Positive Changes at the Park

By Rod Smith

CBTA’s role, as a cooperating association, is to support the educational and interpretive work of the park. We are delighted that some long-anticipated staffing changes have happened. Four park positions were filled in 2017 by some extremely talented folks:

- Steven Walloupe – Supervising Ranger
- Brian Robertson – Maintenance Supervisor
- Devin Swartwood – Interpretive Specialist
- Armando Arteaga – Park Ranger

As the park’s interpretive specialist, Devin is our new docent coordinator and has responsibility for the park aides in the Visitor and the Education Centers. Additionally, the number of interpretive park aides has been increased, so we have more trained and knowledgeable park staff who are moving projects ahead and starting new initiatives focused on education and interpretation.

Several important upgrades are happening at the park. First, the diorama in the Visitor’s Center is being rehabilitated. This project is in the capable hands of Devin Swartwood and Amber Stegner, and CBTA is providing financial support.

The rehabilitation and upgrade of the Three Senses Trail is being funded largely by the Lions Clubs International and Lions clubs in California. The Department of Parks and Recreation is also supporting this endeavor, along with CBTA and the people of California – a truly cooperative project.

Finally, the new ranger station has opened in the old Visitor Center near Jack Knight Hall, and park staff have now moved in. Already the new conference room has been a boon for park staff and CBTA.

I’m very excited about these changes, and look forward to a terrific 2018 at the park.

Happy holidays everyone!
Winter Sale and Holiday Open House!
Friday, November 17, 2017

Calling all CBTA members, docents and state staff… please join us!!

Our Winter Sale: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on November 17
Come to the Visitor Center for our one-day sale. Most items are 40% off, and books are 30% off. Lots of wonderful gifts await, so be sure to do some early holiday shopping!

Our 2018 Big Trees calendar features artistic photos by Alan Beymer. We just received terrific new children’s books, including an inspiring, sweet story entitled Little Deer and the First Native American Flute. We have lots of clothing items, including our awesome new winter shirt. Unique stocking stuffers include an outdoor adventure survival kit-in-a-can, the pocket naturalist guide, bugnoculars, bugoptical, an inflatable butterfly life cycle model and much more.

Our Holiday Open House: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on November 17
Come to the classroom for treats, warm drinks and fantastic company.

Please bring a canned or non-perishable food for Santa’s Express.

 Discounts for Everyone
Encourage your friends to shop at the Visitor Center, too. From November 18 through December 3, everything is 20% off. You don’t have to be a CBTA member or docent for these discounts.

See you at the sale!

Winter Days in the Park
Friday, December 29 and Saturday, December 30, 2017
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family to our special Winter Days in the Park. You can join us on December 29 or 30 or both! Fun activities will be held no matter what the weather – rain, snow or shine.

Festivities include hot cocoa and cider in the Warming Hut, snowshoe tours, children’s crafts, holiday singers, roasting marshmallows and awesome decorations.

No tickets required! Just pay the regular entrance fee and enjoy the day.

We hope to see you there.
Be a Part of Our History Project

By Joan Allday

Do you have stories to tell about the park in the olden days or what it's meant to your family? Our history committee would like to invite you to share your Calaveras Big Trees experiences from past decades: 1930s to 1980s. Our goal is to turn some of these stories into a documentary of the park!

Recently, we interviewed Earl Walsh, a lifelong resident of Angels Camp, and he shared stories of working in the park in the 1930s as a teenager.

Please contact me if you – or someone you know – would like to share park experiences from years gone by.

Thanks!
Joan Allday
209 890-3062
Daffodils9@comcast.net

Welcome to New Members!

July 11, 2017 – October 16, 2017

Judith and Shern Jauhal, Palo Alto CA
Stefano Flocchini, Stockton CA
Shirley Drush, Jamestown CA
Brian Bronkar Lee, Tucker GA
Redwood Real Estate Group, Modesto CA
Joe and Joan Cembrola, Pensacola FL
Robert Eicher, Elk Grove CA
Jeanette Corder, San Leandro CA

Three Senses Trail Update

By Rod Smith

We are making real progress on fundraising for the Three Senses Trail.
- Lions Clubs International has promised $97,000 – but we must match their contribution.
- We have already raised $53,000 toward our matching fund goal of the $97,000 goal. Whew! Kudos to our many wonderful donors.
- **We still need to raise $44,000 by the end of December**, and I know we can do it.

