintenance Worker I, has accepted a new job with the local school district. His position is vacant, but we are making every effort to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Ranger Barry Robertson is still on assignment at Indian Grinding Rock State Park.

As always, have fun, laugh out loud, and enjoy life as you participate at Calaveras Big Trees.

Winds in the Sequoias

by Vida Kenk

Historic Jack Knight Hall provides an intimate venue and excellent acoustics for chamber music. Thanks to the efforts of many people, the Winds in the Sequoias concert

on May 25 was a great success. Jack Knight was packed with over 100 attendees, who also enjoyed fine local wines, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction.

The musicians who donated their expertise were the Mother Lode Woodwind Quintet, which consists of Janet Telford (flute), Jane Buzzard (oboe), Hank King (clarinet), Bill Minkel (French horn), and Gail Buzzard (bassoon). Soprano Anne Saunders (a former president of CBTA) and pianist Sue Hart were special guest performers.

Many of our local businesses contributed prizes for the Silent Auction: Above and Beyond Travel, Carlynn by Design, Buchanan's Wellness Boutique, OARS, Somewhere in Time, Stagecoach Limousine, Bear's Lair, Four Winds Cellars, and Val du Vino. Please patronize these businesses and thank them for their support of the Park. In addition, Alan Beymer donated four beautiful matted and framed photographs of the Park and Bill Minkel will be playing not one, but two, alpenhorn concerts for auction winners.

Nearly half of the attendees filled out evaluation cards. All said that they enjoyed the overall experience of the music, setting, food, and general friendliness. "Variety of new and interesting music in a beautiful venue." "Who knew we had this much talent in the mountains?" "A wonderful way to spend an evening".

Special thanks are due to Sue Hoffman, Lauren Scott, Cathy Fitzpatrick, Bunny Firebaugh, and Bill Minkel, as well as the volunteers who decorated the hall, prepared and served food, directed parking, etc. The event raised \$3,550 for the educational and interpretive programs at the Park.

Murder Mystery Dinner

by Mara Naber

The Calaveras Big Trees Association is hosting a Murder Mystery Dinner on September 21 as a fundraiser. The theme is "Murder at the Big Trees Hotel" and it is set in the late 1800's. Historical figures will be part of our cast in this "Who Dunit". From reception time through dinner, guests will watch a drama unfold ending with a murder. During dessert, dinner guests will have time to question the actors to find out who the guilty party is.

Guests and actors will be encouraged to come dressed in the fashions of the 1860-70's. Banjos and fiddles will provide music during our pre-dinner wine reception.

Tickets are \$50/person with discounts for groups of 4 or 8. Dinner, catered by Hillbillies Restaurant of Murphys, will be limited to 100 people. Check www.bigtrees.org for future updates.



- What:** Ice Cream (and popcorn, too)
- Where:** Jack Knight Hall Porch
- When:** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Most Saturdays and Sundays
- Cost:** \$1.00/scoop of ice cream
\$1.00/bag of popcorn



Our summer ice cream fundraiser has been in full swing since mid-June and has been highly successful. Our visitors are enjoying this special treat and the docents enjoy the experience of selling and interacting with Park visitors. This will continue into the Labor Day weekend with hours of noon to 4 p.m. Docents are encouraged to sign up for a 4 hour shift on signupgenius.com. Thanks go to Cathy Fitzpatrick and her husband Cam Deen for the freezer and wheeled cart. CBTA purchased the popcorn machine which will be seen at many future events.

Paul Prescott Joins CBTA Board of Directors

by Marcy Crawford

Paul Prescott is no stranger to the outdoors. His family camped every summer throughout the United States and Canada while the 3 Prescott boys were growing up. The family began camping at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in the 1950's. Paul became an Eagle Scout in 1968 and led backpacking and camping trips and helped plan summer camps.

Receiving his BS degree in Math in 1975 and an MA in History in 1985, Paul taught math, English and history at Denair High School for 31 years retiring in 2009. He served as the President of Denair Unified Teachers Association for 9 years, Negotiator, and Math/Science Department chair. Paul can run a business meeting with or without Robert's Rules of Order and has written or helped write group constitutions and by-laws.

