Our mission.........To deliver high quality educational and interpretive programs at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

From CBTA’s President

By Paul Prescott

At the end of June, I step down as President of Calaveras Big Trees Association. It has been an honor to serve the Association. We have a hard-working and truly dedicated board. We have a fine staff. It has been an interesting couple of years, to say the least. So, this is my farewell message.

We say farewell to winter soon, though it’s not officially spring until there’s snow on the dogwoods, right? We said farewell to Wendy, Jeff and Gary. We have said farewell to the Pioneer Cabin Tree. Hopefully, we are saying farewell to the drought, at least for a year or two.

The CBTA Board says farewell to two members who term out this June. George Leong was the membership chairman, and is now our communications chairman. Not only does he inform the local media about our events, he keeps the board informed of events in other areas, as well as state and DPR information that is pertinent to our Board. I have appreciated his wise counsel. Past President Vida Kenk was in charge when the new Visitor Center opened. She was one of the first to begin the push for CBTA to break out of the “mom-and-pop store” mentality and to strive to be more than an organization that helped build the new Visitor Center. During the last two years Vida stepped into the shoes of our beloved Steve Stocking and ably set up seminars, workshops, and lectures as part of the education component of our mission. Vida also serves on the events committee. The current president will always remember with kindness her wisdom and advice. Thank you, George. Thank you, Vida.

CBTA is indeed experiencing growing pains. We almost desperately need more docents and volunteers for the Park, as well as for CBTA. The Board needs at least two more members. As is true with every volunteer organization I’ve known, too few people are doing too much of the work. Winter Wonderland was a success because several volunteers worked double shifts. Family Day is on hold this year, in part, for lack of help. Part of the problem, of course, is that many if not most of us, are retired or semi-retired. We need new blood. And those of us who are experienced need to be welcoming of new faces and new ideas. That will be the only way we will grow – the only way for the Park to continue.

If you love the Park, there is no better way to enjoy it more than to serve as a volunteer or as a docent. Any few hours you can spare will help. If you know of interested persons, please let them know of the opportunity to volunteer in one of the most special places on this planet. The Park needs your help. CBTA needs your help. We always need volunteers at events, as well as more people to serve in the Visitor Center. Pick an area of interest, and try it out. Docent and volunteer trainings begin soon. Please help, if you can. You will find it to be one of the most enjoyable and meaningful experiences of your life.
Dogwood Festival

By Joan Allday

On May 14 the Calaveras Big Trees Association will hold the first Dogwood Festival in the Park. We are delighted to welcome the Midsummer Mozart Chamber Players, the renowned string quintet from San Francisco. They will perform their beautiful music in Jack Knight Hall. Delicious appetizers and wine tasting from Locke Vineyards will be on hand for this special event. We will sell raffle tickets for a beautiful springtime quilt and hold a silent auction for items from Quyle Kilns. All proceeds will be donated to our many interpretive programs in the Park. Please mark your calendars and watch for upcoming news about our Dogwood Festival. Remember, May 14 is Mothers Day!

CBTA Offers Scholarship Opportunities

By Sue Hoffmann

CBTA is proud to be able to offer five $1500 academic scholarships this year to students who have chosen to pursue an education and/or career in environmentally related fields. The purpose of the scholarships is to provide a monetary award to five promising California upper division or graduate students who have shown an educational and career commitment to the study of the environment, who show a commitment to communicate and interpret a love of nature and an understanding of the 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 honor a student who shares her love of nature.

In addition to the Hewitt scholarship, CBTA is now able to offer the Stephen K. Stocking Memorial Scholarship, as well as three 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.
Park Update

By Greg Martin
Sector Superintendent

Oh, California! In the span of a few months, California experienced one of its driest years, one of the largest wildland fires in the history of the Western United States and threats to its water infrastructure due to heavy precipitation. From one extreme to the other, California ebbs and flows. On a much smaller scale is Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The Park received more snow this year than the past few years, and all the rain this winter will definitely mean a great spring and early summer for flowers, the meadow, the Stanislaus and the creeks in the Park.

