From CBTA’s President

by Vida Kenk

This is the last bulletin letter I shall write as the president of Calaveras Big Trees Association. During the past two years CBTA members, the CBTA Board, and the Park staff have accomplished a series of major transitions together. The most obvious is the opening of the new Visitor Center after a joint effort by the park system and CBTA for the past two decades. This new facility resulted in numerous other changes due to the increased volume of Park visitors entering the new Visitor Center compared to the former facilities (123,231 in 2014 compared to 75,910 in 2013) and an increase of $150,152 in sales at the shop ($457,264.83 in 2014 versus $307,112.74 in 2013). These increases have led to the need for additional staff in the Visitor Center, both State Park aides and CBTA retail personnel, especially during the busy summer and fall seasons.

We have had a major change in CBTA staff. After serving as the retail manager for the CBTA bookstore since 2005, Tami Rakstad-Schaner has left us to accept another position in Arnold. A party was held at the end of January to celebrate Tami’s accomplishments and wish her well in her new job. Jill Ogburn, who joined the staff last May and was trained by Tami, is now the CBTA retail manager. Our continuing staff members have all received training this past year on the Retail Pro computer system that runs the cash registers, so they are able to handle the work load. We are exploring the possibility of hiring an additional person before high season.

Cooperating associations such as CBTA function under a contract with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) that may last as long as five years. Our current contract has been in place since 2010 and expires this year at the end of May. The DPR has presented the Association with a new contract that would run through 2020. This new contract is currently being reviewed by an ad hoc subcommittee of the CBTA Board.

On November 17, 2014, a joint strategic planning meeting between the CBTA Board and representatives of the DPR resulted in an outline of what we wish to accomplish in the next five years. The first priority is to write an interpretive plan for the Park, choosing how to use the new facilities. Goals for the longer term include continuing maintenance and improvement of the exhibits, developing stronger ties to local educational institutions, and discovering different ways to reach out to the diverse population of California.

What are your ideas about what Calaveras Big Trees State Park should do in the future?

Thank you for your support of this iconic park. Special thanks go to those of you who also serve as State Park docents and donate your time to Park programs. Thank you for your support of me during my presidency; it has been an honor to serve you and the Park. There is much work ahead for the organization and the next president, whose term will start after the CBTA annual meeting in June.

Our mission........To deliver high quality educational and interpretive programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Spring Concert by Cantamos!

by Vida Kenk

On June 6 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a fundraising concert held in Jack Knight Hall by the acclaimed local group Cantamos. Enjoy hors d’oeuvres, wine, and music in this historic setting while you support the Park’s educational and interpretive programs. Tickets are $30 per person. Tickets purchased on-line in advance include coverage of the Park entrance fee.

Michela Macfarlane and Cantamos will highlight their musical dexterity by moving from arias, traditional Latin songs and musicals, to contemporary favorites. Their music moves seamlessly from English to Italian, Spanish to French to Portuguese, and back again. Michela Macfarlane spent ten years steeped exclusively in baroque music. To expand her singing world she moved to the realms of jazz, pop and Latin sounds. She is still true to her operatic roots, but has grown as a performer. Michela is backed by Ron Schaner (bass and vocal), Fred Treece (guitar and vocal), Jerry Solberg (keyboards and vocal) and Scott Leverone (drums).

Seating is limited, so mark June 6 on your calendar and purchase your tickets now at www.bigtrees.org.

A Message
from Our New Retail Manager

by Jill Ogburn

It is such a pleasure to be working for CBTA. What a professional, yet fun group of people we have on the Board and on the committees! The other amazing aspect of this job is the docents. The docents do so much for the Visitor Center, I am blown away! They devote countless hours to the Park, and I want to personally thank every one of them!

The new spring and summer clothing is on its way, and we have a discount table with some great deals for everyone. If you haven’t been in lately, come on by and see what’s new.

Thank you to everyone for welcoming me so graciously.

Photo by Claudia Beymer
Park Update

by Gary Olson

With the summer weather here and the prospect for a real winter fading fast, we need to begin preparing for the summer crowds. The drought looks like it will continue, which raises the fire danger significantly. While we are proceeding with the North Grove thinning and fire reduction project, we still need to be aware of how quickly a small fire could turn catastrophic under the drought conditions. We will need everyone to help educate the public on fire danger and prevention.

