From CBTA’s President  by Vida Kenk

Calaveras Big Trees State Park started the summer by celebrating the official opening of the new Visitor Center on May 24, as part of the yearlong commemoration of the 150-year anniversary of California State Parks. The ceremony included speakers from California State Parks, Save the Redwoods League, the California Conservation Corps and CBTA. The Director of California State Parks, Major General Anthony L. Jackson, was the final speaker. Reenacted vignettes of significant events in the history were interspersed with the talks. The ceremony opened with a flag ceremony led by Boy Scouts and closed with ribbon-cutting.

The afternoon festivities included informational booths, guided walks and tours, 150 years of games led by costumed volunteers from Columbia, a showing of the film California Forever, and an educational program presenting live native animals that had been injured, healed, but cannot be released to the wild. In the evening, a special campfire about 150 years of State parks was followed by an astronomy program. Photographs of this event are on page two.

The evening preceding the official opening, major donors to the Visitor Center building fund were invited to a private reception and tour of the new facility. Many of the original donors to the 1998 major fundraising effort are no longer living; they were often represented by family members. Please look for the names of these generous supporters on the donor tree by the left entrance to the auditorium within the giant sequoia display. Several are also honored on plaques outside of rooms for which they donated specific funds. Another article in this bulletin recounts the history of building the new Visitor Center.

We did not sow this harvest field.
No, other hands than ours have thrown
The seed we gather, others sown
This wheat and tares. We take the yield
As it is given us and must
Now sort it out, that we may use
What we need of it, as we choose
What we shall plant again. We’ll trust
The earth and heaven to help it grow
As we have hoped. We may not see
The flowers, and if the fruit will be
Bitter or sweet, we cannot know.
Others will harvest what we sow.

V.K., 1960

For many years, the fundraising efforts of CBTA have been directed towards building the new Visitor Center. We are harvesting the results of the work and dedication of those who preceded us. Now, our challenge is to develop programs and provide materials to enhance the educational and interpretive function of these new buildings. We hope that our efforts will bear sweet and nourishing fruit for future generations. The CBTA Board welcomes your suggestions.
Visitor Center Grand Opening!
May 24, 2014
**Calaveras Big Trees State Park, a Summer Vacation Destination**

*by Superintendent Gary Olson*

While many families from around the world are coming to visit our beautiful Park as part of their summer vacations, the staff, interns and volunteers are working hard to maintain and improve the facilities for public use. Thank you to the volunteers who donate countless hours to help make each visitor’s experience more enjoyable, from the trails crew who help clear and maintain the trails, the Visitor Center volunteers who interact with the public, the volunteers who help with interpretive activities and all the other volunteers who help throughout the Park. We could not do it without your wonderful support!

Thank you to the staff who have been working diligently to maintain the restrooms, campsites, roads, and trails for the public’s enjoyment and use, and to Ranger Jeff Davis for keeping the visitors safe and calm at night.

Thank you to the CBTA, their staff and volunteers who help make the bookstore possible and the Board’s support for Park activities and programs. A special note of thanks goes to Bunny Firebaugh and all her helpers, who are putting smiles on the faces of children with the ice cream cones on the hot summer days.

If you have been in the Park lately you have seen that it is bustling with activity, including creating new access trails from the new Visitor Center to the Campfire Center, restrooms, and Jack Knight Hall. This is one of the many projects under way this summer in partnership with the California Conservation Corps. They are also actively involved in most of the forest thinning projects, including the North Grove to help improve the fire protection and health of the Grove.

As we look back over the past few years of economic uncertainty, Calaveras Big Trees has flourished. Improvements have included the meadow boardwalk, a new Visitor Center and Education Center, a new dump station, improved trails around the new VC and at Beaver Creek and a new roof on the old visitor center building.

Sometimes we get so busy we forget how fortunate we are to be here. Take a few hours to get reacquainted with the Park and all it has to offer. Spend time at Beaver Creek or along the river, and listen to the sounds of nature. Be thankful for all we have this summer, take the time to enjoy the company of your families and friends, be happy we live in this beautiful community and share our good fortunes with those who come to visit. Our legacy is in the wonderful memories created here in the minds of the visitors!

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**Enjoy Summer Sweetness!**

*by Bunny Firebaugh*

Ice cream and popcorn are being served on the deck of the Warming Hut from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays (and additional Fridays or Mondays on holiday weekends) through September 1. Summer Sweetness has been a great success! Ice cream is a dollar a scoop for strawberry with real strawberries, chocolate or vanilla. Popcorn is a dollar a bag. Visitors have been very generous with their donations.