Paul claims the genetic trait for travel, closely connected to the love of outdoors. He has travelled in 49 states and 14 countries in Western and Eastern Europe. Along with travel comes an interest in genealogy and history, like his mother and father before him. Over the years, he has served his church as Treasurer, member of the Deacon Board, Church Chairman, Elder Board and Chairman of the Benevolence Fund.

Paul became a Park docent after he retired, joining the trail crew in 2010. Last winter, he expanded to the Warming Hut and is looking forward to serving on the Trail Patrol and leading walking tours. His mom, Betty Ann, volunteered at Big Trees, served on the Board of Directors and left a legacy to the Calaveras Big Trees Association in 2011. Paul will be an asset to the Association and the board is pleased to have another Prescott serving CBTA and the Park.

Welcome to CBTA.....

Environmental Traveling Companions, San Francisco, CA
Stevenson Wealth Management, Copperopolis, CA
Joseph Arguijo, Worcester, MA
Louis Brandt, Arnold, CA
Ted DeAtley, Lafayette, CA
Diane DelPriore, Sonora, CA
Sharon Dembicki, Davenport, IA
Elise Hanrahan, Arnold, CA
Jonathan Kaminsky, Arnold, CA
Jill Kimm, Wheelersburg, OH
Neal and Heather Jarecki, Alameda, CA

Elsa Kirkpatrick, Los Altos, CA
Maureen Mancuso, San Ramon, CA
Michael Martin, Arnold, CA
Bill McKinney, Modesto, CA
Laura Pinson, Arnold, CA
Barbara Schoeffel and Jill Sweringen, San Francisco, CA
Janice Sewell, Camp Connell, CA
Debbie and Jim Sullivan, Murphys, CA
Fran and Rich Veal, Clayton, CA
Catherine Vonnegut and Gary Winiger, Mtn. View, CA
Roberta Waldroup, Arnold, CA

Annual Meeting 2013

by Marilyn Regan

It was a lovely, sunny day on June 22 as members of the Calaveras Big Trees Association met for their Annual Meeting. In order to keep our tax exempt status as a 501.c.3 corporation, we must hold an open meeting once a year for members. Of course, Board Meetings are also open and members can attend. They are held the last Wednesday of the month, with the exception of June and December, at Snowflake Lodge in Blue Lake Springs.

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President, Marilyn Regan. The major item of business at the meeting was election of board members. All paid members of the Association present are eligible to vote. Ballots were passed out by current board members Bunny Firebaugh and Sanders Lamont. Elected for 2-year terms were: Vida Kenk, George Leong, Tom Jones, Marilyn Regan and Paul Prescott. Paul is a new board member. Also elected by the board members were the Executive Committee for the coming year, which included Vida Kenk, President; Bruce Tallakson, Treasurer; Bunny Firebaugh, Secretary; George Leong and Sanders Lamont, Vice Presidents.

Outgoing President Marilyn Regan was presented with a beautiful, framed photograph of the big trees that was taken by CBTA member Alan Beymer, and a Life Membership in CBTA. Marilyn introduced the members of the board and thanked them for their support during her term as President.

Bruce Tallakson, Treasurer, reported that financially the Association is very sound. Net revenue for fiscal year 2012 was over \$100,000.

Retail Manager, Tami Rakstad-Schaner, gave a brief report on sales in the Visitor Center and also some anecdotal stories about the history of the Park.

Association member, Peter Ralston, whose family contributions are used to support the summer interns, introduced them - Mia Keady from Nebraska and Felicia Bratti from Missouri.

These introductions were followed by a report by Vice President Vida Kenk on this year's scholarship recipients. The Hewitt Scholarship was awarded to Gena Wood from Cal State Humboldt, and CBTA Scholarships went to Brita Rustad, UC Berkley and Michelle Krall, also from Cal State Humboldt.