Calaveras Big Trees now has four rental cabins available to the public for nightly or weekly rentals. The former residence housing near the group camps has been converted to rental cabins. The cabins rent for $165 per night Sunday through Thursday and $185 Friday and Saturday. One cabin rents for $185 to 205 per night. The cabins can sleep four to seven people and have two bedrooms, a private bathroom, living room, full kitchen, dining area and mud room. Information is available on the Department of Parks and Rec Calaveras Big Trees webpage. Reservations are made through Reserve America, but walk-up rentals are available.

The new restroom building near the Visitor Center is complete and open. It has a heater and will be open year round. The new 50,000 gallon water tank project near the cabins has been completed. Calaveras County Water District will be replacing the water tank located near the 5000 foot elevation marker this summer, but it should not affect any Park operations.

Thank you for your support for the Park.

Thirteenth Annual Welcome Brunch

by Bunny Firebaugh

It is time for our Thirteenth Annual Welcome New Members and Welcome Back Docent Brunch in the Jack Knight Memorial Hall on April 18, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. CBTA will provide a delicious brunch for all the new members and 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.

Please RSVP by April 10th to Bunny Firebaugh by email, lovetheforest@goldrush.com or by phone 209-795-4305.

We hope to see you all there.
Summer Interns Arriving Soon

by Mary Ann Carlton

The early bird catches the worm! By the beginning of January we were busy working with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) to set up interviews with prospective applicants for our two summer intern positions. After three days of interviews, we believe we picked the cream of the crop.

SCA connects thousands of youth to the great outdoors, provides them with conservation experience and instills in them an enduring ethic of stewardship. We are fortunate to have this partnership. Our interns provide us with invaluable support for our summer programs and we, hopefully, provide them with experience and skills for their future.

Carolyn Scarpelli attends Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, and is working toward a degree in biology. She has experience working with children so will be an asset when helping us with Cubs and Junior Ranger programs. She spent a semester in California attending California State University at Monterey Bay. Her goals of the summer are to meet new friends and colleagues and have stories to tell.

Kathryn (Katie) Shauberger is also working toward a degree in biology from the University of Oklahoma. She was on her way to Yosemite Valley when she learned that SCA had sent her application to us. She is an avid hiker, backpacker and photographer. She, too, has experience working with children.

Both of these young women are honors students and come very highly recommended. Both have expressed their excitement about their selection to these positions and can’t wait to get here. We look forward to their arrival in May.

Fun Headed Your Way!

Irish Day and Family Day

by Betty Watson

Welcome to the beginning of a new year of activities at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. On Saturday, March 21st, is Murphys Irish Day celebration. California State Parks will be well represented by four parks in our area, those being Calaveras Big Trees, Columbia, Railtown 1897 and Indian Grinding Rock. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. All docents wishing to participate should assemble on Algiers Street in the Black Bart Theater parking area at 10:00 a.m. Wear your CBT khaki vest. We would like to have a good representation, so please come and have fun marching in the parade with all the little leprechauns. Be sure to stop by the CBT information booth on Main Street across from the Alchemy Café. Hope to see you there!

Another exciting event in our beautiful Park will be our 27th annual Family Day 2015 on Saturday, August 15th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the North Grove. It is a day for the whole family, sponsored by CBTA as a “thank you” to our community and visitors for supporting Calaveras Big Trees State Park throughout the year! We will be featuring many presenters and activities. A full schedule of events will take place at the Campfire Center. Come and enjoy a carriage ride through the Park or be entertained by the Motherlode Brass and Reed Band performing at The Big Stump. Food sales will include a barbecue provided by Arnold Lions, baked goods, and the very popular ice cream and popcorn served up by Summer Sweetness at the Warming Hut! Many docents are always needed to make this wonderful event a success! In June, sign-ups will be on Signup Genius, and we would appreciate your participation. Co-chairs for this event are Betty Watson, Dexter Hardcastle and Nancy Gardner.
What’s Happening in the Park? Calendar for 2015

by Sue Hoffmann

April 25
Seminar presented by David Lukas - “Bird Bones and Feathers”
10:00 a.m.

May 2
Morning Seminar and Afternoon Workshop by John Muir Laws - “Thinking Like a Naturalist”
10:00 a.m. Seminar - free
Afternoon - Workshop $25—Please call to reserve your space.

May 23 - September 7 (weekends and holidays)
Summer Sweetness - Ice Cream and Popcorn at the Warming Hut

June 5, 6 and 7
Natural History Discovery Program with Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham

June 6
Summer Concert in the Park by Cantamos
2:00 p.m.
Tickets $30

June 20
CBTA Annual Meeting and Picnic
11:00 a.m.