Anyone can contribute! Anyone who contributes $25 or more will receive an awesome lapel pin. Can you help us reach the goal? It’s tax deductible.
- To donate by check, make the check payable to “CCF” and note “Three Senses Trail Upgrade Project Fund” in the memo line. Mail your check to Calaveras Community Foundation, PO Box 1436, Angels Camp, CA 95222.
- To donate by debit/credit card or PayPal, go to [http://calaverascommunityfoundation.org](http://calaverascommunityfoundation.org) and specify that you are giving to the “Three Sense Trail Upgrade Project Fund.”

I can hardly wait to get past the fundraising and into the real work. Watch for more information early next year as we start the implementation.
Winter Fun at the Park

By Sanders Lamont

Changing seasons mean changing opportunities for recreation and learning in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. When the colder weather arrives, along with the snow, you can build a snowman, hike in the woods, cross-country ski by yourself, take a snow shoe hike with a guide or simply sit and drink hot chocolate.

All park activities are free, provided by trained volunteers. The only charge involved is standard admission to the state park. However, donations are always welcome! In recent years, donations have added $2,000 to $3,000 annually to the CBTA budget to support educational and interpretive programs in the park.

The Warming Hut opens on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, and you can join us there every Saturday, Sunday and holiday from noon to 4:00 p.m. throughout the winter. Come on in out of the cold, sit by a warm fire, ask questions and sip your choice warm drinks: hot chocolate, cider and coffee or tea. All hot drinks are free, supported by public donations and by CBTA.

Guided snowshoe walks begin every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. after the Warming Hut opens, snow conditions permitting. Snowshoes are provided free to the first 30 people who show up prior to the 1:00 p.m. starting time. Snowshoes are available for adults and children, or you can bring your own. It’s a good idea to check in by around 12:30 p.m. to make sure there are adequate snowshoes available. If you use the park’s snowshoes you must stay with the guide.

Experience on snowshoes is not required, and the group stays together and hikes at an easy pace. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult. The snowshoe walks often follow the North Grove Trail, and typically take about 90 minutes. On the walk, you’ll learn about how nature’s critters and plants adapt to winter, and you’ll have opportunities for picture taking.

We always put safety first, so you must be sure to dress for cold weather. Layers are recommended as the weather can change on short notice. Boots or stout shoes are required for safe use of snowshoes.

Cross-country skiing may appeal to our independent and athletic visitors. Volunteers can provide a map of a cross-country ski trail that starts and ends near the Visitor Center. The trail follows both snow-covered roads and trails.

Watch the weather forecast because everything in winter depends upon weather conditions. There may not be enough snow on some weekends, and big storms may cancel certain activities for safety reasons. You can check the weather forecast for the park at the following website: https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ca/arnold/95223

If you are interested in volunteering, there will be an orientation meeting Thursday, November 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Warming Hut.

Memorials

Rich Szukalski
Don’t Forget to Look Up!

By Greg Martin, Park Superintendent

Walking on the North Grove Trail with my family, I was totally in awe. Sure, the forest was beautiful, the setting tranquil and the trees were impressive. But I was in awe for another reason. The look on my son’s face was priceless, and as we continued our walk he reminded me, “Dad, don’t forget to look up.” I so enjoyed the wonder in my son’s eyes as he gazed upon these giants for the first time. That was nearly six years ago, and he still talks about his first time in the forest. Calaveras Big Trees State Park made a lasting impression on him, as it does for so many.

The same wonder is seen in so many that visit, work and volunteer here at Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP). So many dedicate their time to help protect and preserve, interpret and educate the hundreds of thousands of visitors to this special place. Last year alone, park staff, along with 209 park volunteers, served over 212,000 visitors by helping them explore, learn and recreate. These 209 volunteers dedicated 15,194 hours. The 45 new volunteers helped increase the volunteer hours by 2,599 over the previous year.

The visitor experience is so important in creating a connection to Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Park staff, park volunteers and the Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA) have been working together for years to ensure visitors make a connection to the park, whether that connection is at the entrance station, on a trail, in a campsite or in the Visitor Center. The ability to make this connection is enhanced by the park’s partnerships with volunteers, CBTA and others like Save the Redwoods League (SRL).

Save the Redwoods League was an early partner with California State Parks at Calaveras Big Trees and over the years worked with the Department of Parks and Recreation to help protect California’s Redwoods at 49 redwood state parks. In recent years, SRL has teamed up with Calaveras Big Trees to help support the grand opening of the park’s new Visitor Center, helped support grants for natural resource work and now is partnering with CBTSP to help preserve, study and interpret the Pioneer Cabin Tree and the Big Stump, revamping the campfire center, and supporting natural resource work. More details on these specific efforts will be shared when the partnership agreements are finalized.