A report on the condition of the Park and the new Visitor Center was given by Park Superintendent, Gary Olson.

After adjournment, everyone enjoyed a wonderful pot luck lunch, including a cake beautifully decorated with lupine.

Fundraising

by Tom Jones

The following is excerpted from a letter many of you received recently:

As a youngster growing up in Chicago, going to Illinois State Parks was a real treat. What made those parks so special was their diversity and nearness to the big city. From the shores of Lake Michigan to tall grass prairies to deep hardwood forests, these parks left a lasting impression on me.

Having moved to California as an adult in the early 1970's, I found California State Parks to be even more wondrous and diverse, yet most are within a day's drive from urban centers.

Unfortunately, many school children, especially in school districts which cannot afford transportation to Calaveras Big Trees State Park, may never learn about the natural world around them. CBTA can be instrumental in providing financial assistance to those school districts that otherwise would not be able to send students to the Park. Once students come to the Park, they will need to interact with Park staff to enhance their experiences. One effective way to increase staffing, and, at the same time provide support for college students, is through the Summer Intern Program.

CBTA's second annual fund drive focuses on the financial support members provide to our mission of education and interpretation. For example, \$4,500 will fund one student intern for 12 weeks during the summer. Each intern performs approximately 80 Junior Ranger programs, 50 guided walks, 5 campfire programs, numerous roving interpretive contacts, writes a news article for the Park, a small research project, and assists with other interpretive activities. The \$4,500 covers their transportation to and from the Park, housing, and a small weekly stipend.

Other proposed projects include the development of new educational and interpretive programs related to the natural and cultural history of the Park that will be coordinated with the opening of the new Visitor Center.

Our Association's income derives from your annual dues, retail sales at the Visitor Center, donations at the Warming Hut, various special events such as Winter Wonderland,

the recently successful musical program featuring the Motherlode Woodwind Quintet and our first dinner venture scheduled for September 21. We are asking for your support over and above the normal membership dues in order to strengthen your Association's ability to plan for the future.

If you haven't already contributed to this year's annual fund, please send your check to P.O. Box 1196, Arnold, CA 95223.

Remember - All funds raised remain in Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

CBTA Business Member

by *George Leong*

Starting with this edition of the Bulletin, CBTA will be giving you an inside look into our Business members. A lot of you know other members of CBTA as a result of either working as a docent or through many of our functions. Business members join CBTA as a way of connecting to our community. All of them love our Park and support many of our activities. We want you to know who these business owners are so that when you visit their business, you can share your Park adventures with them.

In this issue, I visited with Jeanette Skaff, owner of The Outhouse Collection. The Outhouse Collection is located at 925 Highway 4 in Arnold. Jeanette acquired the store in November of 1978. The original location of the store was a small store (400 sq. ft.) at the north end of town. Seven years later she moved to a larger store (1,000 sq. ft.) in the same shopping location as her current store and moved to her current store eight years later and has been there for the last 25 years. She refers to her store as an "Everything Store". In her words, "I have a store everyone can relate to. I have something for men, something for children, something for women, something to satisfy your tummy; women love to come in my store because I have a lot of different ideas for decorating. I also change with the seasons. We are constantly changing merchandise and that is one of the reasons customers continue to come back." Her merchandising philosophy is: "If I wouldn't put it in my own home, I wouldn't carry it in my own store". Her favorite time of the year is the transition to Fall season. She loves the crisp weather, the warm colors, and the upcoming Christmas season.

A little about Jeanette: She immigrated from Amsterdam, Holland at age 6 with her parents and settled in the Los

Angeles area. At age 22, she went to Australia for a few years then came back to the LA area. In 1978, she moved to Arnold. In her limited off hours, she likes spending time at home. She likes to snow shoe, snow ski, kayak and take long walks with her dog. She also volunteers at Yosemite National Park a couple of times a year. She says she wants to volunteer in a park where hardly anyone knows who she is. She is active in the Arnold business community and is a current board member of the Greater Arnold Business Association (GABA).