We have four volunteers for each four-hour shift a day: two ice cream scoopers, one popcorn bagger and a cashier. There are still openings for volunteers. Please pull up SignUp Genius to sign up.

It has been a fun experience selling the ice cream and popcorn to our visitors. Take a hike and reward yourself with one of our treats!
The Gift That Keeps on Giving
by Tom Jones

Diane Daly (Ralston) was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, in 1938, the youngest of four daughters, all of whom trained as nurses at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City. A young intern from San Francisco, Peter Ralston, arrived at Mt. Sinai in 1959, and after a whirlwind courtship, they married in 1960. The Ralstons led a peripatetic life for several years, moving for army service, and for clinical and scientific positions at University College London, Stanford and the University of Wisconsin. Diane earned the PhD in neuroscience from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. The Ralstons moved back to San Francisco permanently in 1973 to join the medical school faculty at UCSF, where Diane established herself as a research scientist and a distinguished and popular teacher of medical students and of residents in neurological surgery.

Diane visited Calaveras Big Trees State Park with Peter in 1965. This was the first of innumerable visits to the Big Trees over the next 35 years, often spent camping in the Oak Hollow campground with their daughters Rachel and Amy. During several hikes in the South Grove, Diane and Peter met Alex Horvath, who was then making an inventory of the larger sequoias in the Grove. Alex showed them a special hiding place in a cavity of one of the more remote trees of the Grove, where they left a note. Unfortunately, this was such a good hiding place that Diane and Peter were unable to find it again.

In 1990 Diane established the Student Intern Trust in memory of her parents, George and Anne Daly. The Trust has helped to fund summer interns at the Park for more than twenty years.

In July, 1998, Diane was afflicted with a brain tumor that required immediate surgery. Several of the surgeons who cared for her were those whom she had helped to train during her years at UCSF. She did well for a year and was able to resume her teaching and research activities, but the tumor returned, as she knew it would, and she died in May, 2000. Peter camped in Oak Hollow that August, and the visits and support of several of the Park staff were of great comfort to him.

The Park has been a place of spiritual peace and comfort to many visitors for many years, emotions shared by Diane and Peter. The Ralston's contribution to the funding of the new Visitor Center is a token of thanks for the many hours of happiness that the magnificent sequoias have brought to them.

Author's Note:
A major contributor to this article was Peter Ralston. The proceeds from Diane’s life insurance policy were donated by Peter to CBTA and dedicated to the new Visitor Center. As Diane did, you will find leaving a legacy to the Calaveras Big Trees Association is easier than you think. One of the easiest is to make a contribution to CBTA through a will or trust. Consult your financial advisor or attorney for details. Remember that all contributions made to the Park through CBTA remain in the Park. For further information regarding your estate planning objectives contact the CBTA office at cbtvc@goldrush.com or call 209-795-1196.
Arts of Bear Valley 13th Annual Show and Sale at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

by Anne Saunders

Members of Arts of Bear Valley are busy preparing for their upcoming show at the Park. The painting and photography show opens Tuesday, August 12, and closes Monday, September 1, with hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. In addition to original paintings, giclee prints, photography and note cards will be on display for purchase.

The new Education Building classroom will be the venue for this year’s show. The new space has excellent lighting and is highly visible to Park visitors.

Another significant change will be subject matter of all works presented. The State has requested an all Calaveras Big Trees State Park show exclusively using Park flora, fauna and other topics pertinent to the Park. This has been a challenge for the artists but promises to contain an impressive array of depictions of the wonderful sights in the park.

Artists will be present to assist and answer questions during open hours. In honor of the Park’s 150th anniversary Arts of Bear Valley is working closely with the Park to assure that the show promises to enhance visitors’ Park experiences and to offer a unique viewpoint through artistic creations.

Four original works will be raffled, and tickets will be available during show hours. It is not necessary to be present at the drawing on September 1. All raffle proceeds will be donated to CBTA which co-sponsors the art show.

The Old West Comes to Life!

by Marilyn Regan

The year is 1880 and the Calaveras Big Trees grove is bustling with raucous, good fun. The Mammoth Grove Hotel is now almost 20 years old. A big party is planned at the Redwood Saloon (also known as Jack Knight Hall) and rich aromas of campfire chili and apple brown betty are making everyone hungry. The gaming tables are ready to roll, music is playing and an assortment of famous characters—some unsavory—are milling about. The prim and proper society ladies are dressed for the event, with their lovely hats and white gloves, when in walk the famous Virginia City dancehall girls with their notorious madam.