2016 was a great year for Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The cabins were a huge success, receiving the Calaveras Visitors’ Bureau Innovation in Tourism Award. Brian Robertson joined the Park’s team as the maintenance supervisor. The year ended with another very successful Winter Wonderland event. The Park also made strides forward in forest restoration as 61 acres of work were completed with just under 200,000 cubic feet (similar to 52.5 semi-truck trailer loads) of forest slash burned. This work helps protect the North Grove and surrounding forest and community by reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire and increasing tree health.

Although we lost the iconic Pioneer Cabin Tree just a few days into 2017 due to the stormy winter, it in no way sets the tone for the rest of the year which is shaping up to be another great one for Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Park staff will be moving to the Park Administrative office (or old visitor center location). The new loader/tractor arrived just in time to help with snow removal. Forest restoration work along with removal of dead and hazardous trees is scheduled to continue. More great news includes the addition of Steven Walloupe, the supervising ranger for Calaveras Big Trees State Park, who began work in March.

As the wet winter promises to bring a beautiful spring and summer to the Park, we can expect to see more visitors and more wildlife. In 2016, 83 wildlife sighting cards were submitted, documenting 72 bear sightings. Although there were multiple instances of bears getting visitor’s food and/or trash, there were no physical conflicts and no bears were harmed. While it is a wonderful picture to see wildlife in their natural settings, we all have a responsibility to ensure these creatures do not become accustomed to humans and human food. Please make sure you do your part by keeping all food products in the food boxes provided in your campsite and report any bear sightings to Park staff. Keep your dogs and pets in the developed areas, such as roads and campsites, to help keep them safe from bears and other wildlife. Remember, dogs are not permitted on trails.

Enjoy spring in the Park!

Calaveras Big Trees Association Invites you to
the
15th Annual
Welcome Back Brunch!

Welcoming new and returning docents and new CBTA members

Please come and meet our new supervising ranger Steven Walloupe,
CBTA Board members, state staff and old friends.
Hear about upcoming events at the Park including programs, training and seminars.

Brunch will be provided by CBTA.
Saturday, April 22, 2017
11:00 a.m. at Jack Knight Hall
Please RSVP to Betty Watson at bawatson.1@gmail.com or 209-795-6679 before April 12.
Welcome to Our New Supervising Ranger!

By Greg Martin
Sector Superintendent

Steven Walloupe, a supervising State Park ranger, officially joined the Central Valley District team when he started at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in March of 2017.

Steven recently transferred as a supervising ranger from the Lake Tahoe Sector of the Sierra District. He has served in that role since 2010. He began his career with State Parks in 1995 as a park aide at Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park, where he was promoted to a guide trainee. From Indian Grinding Rock, he transferred as a guide to the State Capitol Museum, spending five years there. After the ranger academy, Steven returned to Indian Grinding Rock as a State Park ranger. During his ranger time, Steven has worked at several park units in the Central Valley District, including Calaveras Big Trees State Park and Caswell Memorial State Park.

In addition to his parks career, Steven is very proud to be from the local area, Ione, and to be very active in his Miwok culture, including traditional dancing and ceremonies. He is also a recreational enthusiast of all things two-wheeled such as mountain biking and motorcycles. Camping, traveling and restoring classic cars are other recreational activities Steven enjoys.

One interesting fact about Steven is that he appears in the welcome film seen at the Visitor Center at Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

We are excited to have Steven join our team, bringing with him several transferable experiences. Please be sure to stop by and meet Steven if you haven’t already had the chance.

Communicating with You

By George Leong

Have you noticed that CBTA now has a new logo? Why a new logo? Well, about a year ago, we decided to update and redesign the CBTA website (www.bigtrees.org). It’s been a number of years since the website was created, and it was beginning to show its age. In the process of updating the website, we noticed that the CBTA logo was not in keeping with the updated look of the website. So, we decided to update the logo as well. We had the help of a design firm that utilized independent designers in a competition-like environment. Our need was sent to these designers, and they sent in logos that they thought represented our organization and the Park.