August 15
Family Day
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 19
Seminar Presented by Tom Hofstra - “Disturbance and Succession in Sierra Nevada Ecosystems”

October 3
Fundraising Dinner Show
“KCBT - August 1945 - A Radio Show”

October 17
Seminar Presented by Paul Ustach—“Myths, Monsters, & Heroes: Amphibians & Reptiles of the Calaveras Region”

December 29
Sixth Annual Winter Wonderland Carnival

Visit www.bigtrees.org for more information

Photo by Tami Rakstad-Schaner

Natural History Discovery Program
June 5, 6, and 7, 2015

CBTA is excited to offer this outstanding program again this summer.

Here is your chance to immerse yourself in the natural history of the Sierra Nevada in Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Hikes of two miles, demonstrations, talks, and audio-visual programs will include the topics of astronomy; animal adaptations; Sierra geology and weather; dendrochronology; the mixed conifer forest, wildflowers, and birds; Giant sequoias and fire ecology; people through time; and the history of the National Park Service and one ranger’s story. Join Fulbright Scholar and retired National Park Ranger Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham for this unique opportunity to learn so much about this very special place.

Cost: $135 for CBTA members - $150 for non-members.

Please call Sue at the CBTA office to reserve your space at 209-795-1196 or for more information.
A Tribute to Steve Stocking

by Paul Prescott

Steve Stocking passed away in November, taken too early by cancer. I first met him at Sequoia National Park in the summer of ’65 or ’66. My father knew him from Franklin High School, and Ranger Stocking was my nature merit badge counselor. I thought this guy knew everything about anything alive. According to all the tributes I’ve read in the last few months, he did.

I next met Mr. Stocking in the early ’70s when he was my biology instructor at Delta College. He was a great teacher, engaging students in fun ways. Even memorizing the (23?) steps of the Krebs cycle was fun. (Ok. I don’t remember the steps now, but I remember it was fun.)

I didn’t meet him again until two years ago, when I joined the CBTA Board. He, Sanders Lamont and I lived down the hill from the Park, and we often commuted together to Board meetings. I became a student all over again, listening to Steve explain everything about anything on our journeys up and down the hill. I shall miss his teaching.

As a Board member, Steve called himself a “curmudgeon.” He wanted to see that the right thing was done, and would be a stickler for details, especially in policy and in execution of Board motions. I hope that in time, I can be half the curmudgeon he was. Steve planned the CBTA seminars and classes, and if you attend one of them this year, you can be sure that they were planned by him before he passed away. If you want to see how organized Steve was, pick up a copy of Wildflowers of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which is available in the Visitor Center.

There are many who can tell you a lot more about Steve. Look up Alex Breitler’s fine article in the Stockton Record last year. One of Steve’s legacies can be seen in the Oak Grove Regional Park north of Stockton. According to the article, Steve was one of the original persons who fought for that park. I had not known this fact, but it does not surprise me. Steve was a strong defender of natural habitats. He shared his love for the sequoias with hundreds, if not thousands of people.

Each year now, one lucky college student will be awarded the Steve Stocking Memorial scholarship. Our Board meetings will be longer without him; he was always ready to decide to do what is right, and move on. It was said, only half in jest, that we’d never be able to adjourn a meeting without Steve.

We miss you, Steve. Meeting adjourned.
Scholarship Opportunities

by Sue Hoffman

CBTA is proud to be able to offer four $1000 academic scholarships this year to students who have chosen to pursue an education and/or a career in environmentally related fields. The purpose of the scholarships is to provide a monetary award to four promising California upper division or graduate students who have shown an educational and career commitment to the study of the environment, and who show a commitment to communicate and interpret a love of nature along with an understanding of need to practice conservation.

Students pursuing degrees in environmental protection, forestry, wildlife and fisheries biology, parks and recreation, park management, environmental law and public policy, environmental art and California history are encouraged to apply. Dedication to the ideals of the scholarship will be considered at least as important as financial need in making the award.

The opportunity for CBTA to offer scholarships started with the Emily M. Hewitt Memorial Scholarship. The Hewitt family funds this scholarship to honor Emily M. Hewitt and to encourage a student who shares her love of nature.

In addition to the Hewitt scholarship, CBTA is now able to also offer the Stephen K. Stocking Memorial Scholarship, as well as two CBTA scholarships.

Please visit our website www.bigtrees.org and then click on Events and Programs for application information. Applications must be postmarked by April 15. Please call the office at 209-795-1196 for more information.