The stage is set for calamity, that’s for sure! There are sure to be accusations of cheating at cards, melodrama between the society ladies and dancehall girls, some thieving, and the appearance of a snake oil salesman with promises to fix everyone’s health problems. It will be a wild and crazy evening!

This is the setting for CBTA’s second annual fund-raising dinner theater on August 30. Festivities will start at 5:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00. The menu will be rattle steak stew, (vegetarian option—campfire chili), miner’s salad, corn bread and biscuits. For dessert there will be apple brown betty, cowboy oatmeal bars and cast-iron skillet brownies. Cost is $50 per person, $180 for table of four and $320 for table of eight.

Admission price includes dinner, admission to the Park and two drinks—wine, beer or sarsaparilla—and music. Guests are invited to dress ala 1880’s. However, because there will be gambling, this needs to be an adults-only event.

As in the past, there will be a “Sponsor Point Game”. This is a great way for CBTA and friends to partner with local businesses. The game starts August 1. A form for participation can be obtained on the CBTA website—bigtrees.org. There will be a raffle ticket awarded free for each business visited. There will also be raffle tickets for sale at the door, but join in the fun and visit our sponsors!

Go to bigtrees.org to buy your dinner tickets and get your sponsor form. It promises to be a wild, fun-filled evening at the Redwood Saloon!
Spotlight on the Business Member

by George Leong

I have often wondered where my life’s journey would have led me had I followed my lifelong passion for music instead of being an economist and a techie. How often are we given the opportunity to make that change? I met one such person recently. His name is Jeff Stai, and he is the owner of Twisted Oak Winery.

Jeff was born and raised in the city of San Gabriel, California. He lived there until age 20. He graduated from Cal Poly, Pomona, in electronic engineering and worked in various jobs and capacities as a data storage engineer in southern California. His wife Mary is from southern California as well. At the turn of the century, that is the year 2000, he and Mary made the decision to follow their passion for fine wines. That journey led them to Calaveras County and its growing reputation for producing great wines. It was during their wine tasting that they discovered what they would like to do if they owned a winery.

What appealed to them most were wineries in Calaveras County that offered wine tasting for adults and activities for the kids. It is that model that Jeff and Mary used to create Twisted Oak Winery. Jeff and Mary opened the winery with the 2002 harvest and have been producing fine wines since. Twisted Oak has 11 acres of vines and produces a variety of wines not generally offered in Calaveras County. Not only are their wines unique, but so is the name of his winery. Jeff’s philosophy on wine making is, “Keep it simple, don’t dope it up and let the fruit speak for itself”. Expansion of the winery is in his plans. Jeff and Mary added concerts at their winery as a way to appeal to a larger segment of visitors to the area.

In his off hours, Jeff is a licensed HAM operator and gets on as often as he can. He also likes to tinker with electronics and “likes to heat up a soldering iron occasionally”. He is a lover of the great beauty that lies within Calaveras County and surrounding counties. He freely admits that he loves redwoods! (Mary was on the Board of Directors for CBTA.) He is on the board of the Calaveras County Visitors Bureau and is keenly aware of how much potential the county has. He knows there are a lot of co-marketing opportunities in the county and is always excited when he can co-market with the CBTA and Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

I got the sense talking with Jeff that he sees a lot of great things for Calaveras County and sees multimedia and the internet as a way to drive the county’s growth. Jeff’s opinion is that the success of marketing Twisted Oak winery and wines is partly due to his really well-developed website. Speaking of which, you should all visit his website at www.twistedoak.com. I’m sure you’ll also agree that it is done very well. And while you just happen to be on the internet, follow and “like” Twisted Oak Winery on Facebook, El Jefe and Twisted Oak on Twitter, Twisted Oak Winery and Twisted Oak on Pinterest, Twisted Oak on Foursquare, Flickr, LinkedIn and You Tube. Hmmm, a twisted vintner with a lot of tech! Very cool!

Where Is It Now?

After initially hanging in the Visitor Center, the 150th anniversary quilt entitled “Walking In Awe Among the Giants” has been traveling. This fabulous piece of art won a blue ribbon and best of show at the Calaveras County Fair and is currently on display at the Calaveras Visitors Bureau. It will return to the Park in August.
Welcome to Our Summer Interns!

by Mary Ann Carlton

The Student Conservation Association has once again supplied Calaveras Big Trees State Park with two excellent summer interns. Both are seniors, both are science majors and both are from Massachusetts. Jenna Nelsen-McMichael attends the University of Missouri, and Emily Champigny attends Elmira College in upstate New York. They each drove out separately with friends in tow, exploring the sites on their way to California.