The selections were narrowed down to about five different designs. Interestingly enough, all the finalist designs utilized the Pioneer Cabin Tree as part of their design. This was all done prior to the fall of the Pioneer Cabin Tree, and we had no way of knowing that the logo we chose would forever memorialize this iconic tree. Also note that the design incorporates another element of our Park - the dogwoods. While not as iconic as the Pioneer Cabin Tree, dogwoods can be associated with Big Trees.

Check out the CBTA newly designed website at www.bigtrees.org.

Also, we are in the process of creating a mobile application (for both Android and iOS). The app will have the trail guide in both English and Spanish, as well as information about the area surrounding the Park. The app is a work-in-progress, so if you have any ideas on what we can add to the app, let us know.

And…don’t forget to check us out on facebook at www.facebook.com/calaverasbigtrees, too.
What's New at the Visitor Center?

By Jill Ogburn

Oh, boy, has it been a busy winter here in the Visitor Center! We have had a lot of people wanting to see the Pioneer Cabin Tree in its resting place. We have had record amounts of snowfall and record sales in the Visitor Center, too. So, I guess 2017 has started with a bang.

We have had a number of “snow days” where we left early and four days with no power. No fun. So there’s never a dull moment here.

In addition to my assistant Karen and me, we have added Kat Ramberg as a part-time retail assistant. If you have been into the Visitor Center, you would recognize her, as she was a park aide recently.

We have brought in quite a few exciting new items. We have new socks that have matching earrings. We also have some copper and brass jewelry from Vlatka Varga, a local jewelry maker, that have been very popular. In addition, we will be getting a new t-shirt and a bandana in honor of the Pioneer Cabin Tree. Tell all your friends, as these will be special collector items!

We are looking forward to March and April and all the spring break kiddos coming into the Visitor Center. We hope to see you all real soon!

California Naturalist Update

By Dexter Hardcaste

In the last CBTA Bulletin, I explained that the California Naturalist Program is designed to introduce Californians to the wonders of our unique ecology and to engage volunteers in stewardship and study of California’s natural communities. California is a beautiful state with breathtaking diversity of nature. The program uses a science curriculum, hands-on learning, problem-solving and community service to instill a deep appreciation for the ecosystems within the state. Class content includes basic ecology, watershed concepts, land use, geology, wildlife and plant life, as well as interpretive tools to share your knowledge with others. The course will be offered during the month of June in Calaveras Big Trees.

As the time for the program is rapidly approaching, you may be asking yourself, “Should I take this course?” I want to address two important questions you may want to think about to arrive at an answer. The first question is, “Do I enjoy learning about all aspects of nature?” As mentioned previously, we will be learning about the various ecosystem elements and their interconnectedness. Do you have a healthy inquisitiveness and desire to know about these various elements? If the answer is “yes”, then this class may be for you!

The second question to ask yourself is, “Do I have the time and the motivation to take this course?” It is the equivalent of a four-unit University of California class and actually can be taken for four units if you desire. We have a textbook which we will read, and we will have discussion questions to be completed. In addition, each member will complete a capstone project which will take about eight hours. And finally, only one class session can be missed. As you can see, taking the course is relatively demanding.

To lessen the pressure, Wendy Harrison and I have developed a set of questions for each chapter that we will send to all class members weeks before the first class session. We encourage attendees to purchase the text and to read and answer the questions before the first session. This will significantly reduce the demand of having to do this during the course. In addition, we have met with the Park’s environmental scientists and have identified a number of projects within the Park that can be completed in eight hours with the expectation that members can complete their capstone projects during the four weeks. With these measures we expect the stress to be reduced. Class participants will have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. If you have any questions please leave a message with Sue Hoffmann in the CBTA office (209-795-1196), and Wendy or Dexter will get back to you.
A Little Giant Sequoia History

By Nancy E. Muleady-Mecham

Giant sequoias must stay upright to survive, and they have mechanisms to chemically and physically maintain their balance. Should one lean too much, down it comes. But the trees are known to live past 2000 years. They are not the oldest, tallest or widest of trees, but they are the largest in volume. The largest, the General Sherman Tree in Sequoia National Park has over 52,500 cubic feet of wood in its trunk alone!