Welcome to New Members!

October 29, 2014 – February 25, 2015

Jan Alcalde          Murphys          CA
Simone Bennett      Beaver Falls   PA
John Bernstein      San Jose        CA
Tricia Borges       Turlock        CA
Michelle Bowling    Modesto        CA
Dylan Cardiff       Oakland        CA
Robert & Ellen Case Concord CA
Nicholas and Pam Curtin Stockton CA
Threse Deane        Camp Connell CA
Delta Tule Trekkers Manteca CA
Frank Dority        Tustin        CA
Deanna DuBois       San Carlos     CA
Tim Folendorf       Angels Camp    CA
Bruce Giudici       Valley Springs CA
Carole Gordonn      Murphys        CA
Kristina Johnson    San Francisco  CA
Gail Jones          Palo Alto      CA
Lisa Killen         Sierra Madre  CA
Dennis Langone      Lodi          CA
Bob and Kathie Maxwell Sioux Falls    SD
G Michael McCartney Sausalito      CA
Ron and Barbara McDow Sonora       CA
Larry and Georgia Mills Stockton    CA
Frankie Tate & Tim Peck Livermore    CA
Don Post            Palo Alto      CA
Brian Raley         Camp Connell CA
Marina Rush         San Jose       CA
Nancy Schroeder     Benicia       CA
Aileen Snodgrass    San Mateo     CA
Reed Stoffel        San Tan Valley AZ
Thomas Sullivan     San Francisco CA
Pat Thompson        Moraga        CA
Amber Wade          S. Lake Tahoe CA
Donalynn Warren     Egg Harbor Township NJ
Wendy Weir          Sacramento    CA
Brittany Welch      Modesto       CA
Randy Widera        Santa Cruz   CA
Sheryl and Mike Wurtz Stockton  CA
Piotr Zalicki       Sunnyvale     CA
Dave and Nancy Zentner Milpitas  CA
The CBTA Board of Directors recently voted to amend the bylaws of CBTA to create an Advisory Council to connect CBTA with the larger community, including the Central Valley and the Bay Area.

The CBTA Board will look to the Council for advice on specific topics as needed or requested, which may include, but are not limited to, educational programs, fundraising, financial and legal advice, planned giving and creation of win-win scenarios for the Park and the local community.

The Advisory Council will have at least five but no more than ten members. Advisors are invited and appointed by the CBTA Board of Directors for a three-year term with possible reappointment for an additional term.

It is expected that the Advisory Council will meet with the CBTA board three times a year. The Council chairperson and CBTA Board president, working together, will develop an agenda for each advisory meeting.

Of course, Advisors also are welcome to attend any CBTA meetings. The Board will provide Advisors with the monthly agenda in advance of meetings and the Board minutes afterwards, so they can see if a topic of interest will be discussed.

The Board is proud to announce the appointment of four distinguished individuals to the new Advisory Council:

**Merita Callaway** is a former Calaveras County District 3 Supervisor. She is an expert on all aspects of state and local government, former owner of a successful small business, community college business Instructor, member of numerous local non-profit associations and has been affiliated with Calaveras Big Trees for many years.

**Bob Doten** is a sales and marketing professional, former president of the Greater Arnold Business Association, director for the Calaveras County Economic Development Company, and founder of Promos in Five, Inc., specializing in rapid advertising and marketing solutions for retailers.

**Gail Kautz** is a member of the Board of the California State Parks Foundation and a past member of the California State Parks Commission. John and Gail Kautz are the owners of Ironstone Winery in Murphys, California, and have been pillars of the community for years, active in developing agriculture and local commerce. Gail is active in 4-H, Future Farmers of America and in directing the Ironstone Concours Foundation which raises money for agricultural youth education.

**Henry J. (Peter) Ralston, M.D.,** Professor Emeritus, Anatomy and Neuroscience, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, established the CBTA Daly/Ralston Student Intern fund in 1990 and in 2010 donated the classroom to the New Visitor Center in memory of Diane Ralston.

The CBTA Board looks forward to the new insights and advice this Advisory Council will bring to our organization.

The ongoing thinning project in the North Grove is designed to reduce fuel load and prevent catastrophic fires in the giant sequoias. For visitors and photographers there is an additional advantage. Cleaning out the underbrush beneath these beautiful giants has made them much more visible as one strolls through the Grove. Further, the resources team has discovered previously unknown young sequoias that were obscured by the other trees!
Meeting a Northern Pigmy Owl

by Alan Beymer

In the early morning light, the top of the tree did not look quite right. Not that I have memorized the top of every tree in the clearing, but this snag caught my attention on previous visits with a couple of robust cavities. Potential bird nests, I reasoned.