They were not here long before they were plunged into the excitement and pomp of the 150th Anniversary celebration and dedication of the new Visitor Center. Then came the task of learning about the Park, its resources and the programs they would be leading this summer. They have attended a number of walks and activities and especially enjoy the astronomy programs. They even got to see the International Space Station go by. How fun!

Jenna and Emily have been busy working with our young visitors as they become Cubs or Junior Rangers. The giant sequoias of the North Grove supply excellent examples of the significance and beauty of this Park as they lead walks through the Grove. Emily is presenting prehistoric California as her campfire program, while Jenna is helping visitors understand the nocturnal animals that live in the Park. On Thursdays, both interns are working with the Park’s resources management division helping with special projects which includes work in the meadow restoration, moving unwanted saplings and removal of invasive species.

Exploring the surrounding area on their days off has kept them busy. They have kayaked on Lake Alpine, hiked the River Canyon Trail, explored Yosemite and visited Columbia, Sonora, Angels Camp and Murphys. They hope to expand their travels to include San Francisco and Lake Tahoe. We are fortunate to have two such hardworking, dedicated and fun young women on our staff this summer. They are a great addition to our team.

Mark Your Calendar for CBTA Seminars

by Steve Stocking

September 20 - “Going Batty”
Dr. Dave Johnston is an associate wildlife ecologist at H.T. Harvey & Associates and a board member of the North American Society for Bat Research. Dave has spent over 20 years investigating impacts to bat populations from post-construction wind and solar energy projects, urbanization and transportation issues. Dr. Johnston has ongoing projects in Hawaii, California, Belize and Mexico. Shortly after the lecture he will lead us into the field to mist-net and observe bats in the wild.

October 4—Native Bees
Julie Serences will help us to appreciate our native bees and their role as pollinators. Bees are the primary pollinator for most wildflowers and crops in the United States and Canada. Native bees are the most important group of pollinators for insect pollinated native plants. Julie will discuss important steps which you can take in your garden to help bees and butterflies as well. She is currently on Xerces staff as a volunteer consultant for pollinator conservation.

All seminars are held in Jack Knight Hall at the Park on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There is a day use fee to enter the Park, but the seminars are free and open to the public. Pack a lunch, bring the family and plan to spend the day among the giant sequoias.
Four Scholarships Awarded

by Paul Prescott

Each year CBTA awards scholarships to upper division college or graduate students who have demonstrated a clear interest in a career related to environmental education and/or interpretation. The Scholarship Committee reviewed 30 applications, looking at coursework, areas of study, volunteer work, field work and/or employment in appropriate organizations involved in environmental education and/or interpretation.

The Emily M. Hewitt scholarship, in the amount of $1,000, was awarded to Hannah Miller, a senior at UC Berkeley, with a double major in forestry and natural resources, and English. She is currently teaching exploring the UC Botanical Garden. She has interned in Girls Outdoors Club, teaching fourth and fifth grade girls about the environment and watershed in their neighborhoods. She edits the undergraduate journal of eco-poetry, and plans to teach environmental education.

CBTA awarded three more scholarships, also in the amount of $1,000. Madeline Cooper graduated from Lawrence University with a major in biology (magna cum laude), and is working on her masters at Humboldt. Her interest is in amphibians, and she is studying the decline of populations with the aim toward conservation. She has been with AmeriCorps recently in the Watershed Stewards Project at Point Reyes National Park, monitoring endangered Coho salmon and steelhead trout. She hopes to be a National Park Service interpreter one day.

Lindsay Griffin graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in environmental studies. She has a passion for dolphins, and has been studying the effect of pollution and toxins causing skin lesions on the dolphin population. She will be working on her masters in applied marine and watershed science at CSU Monterey Bay. She hopes one day to teach environmental science.

Dena Emmerson graduated from UCLA with a major in biology and is currently in the masters program of ecology, evolution, and conservation biology at CSU San Francisco. She was the research and project coordinator at the Zoological Society of San Diego, and has worked at the San Diego Zoo. She is currently studying avian malaria in sparrows. She hopes one day to lead a non-profit or hold a government position to address conservation issues.

Family Day Coming Soon!

by Betty Watson

It is always an exciting day at Big Trees when Family Day arrives. Saturday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the North Grove area promises to be a fun-filled day for the whole family! This event is sponsored by CBTA as a “thank you” to the public for their support.