Save the Redwoods League is also sponsoring some special days at 49 redwood state parks to celebrate their centennial year. Every second Saturday in 2018 and Redwood Day, the day after Thanksgiving, SRL will be sponsoring a specified number of free day use tickets for the 49 redwood state parks. More information can be found at [www.savetheredwoods.org](http://www.savetheredwoods.org).

On behalf of the park, we are so thankful for the great partners the park has and how they help the park carry out its mission of preserving, protecting, inspiring and creating high-quality outdoor experiences. 2018 is already shaping up to be a great year for the park. With so much to be thankful for, there should be no reason not to look up.
Ask a Naturalist: The Living Stump

Q: Every time I hike through the South Grove, I see this mysterious stump. If you look closely, it’s even dripping some sap like the living tree next to it. What’s going on here?

Betty Chase: This amazing sight is called a living stump. Years ago, two white firs were growing close together near the trail in the South Grove. When one tree was cut down, its stump and root system continued to live on, and bark grew over to “heal” the cut.

So, how did the stump live on without any needles and without any ability to photosynthesize and create its own sugars?

We know now that the roots of the two trees had intertwined, allowing them to share water and nutrients. When one tree was cut down, its neighbor continued to nourish it.

To learn more about this, and other fascinating abilities of trees, head to your local library or book seller to get a copy of The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben.

Oregon's Living Stump
There’s another living stump along an interpretive trail in southern Oregon near the Rogue River. Check out the sign that explains this living stump.

Do You Have a Question?
If you have a question or a puzzling photograph, please send it to CBTAnews@bigtrees.org. Our team will try and answer as many of these questions as we can.

Top Hats Off to Docents!

By Amber Rack

A world of thanks to all our docents!

In September, Calaveras Big Trees State Park staff threw an amazing docent appreciation dinner with a theme inspired by Dr. Seuss and his book The Lorax. Everyone was encouraged to dress up for the occasion. Posted everywhere was this famous quote: “Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.”

As of September, our more than 200 docents have logged over 15,000 service hours, and quail pins and hour bars were awarded to 68 dedicated volunteers. 22 docents achieved their first 100 hours, and 24 were recognized for giving accumulated hours of 1,000 or more. Amazingly enough, one volunteer has logged 4,500 hours at the park.

Prestigious Poppy Awards. At the dinner, two very special people received the Poppy Award for exemplary volunteer service. Congratulations to you both!!

- Jim Allday was honored for his leadership of the popular Creek Critters program.
- Dexter Hardcastle was honored for his work on a naturalist guide of plants and animals commonly found at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.
It’s Membership Renewal Time!

By Zoe Chiaramonte

It’s that time again, and we hope you will renew your membership for 2018. As a member of CBTA, you are part of a long tradition of civic-minded people who have worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of Calaveras Big Trees.

Here’s just a sampling of what CBTA accomplished in 2017 thanks to our membership dues, donations, fundraising and retail sales.

- We continue to raise funds for future park renovations, so stay tuned for more details!
- We paid for seasonal park aides and interns and supported park volunteers who presented countless programs and educational opportunities to delight our visitors throughout the year – guided walks, snowshoe walks, campfire programs, Cubs, Junior Rangers, Creek Critters, school tours, photography walks, crafts, the Warming Hut and more.
- We operated the Visitor Center and organized outreach events like A Day in the Park, seminars and workshops.
- We promoted environmental stewardship by awarding $1,500 scholarships to five California college students who have chosen to pursue careers that focus on the natural environment.

Please renew your membership today and help us continue our tradition of service! You can renew your membership online at [https://bigtrees.org](https://bigtrees.org) or fill out the form on this page and mail it in. There’s a membership category for everyone.

With your help, we can provide great programs and events that create wonderful experiences for thousands of visitors, build public support and preserve the legacy of Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Join online at [www.bigtrees.org](http://www.bigtrees.org)

Or mail this form to

CBTA

P.O. Box 1196, Arnold, CA 95223

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☑ Donation in addition to membership to help CBTA fulfill its mission of delivering high quality educational and interpretative programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

$_____

☐ Renew my membership

☐ New membership

Name __________________________

Address ________________________

Phone __________________________

email __________________________

Method of Payment

☐ Check

☐ American Express

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

Credit Card # ____________________ Exp. date ____________

Signature ________________________ Security Code ______

Please make checks payable to CBTA

Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law
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The Board meets monthly the last Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., and the meeting is open to the public. Please call the office at 209-795-1196 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 or renew/donate through our website www.bigtrees.org. Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Visit us…………
Website…….www.bigtrees.org
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