These trees have been known by indigenous people for hundreds of years. There is evidence that Californios saw them in the early 1800s, and members of the Walker Expedition saw these trees in 1833. Calaveras Big Trees are noteworthy in that they were discovered by a Gold Rush-era person 1852, and the word got out worldwide. Within a year the Discovery Tree had been felled. This was private land, and the owners wanted to make money through tourism. When they heard that a giant in Yosemite State Park (not a National park until 1890) had a tunnel carved in it in 1881, the folks at the North Grove did the same a few years later in a tree here.

We don’t have the exact date but it was after 1881. In addition, early archived photos all call it the Pioneer’s Cabin tree, which is why we called it that in the update of The Enduring Giants.

Finally, rot is rarely a reason for falling; the presence of phenols and tannins continue to protect the tree. Cutting the center out to make a tunnel helped to undermine its structural integrity. The tree was leaning due to soil erosion, and then water inundation plus high wind gusts from the storm brought the tree down.

The Enduring Giants, sold in our own Visitor Center has much more on the natural history, ecology and history of these trees.

You Never Know How Your Life Will Touch Others

By Rod Smith

At the beginning of January this year CBTA received a check for over $61,000, a gift from the Burton Family Trust. Richard S. Burton passed away near Newport, Oregon, on June 18, 2015, at age 90. His wife, Carol Jean Burton, predeceased him.

I spoke with Kathleen Schonau, the executor of Richard’s estate, and asked her if she could recommend the best way to show CBTA’s appreciation for the gift. Kathleen said that “Dick” had not expressed any particular designation. The Burtons had no immediate family to reach out to. However, as a friend of the Burtons in their last years, Kathleen, personally, was moved by our reaching out to acknowledge the gift.

Kathleen operates Aging Wisely, a geriatric in-home care agency, in Newport, Oregon. She looked after Carol Burton for several years. She later assisted Richard after Carol passed away. Kathleen had come to appreciate the Burtons as humble, caring people and spoke about them with affection.

We do know that Richard and Carol became life members of CBTA in 1982. The rest of the Burtons’ story is based on monthly nursing visits that Kathleen had with Richard. The Burtons spent their adult working life in Oakland, California. Richard graduated from University of Southern California after serving in the military during World War II. He was an engineer for Pacific Gas and Electric for his entire career. Carol was an educator in the public-school system in Oakland. She graduated from U.C. Berkley with a master’s degree. After retirement, they moved to Oregon.

For PG&E Richard worked in the field and travelled throughout California, surveying desolate lands. He was also a hunter and an outdoorsman. Both Richard and Carol loved to hike and to volunteer at the Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center on the Oregon coast. It is clear from the disbursement of their trust that they both cared about nature and studied nature. The California redwoods was one focus of their caring.

The CBTA board will consider ways in which we can honor the Burton’s gift to CBTA and their commitment to the understanding of nature.
An Icon Falls in the Forest

By Dexter Hardcastle

By this point in time I would imagine that most of you know that the Pioneer Cabin Tree has fallen. It fell at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 8, 2017. Two of our retail staff in the Visitor Center heard a muffled thump but didn’t think too much about it until they were notified shortly thereafter that, indeed, the Pioneer Cabin Tree had fallen.

Many memories have been made over the past 135 or more years since the opening was cut in the early 1880s. As docents and staff we heard visitors exclaim how they remembered when their parents or grandparents took them through the tree and now they are able to bring their children or grandchildren to see the “tree you can walk through.” Arguably, the second most asked question in the Visitor Center after, “Where’s the bathroom?”, has been, “Where’s the tree we can walk through?” Folks from all of the world were enthralled with the Pioneer Cabin Tree.