We will be featuring many activities and presenters, including our ever-popular carriage rides and a full schedule of events that will take place at the Campfire Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be something for everyone in the family!

For your musical entertainment, the Mother Lode Brass and Reed Band will be performing at the Big Stump from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Returning again this year, folksinger Linda Tringali will be singing inside Jack Knight Hall at 1:00 p.m.

The Moose Lodge will be providing their popular barbecue, and you can enjoy delicious baked goods for sale behind Jack Knight Hall, as well as inside. Be sure to visit the Warming Hut for a dessert of refreshing ice cream or popcorn.

The 13th Annual Big Trees Fall Art Show by Arts of Bear Valley, featuring scenes from our beautiful forest, will be on display and for sale in the Educational Building.

Come join us in the beautiful Calaveras Big Trees State Park for a great day of family fun!
Three New Directors Elected to CBTA Board

by Marcy Crawford

At the Annual Meeting of the Calaveras Big Trees Association held on Saturday, June 21, 2014, three new directors were elected to the Board of Directors.

Joan Allday worked in banking for six years before joining the Conejo Valley School District as office manager and served in that position for 16 years. She chaired six years of fundraising auctions to raise funds for a new school computer lab for the district. Joan and her husband, Jim, set up the library in our new Visitor Center. She was very involved in last year’s fundraising mystery dinner and is also on the committee for this year’s dinner “Calamity at the Redwood Saloon.” Joan is a member of the book store sales committee.

Rod Smith has many professional and academic qualifications. He holds a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and an MBA from Pepperdine University. He is a highly regarded executive offering the skills and knowledge that are the result of a varied career of over 35 years in the minerals industry. His most recent project experience was in Mali, Africa, where he was the managing director for a placer gold dredging project. As managing director, Rod was active in government negotiations to receive operating permits. He worked closely with governmental agencies to enforce environmental regulations. Rod is a member of the CBTA insurance committee.

Betty Watson has a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in education. She was an elementary school teacher for 30 years. Betty has over 300 volunteer hours as a Big Trees docent. She volunteers for the Visitor Center, Warming Hut, Summer Sweetness, Winter Wonderland, organized Murphys 2014 Irish Days and serves on the events committee. She has great organizational skills, loves people and appreciates the beauty of nature. Betty is co-chair of Family Day 2014.

As we elected our new members we also said goodbye to three retiring directors. President Vida Kenk honored Tom Jones, Sanders LaMont and Mara Naber with certificates and framed Alan Beymer photographs of the Park to thank them for their service.

Tom Jones served as a long-term fundraising director for CBTA for the past three years. He conducted several fundraising campaigns and created a CBTA brochure for planned giving.

Sanders LaMont has been a Board member for four years. He served as vice-present and communications director for CBTA. Sanders is taking a one-year sabbatical and plans to return as a director in 2015.

Mara Naber served as fundraising/event coordinator for CBTA for the past two years. Mara is now employed by the Department of Parks and Recreation and is working with Wendy Harrison on educational programs.

CBTA welcomes the new directors and applauds those retiring directors who gave so much to the Association.

Welcome to New Members!
March 2, 2014 – July 1, 2014

- Laura Bougher, Copperopolis
- Michelle Bowling, Modesto
- Bette Brashear, Arnold
- Greg Casselberry, Arnold
- Nicholas and Pam Curtin, Stockton
- Delta Tule Trekkers, Manteca
- Shirley Dickerman, Stockton
- Ken DiVittorio, Arnold
- Deanna DuBois, San Carlos
- Mike and Teri Fahmie, Arnold
- Tim Folendorf, Angels Camp
- Irving Happel, Murphys
- Cathy Hobson, Camp Connell
- Teddie Jackson, Murphys
- Dennis Langone, Lodi
- Maureen Larmour, Arnold
- G. Michael McCartney, Sausalito
- Donald McCoon, Arnold
- Ron and Barbara McDow, Sonora
- Margaret Meier, Arnold
- Carol Mertens, San Andreas
- Larry and Georgia Mills, Stockton
- Don Post, Palo Alto
- Brian Raley, Camp Connell
- Robert Rosenbaum, Arnold
- Janet Rosen, Angels Camp
- John Rossi, Murphys
- Thomas Sullivan, San Francisco
- Nancy Tallakson, Murphys
- Linda Van Berckelaer, Arnold
- Wendy Weir, Sacramento
- Brittany Welch, Modesto
- Sheryl and Mike Wurtz, Stockton
- Piotr Zalicki, Sunnyvale
- Dave and Nancy Zentner
History of the new Visitor Center

by Vida Kenk

The story of the new Visitor Center began in 1989, when Wayne Harrison was the lead person in writing a general plan for Calaveras Big Trees State Park. The plan was written to address the meadow restoration by moving campsites and construction of a visitor center in the new location. In order to construct any facility in a State park, it must comply with the general plan for the park. That general plan is still in effect.