As the January North Grove dawn changed to morning, the top of the tree remained a fuzzy grey, while the rest of the snag emerged as before: dead peeling bark and raw wood. So I kept looking, and a small owl eventually came into focus through my viewfinder as the morning brightened. About six inches in height, the owl’s head did a nearly 360-degree sweep of the clearing.

After some initial camera exposures failed to frighten this bird, I ventured a bit closer. I worry that my photographic instincts will disrupt the birds and animals I seek to photograph. After three years of hanging out with the many birds that frequent our front yard feeder, I have decided the birds will tolerate my presence if I don’t move too quickly or noisily, and don’t get greedy by getting too close. Different birds seem to have different personal space requirements.

In his book *What the Robin Knows*, Jon Young calls this the Routine of Invisibility. Do what you need to do for general access, but don’t go crashing through the woods. When you arrive, give yourself time to be still. Young says camouflage is not necessary; the birds know you are there. Try to be a low key version of your normal self as you go about your bird watching.

I moved closer. The pygmy-owl did not move except to continue scanning for prey. By now I had been with the owl for an hour. I was waiting for some action, of course. Soon I was partially rewarded by mountain chickadees inspecting an oak tree directly behind me.

The owl then made its move...sort of. Atop its perch, it slowly turned from facing a westerly direction to facing east, lined up with the chickadees. As it lifted its feet and turned by slow degrees toward the chickadees, its rotation reminded me of the lessons Park docents receive in snow shoe training about turning around. Soon it was facing the chickadees with its body squared up toward a potential meal. The chickadees left immediately. The drama over, silence returned to the clearing.

After three hours I ran out of time and left the pygmy-owl in charge of the clearing. It was the highlight of my week.

“Hoo” Is the Pigmy-Owl?

by Claudia Beymer

This small owl, merely seven inches tall, is seen occasionally in the Park, usually perched atop snags and alert for prey. The northern pigmy-owl is a ferocious hunter, often bringing down prey much larger than itself. It usually hunts at dawn and dusk, but can be seen hunting during much of the day while raising young.

Pigmy-owls nest in cavities left by large woodpeckers in tall snags. Once the four to six eggs hatch, the male spends most of his day capturing food while the female works constantly shredding food for the hungry owlets.

One identifying feature of this owl is the pair of “eye” markings on the back of its head. Check CBTA’s Facebook page for photos showing the “eyes in the back of the head” of this fascinating owl.
Seminars and Workshops for 2015

by Vida Kenk

CBTA will present four seminars this year, two in spring and two in fall. All seminars are free to the public and are held in Jack Knight Hall on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. In addition, there are two workshops this year. Both workshop leaders are back in response to popular demand. Workshop participation requires prior registration and fee payment. More details at www.bigtrees.org or contact CBTA at 209-795-1196 or cbta@bigtrees.org.

April 25 - David Lukas: “Bird Bones and Feathers”

Have you ever found a bird feather or bone and wondered what you could learn from it? This talk will cover bird bones, feathers, and muscles and how they work together to help a bird fly and live in its environment. Expect to learn a bit about both the inner and outer workings of birds.

David Lukas is a professional naturalist and the author of numerous books including Sierra Nevada Birds and Sierra Nevada Natural History. More information about his books and classes can be found at www.lukasguides.com.

May 2 - John Muir Laws, naturalist, illustrator and author of the popular Laws’ Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada, is presenting both a morning seminar and an afternoon workshop.

Morning Seminar: “Thinking like a Naturalist: Reclaiming the Art of Natural History”

Learn how to get more out of every nature ramble. Developments in neuropsychology have opened doors in our understanding of the brain and cognition and how you can train yourself to see more and to be more curious about what you discover.

Afternoon workshop: “Nature Journaling and Naturalist Skills”

Keeping a nature journal is the most valuable thing you can do to improve your skills as a naturalist. Learn tips and techniques to help keep your own journal of nature discoveries. Also learn how to develop observational skills and use simple tools to help you see more, investigate nature mysteries and remember what you see. This is a perfect experience for teachers, home school parents and anyone interested in taking their birding and nature study to the next level. Fee: $25.