What prompted the cutting of the tree was to keep up with Yosemite. The Wawona Tree in the Mariposa Grove of Yosemite had an opening cut in 1880 to draw tourists to the park. Therefore, the owners of the Calaveras Grove decided to find a tree here and to cut an opening. That is when they picked the tree known as the Pioneer’s Cabin Tree.

Very little cutting had to be done. Photos of the tree taken prior to the 1880s show that the tree had been badly damaged by fire. The back side of the tree had a burn scar that extended to the top and it had a small opening in it. In the front side, there was a large chamber which undoubtedly had been formed by repeated forest fires which occurred on a regular basis. This chamber went completely through the middle of the tree and had a “window” out the back.

The name of the tree was undoubtedly given by early pioneers because of its large “room”. We can only speculate that perhaps people actually stayed in the tree. Its top was almost completely gone. In his magazine, California Magazine, J. M. Hutchings wrote in the March 1859 edition, “Near to the Old Bachelor is the Pioneer’s Cabin Tree, the top of which is broken off about 150 feet from the ground.”

Did the cut bring the tree down? It may have been a contributing factor, but in the final analysis the tree was destined to fall due to severity of its fire damage. Perhaps the cut in the back, which disconnected the roots (albeit dead roots) from the remainder of the tree, resulted in the quickening of the lean to the front. As the soil on the front side became more liquefied and the lean increased, the demise of the tree was all but certain.

The memories of the Pioneer’s Cabin Tree will be etched in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of our visitors to Calaveras Big Trees State Park. However, in nature there is a constant, and that constant is change. The Tree has now progressed to another phase of giving back to the environment from which it came.
Spring Seminars and Workshops—Learn and Enjoy!

By Vida Kenk

This year there is a change in location for the seminars. They will be held in the Ralston Classroom in the Educational Building, located next to the Visitor Center. The time will be the same - Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The seminars are free and open to the public, after paying the Park day-use fee at the entrance kiosk.

March 25 - Frank Tortorich, author of *John A. “Snowshoe” Thompson: Pioneer Mail Carrier of the Sierra*, will discuss this Norwegian immigrant farmer, rancher, guide, trader, Indian agent, politician and ever-dependable mail carrier. The book is already available in the Visitor Center bookstore, and it is fun to read!

May 6 - Chris Scherr presented the film *Searching for Gold Spot: the Wild After Wildfire* at a docent meeting last fall. Many docents commented that they would like to have her return so that spouses and friends could see the film and discuss it with her. This is your chance to view this outstanding video and learn about the wildlife that depends on charred forests. This topic is particularly appropriate to us after the Butte fire.

May 13 - Dr. Christopher Fettig, research entomologist and team leader for the Forest Service, will speak on “Drought and Bark Beetle-caused Tree Mortality in the Sierra: Causes, Consequences and the Future”. As a result of extensive levels of tree mortality in the central and southern Sierra Nevada due to bark beetle outbreaks, Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency on October 30, 2015, establishing a task force to help address the issue. Sixty-two million trees died in 2016, bringing the total to at least 102 million trees in the last ten years. Dr. Fettig will discuss the causes and consequences of the current outbreak, the role of drought in inciting bark beetle outbreaks and what might be expected in 2017 given near record precipitation this winter.

May 27 - Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham will speak on “Native Plants of the Sierra Nevada”.

From mosses to trees, native plants of the Sierra Nevada will bring you in touch with the unique flora in and around Calaveras Big Trees State Park. This program will not only introduce you to individuals in the plant world, but inform you about vegetation zones and what makes a plant a flower, bush or a tree. You will learn unique tidbits that will make you shake your head in wonder as to how very dynamic plants are.