Bruce Thomsen arrived at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in July 1993, leading efforts to make a new Visitor Center at Calaveras Big Trees the top priority capital outlay project, but State funding was not available. Then Park superintendent Bill Monaghan asked the CBTA Board to raise funds for the project. Bob Manning was CBTA president, followed by Margaret Bell, and they began to raise the money.

In 1997, Sharon Ritchie became CBTA president, serving for seven years. At that time about $20,000 had been raised for this project. The following year, a major fund-raising drive was held. Numerous people stepped forward; their names are on the donor tree in the museum of the Visitor Center and also on plaques by several rooms.

Around 2000, the State took over planning of the new building, and the first bond measure that made State funding available was passed. Plans were drawn up that would provide for a small building. The State would build the shell of the building, but CBTA would need to finish and furnish the building. However, in 2006, Proposition 84 was placed on the ballot. The CBTA Board recommended that the State table the original plans, hoping that passage of the proposition would provide more funds for a larger, more complete building. Superintendent Scott Wassmund agreed with the recommendation and tabled the original design.

Following the passage of Prop. 84 by the voters, three design options were developed for the Visitor Center. Two of them were for two-story buildings. The third option for two separate buildings was adopted. CBTA presented the Department of Parks and Recreation with two checks, each in the amount of $250,000. Since then, CBTA has contributed additional funds for developing the video ($55,000), furnishing the CBTA office and bookstore, and other aspects, for a total of nearly $600,000.

Twenty years after the beginning of our story, groundbreaking for the new buildings occurred in Spring 2011. Betty Anne Prescott made a scale model of the new building, which was displayed in the existing Visitor Center auditorium. The new VC had a soft opening in November 2013, being available initially only on weekends and holidays. It has been open daily starting in April with the formal grand opening ceremony on May 24. Currently, visitation numbers and sales in the new facility are approximately double those in the past.

A community of dedicated people who love the Park had a vision and worked for over two decades to make it come true. Many of the original donors did not live to see the fruition of their work. We honor their memory and now must sustain the vision, using this new facility to improve the educational and interpretive programs of the Park so the all our visitors may walk in awe among the giants.

(This summary of the Visitor Center’s history is based on telephone conversations with Bruce Thomsen, Sharon Ritchie and Anne Saunders, as well as consultation of written records of the 1998 fund-raising drive. The author is solely responsible for any misinterpretations.—V.K.)
Donor Reception— A Big Thank-you to Big Trees Supporters!

Chuck Grennell, Chris and Margaret Bell

Director of Save the Redwoods League Sam Hodder and Sector Superintendent Greg Martin

Mary and Brad Millar

Park Superintendent Gary Olson, Marilyn Regan and Larry Smith

Peter Ralston and family

Mary and Brad Millar

District Superintendent Jess Cooper and “John Muir”

State Parks Director Major General Jackson and Vida Kenk

Sanders LaMont with Alan Perry and Joan (Hickling) Perry

Joan and Brian Unter
CBTA Board of Directors:

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<td>Vida Kenk</td>
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<td>Paul Prescott</td>
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<td>George Leong</td>
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<td>Bunny Firebaugh</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Bruce Tallakson</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Marcy Crawford</td>
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<td>Steve Stocking</td>
<td>Policies/Seminars</td>
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<td>Joan Allday</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Marilyn Regan</td>
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<td>Rod Smith</td>
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<td>Betty Watson</td>
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Big Tree Bulletin:

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<td>Claudia Beymer</td>
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<td>Sue Hoffmann</td>
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CBTA Staff:

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<tr>
<td>Tami Rakstad-Schaner</td>
<td>Retail Manager</td>
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<td>Sue Hoffmann</td>
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<td>Debbie McGee</td>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Ogburn</td>
<td>Retail Assistant</td>
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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 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](http://www.bigtrees.org). Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Visit us............

- Web Site.......[www.bigtrees.org](http://www.bigtrees.org)
- Facebook.....Calaveras Big Trees Association
- Twitter........CBTAssociation