I asked Jeanette what her vision is for the Arnold business community: "My vision is to see a more cohesive community. One where people definitely try to support our community. I think that there are too many dollars that leave our community. They don't see us as a community that can fill their needs. If everyone could just try to shop locally one day a week or try a new store."

I asked Jeanette why she joined CBTA as a business member: "I think that the Calaveras Big Trees State Park is such a focal point of our county and I think it draws so many people and I felt like I could support it at least with a membership. I have sent people to the Park and highlight things that they can do there."

I asked Jeanette what CBTA can do for her: "CBTA members can speak positively about our business community. If visitors ask what else is there to do, try to encourage visitors in the Park to visit the local shops in town."

Jeanette is very personable and is passionate and enthusiastic about Arnold and the Arnold community. Her customers are loyal and for good reason. Drop by and visit with her.

Did you know

....there are 6,492 acres in Calaveras Big Trees State Park,

....there are 150 Giant Sequoias in the North Grove,

....there are 1,000 Giant Sequoias in the South Grove, and

....we receive over 200,000 Park visitors each year?

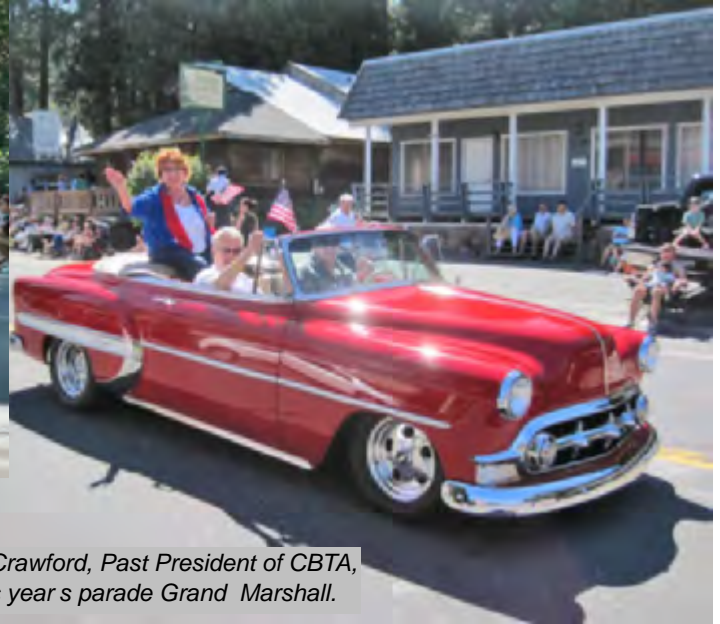
Arnold July 4 Parade.....



Awarded to Park for the Walking Adult Category



Ranger Jeff Davis leading the way for the California State Parks banner.



Marcy Crawford, Past President of CBTA, was this year's parade Grand Marshal.



Gary Olson, Park Superintendent, and Student Intern Mia Keady, share animal stories with the crowd.



Family Day 2013 August 17



by Vaughn Smith

This year's Family Day promises to be a very special celebration. We are celebrating 25 years of hosting Family Day here at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. That's right! Twenty-five years ago a group of volunteers and staff decided to say thank you to the community for their support of the Park, and a tradition was born. To celebrate this event, we are selling a special commemorative pin which depicts a scene from the Park.

We also plan to honor those founders, doers and shakers at a presentation at noon behind Jack Knight Hall. Be sure to be present and participate in this unique event.

Most of the presenters from last year will be back again this year and we have a full schedule of events and presentations at the Campfire Center from 10:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Also this year, we will be featuring a new musician, folk singer Linda Tringali from the Bay Area. The Mother Lode Brass and Reed Band will be playing their music at the Discovery Stump from 11:00 – 12:30. The Moose Lodge will again be providing their popular barbeque and there will also be baked goods, ice cream and popcorn for sale.

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Sue Hoffmann	Circulation/Mailing

CBTA Staff:

Tami Rakstad-Schaner	Retail Manager
Sue Hoffmann	Admin/Retail Assistant
Debbie McGee	Bookkeeper

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. Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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