June 3 - Dr. Nancy Muleady-Mecham will offer “Nature Blitz”, a day-long program. If you can’t stay for the whole day, come when you can. It’s FREE, sponsored by CBTA. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. plus evening viewing of the night sky. Bring lunch and binoculars. Whether a new or experienced naturalist, Nature Blitz will put you in touch with the natural world of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. From birds to trees to flowers, geology, weather, the night sky, animals and their adaptations and, of course, the Big Trees. You will have an opportunity to establish a knowledge base you can build on. Anyone interested in giving docent presentations will also learn interpretive techniques, including talking to and managing groups of people, answering questions and how to deal with the occasional stage fright. Here is a preview of the planned schedule:

- 9:00 -10:00 Introduction to Birds (Bring binoculars, easy stroll)
- 10:20 -12:00 Giant Sequoias and the Mixed Conifer Forest (Hike the North Grove Trail)
- 12:00 -12:45 Lunch (Bring your own)
- 12:45 -1:30 Geology (Education Building)
- 1:30 - 1:45 Break
- 1:45 - 3:00 Animal Adaptations (Visitor Center Museum)
- 3:30 - 5:00 Native Plants of the Sierra Nevada (Education Building and walk to the meadow)
- 8:30 The Night Sky (Meet at the Overlook, carpooling suggested)
Your Membership Is Important

By Sally Williams

Being a CBTA member is important. Funds from your membership provide one of the sources of funding that allows the wonderful education and interpretive programs we have in our beautiful Park. Please help keep these programs as great as they are by keeping your membership current.

If you haven’t renewed your membership for 2017, you can go online to www.bigtrees.org where you can complete the form online or print out a membership form and mail it in.

Thank you so much for your continued support of CBTA which enables us to continue educating students and adults from around the world to all of the wonder and magnificence that makes up our incredible Big Trees Park.

Welcome to New Members

October 11, 2016 - March 14, 2017

Edy Brown, Mountain Ranch CA
Rick and Pattie Francis, Sonora CA
Christian Acosta, San Antonio TX
Jackie Summerfield, Saratoga CA
Kathleen Brewer, Fox River Grove IL
Ryan Johnson, Murphys CA
Bob Maxwell, Blooming Glen, PA
JoAnn Rundell, Ventura CA
Margot Shayne, Elk Grove CA
Eileen Roberson, Arnold CA
Amanda Rothstein, Stateline NV
Denis and Kelley O’Sullivan, Martinez CA
Dale and Gale Stocking, Arnold CA
Linda Baldwin, Danville CA
Maureen Forney, San Leandro CA
Eileen Drabinski, Arnold CA
Jan Vallotton, Arnold CA
Tim Ford, Sugar Pine CA
Kathryn Harper, San Jose CA
Adam Inferrera, San Francisco CA
Eric Saxon, Reseda CA

Bruce Kariya, Oakland CA
Nicole Bifuno, Dubin CA
Csaba Hegy, Modesto CA
Celeste Storrs, Pleasanton CA
Nate Randall, San Jose CA
Edward Schneider, Stockton CA
Suzie Castle, Arnold CA
Kim and Peter Kirschner and Family, Pleasanton CA
Chris and Amy Miller, Tracy CA
Beth and Jack Robertson, San Ramon CA
Linda Dittes, Oakland CA
Dan Kittel, Elk Grove CA
Laura Lee and Trent Northen, Walnut Creek CA
Heather Bolei, Campbell CA
Tara Jensen, Fremont CA
Milton Steck, Vacaville CA
Rick & Terry Giorgetti, San Jose CA
Everett Thompson, Menifee, CA
Jacob Clizbe, Stockton CA
Kathleen Campbell, Arnold CA
Elizabeth Phillips, Elk Grove CA
Fun in the Snow!