June 5, 6, and 7, Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham: “Natural History Discovery Program”

Here is your chance to immerse yourself in the Natural History of the Sierra Nevada in Calaveras Big Trees State Park for several days. Hikes of two miles, demonstrations, talks and audio-visual programs will include the topics of astronomy; animal adaptations; Sierra geology and weather; dendrochronology; the mixed conifer forest, wildflowers and birds; giant sequoias and fire ecology; people through time; and the history of the National Park Service and one ranger’s story.

Join Fulbright Scholar and retired National Park Ranger Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham for this unique opportunity to learn so much about this very special place. Fee: $135 for CBTA members; $150 for non-members.

September 19 - Dr. Tom Hofstra: “Disturbance and Succession in Sierra Nevada Ecosystems”

How have our local plant and animal communities changed through time? Dr. Hofstra is Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at Columbia College.

October 3 - Dr. Paul Ustach: “Myths, Monsters, and Heroes: Amphibians and Reptiles of the Calaveras Region”

Dr. Ustach, Professor of Biology at San Joaquin Delta College, has previously presented seminars at this park on various local mammals.

Exciting October Event Coming to You LIVE!

by Joan Allday

Mark your calendars for October 3rd and 4th! Broadcasting LIVE from Calaveras Big Trees: it’s KCBT – August 1945, and you are invited to be a member of the Sequoia Wartime Radio Network’s studio audience. Laugh at the jokes, swing with the songs, and chill to the suspense while watching how radio variety and mystery shows are broadcast. With a talented cast, great music and a full set of sound effects, you can be a part of this exciting evening. On Saturday guests will be treated to a delicious tri-tip barbeque along with popular side dishes from the 40’s. Saturday ticket price: $50 per adult. On Sunday, we will offer a matinee and refreshments at a reduced price. Keep your radio tuned!
Winter Wonderland Carnival a Big Success!

by Bunny Firebaugh

We had record attendance on December 28th for our annual event, even if it was a cold overcast day. The roads were dry so the horses pulling the wagon had good footing. Interpreters on the wagons gave the passengers information about the Park, and on the way there was the wonderful surprise in the meadow of Bill Minkel playing the alpine horn.

In Jack Knight Hall we had games such as the snowman toss and elf toss—with prizes! The cupcake walk was a big hit. There were crafts like the bird feeders made from cardboard tubes spread with peanut butter and rolled in bird seed and shredded-paper snow man. The ever-popular face-painting booth went over in a big way.

Juggler Erin Stephens entertained our guests for the first time, and she was excellent. After her performance she showed the attendees some of the basic moves.

Cookies and hot drinks were well received, especially since it was so cold outside. Servers had a hard time keeping up with requests for hot chocolate. We had our popcorn machine up and going, too.

Anita Fife Creates Raffle Quilt for Big Trees

by Marcy Crawford

Anita Fife and her husband, Dick, were long-time docents at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. When they moved out of the area they were too far away to remain active docents. Anita loved making this quilt because it is a way to maintain her connection with Big Trees.

Anita’s inspiration came from her son’s backpacking trip In Washington State. He and his wife were resting on their backs beside a tranquil lake when they heard a huffing noise about the same time they saw the bear. They quickly gathered their belongings and started down the trail with the bear lumbering along behind them. He followed them along the path for a few anxious miles until he apparently got bored or distracted and wandered away.

The story resonated with all her time spent at Big Trees and the many bear sightings reported by visitors. However, creating a quilt has several steps after the inspiration: selecting the colors, cutting and piecing, attaching the batting and backing together and finishing the edges with a binding. In a time when most quilting is done by machine, Anita remains true to the original art and quilts every stitch by hand.

Raffle tickets are on sale now at the Visitor Center and will continue to be sold until Family Day when one lucky ticket holder will win this handmade work of art.
CBTA Board of Directors:
Vida Kenk  President
Paul Prescott  Vice President
George Leong  Vice President
Bunny Firebaugh  Secretary
Bruce Tallakson  Treasurer
Marcy Crawford  Bulletin
Joan Allday  Events
Rod Smith  Director
Betty Watson  Director

Big Tree Bulletin:
Claudia Beymer  Editor
Sue Hoffmann  Circulation/Mailing

CBTA Staff:
Jill Ogburn  Retail Manager
Sue Hoffmann  Administrative Officer
Debbie McGee  Bookkeeper

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 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 ............... 
Web Site....... www.bigtrees.org
Facebook.....Calaveras Big Trees Association
Twitter.......CBTAssociation