By Sanders Lamont

Winter brought change to Calaveras Big Trees State Park, but for families who love the outdoors there is always plenty to do. Many families with young children came to enjoy playing in the snow in the Park. And others — adults and children — took advantage of the free guided snowshoe walks offered every Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

Weather controls everything in the winter, and this year has been no exception. Some days have been perfect for visits, with sun shining on fresh snow, and others marked by rain and snow and overflowing creeks which limit access. It is always a good idea to check the weather forecast ahead of time. But every winter weekend visitors enjoyed the free hot chocolate and cider served by the roaring fire inside the Park’s Warming Hut, open weekends and holidays throughout the winter. Volunteers kept the fire going and the drinks warm. The supplies are provided by CBTA, paid for with donations from Park guests.

The return of snow to spurred an increase in the number of winter visitors to the Park in 2017. Outdoor activity within the Park never stops except during rare Park closures; it just changes a bit. Playing in the snow requires no special equipment, just warm dry clothing. Hundreds of families took advantage of having a safe place for their families. Sledding is generally for the younger children, since there are no easily-accessible steep hills nearby, but there is plenty of space to spread out and play.

The snowshoe experience was made possible on of sets of snowshoes (a gift of CBTA) in both adult and children’s sizes. Trained docents helped visitors learn how to walk on the snow, whatever the conditions, and learn about the impacts of winter in the North Grove. Tour guides provided safety instructions and a short walk into the forest.

Calaveras Big Trees’ Family Day Takes a Vacation

By Sue Hoffmann

Everyone needs a rest now and then. After 28 years, Family Day is no exception. After much deliberation, the Calaveras Big Trees Association Board has decided to give Family Day a year off, which means no Family Day in 2017. CBTA hopes to bring back a bigger and better Family Day event in 2018.

Never fear, the summer of 2017 promises to be full of amazing things for every family to enjoy. Junior Rangers and Cubs are always a favorite. You can also be assured that the Student Conservation Association Interns along with our park aides will be providing many great programs and opportunities to experience the wonders of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Check our website www.bigtrees.org for other upcoming events. Please let us know if you have any questions, suggestions or comments by calling 209-795-1196 or emailing us at cbta@bigtrees.org.

What’s In a Name?

By Claudia Beymer

So is it the Pioneer Cabin Tree or the Pioneer’s Cabin Tree? Many of us have been calling this popular photo setting the Pioneer Cabin Tree, as it is called in the North Grove trail guide. Historically, though, the tree was dubbed the Pioneer’s Cabin Tree. J. M. Hutchings in his 1872 booklet “The Mammoth Trees of Calaveras” included the apostrophe-“s”. Both The Enduring Giants by Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., and others, and Images of America: Calaveras Big Trees by Carol A. Kramer go with the possessive form. In covering the fall of the sequoia, the press generally used the more modern form, sans “s”. You will see both names in this Bulletin, depending on the choice of the writer.
Winter Wonderland Delighted All  

By Joan Allday

Calaveras Big Trees Association held an extra special Winter Wonderland on December 28. Our traditional horse-drawn carriages returned to the Park for a beautiful, wintry ride through the Park serenaded by Bill Minkel on the alpenhorn. New this year we welcomed volunteers from Columbia and Angels Camp. Each volunteer was dressed in period clothes and shared life in the old West. Our own Jimmy Cooke, dressed as an old-time logger, shared his stories about logging this area in the 1800s.

Inside Jack Knight Hall families enjoyed games, face painting and balloon art, spending their tickets on great prizes. Also new this year, the Association provided hot dogs, chili, popcorn and soft drinks for purchase. Guests were treated to cookies and cider. Families, as always, loved attending this event.

Photos by Claudia Beymer
CBTA Board of Directors:
Paul Prescott          President
George Leong          Vice President
Joan Allday           Vice President
Vida Kenk             Secretary
Rod Smith             Treasurer
Betty Watson          Director
Sanders Lamont        Director
Dexter Hardcastle     Director
Sally Williams        Director
Nancy Gardner

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

CBTA Staff:
Jill Ogburn             Retail Manager
Sue Hoffmann            Administrative Officer
Debbie McGee            Bookkeeper
Karen Gill              Retail Assistant
Kat Ramberg             Retail Assistant

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.

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