



Big Tree

BULLETIN

C A L A V E R A S B I G T R E E S A S S O C I A T I O N

From CBTA's President

by Marilyn Regan

Fall brings a slower pace at the Park, but that is definitely not the case with our Association and especially the Board of Directors. In September, we had an all-day Board retreat where we looked at what it means to be on the Board of Directors of a State Park Cooperating Association. What are the responsibilities and challenges? To whom are we accountable? In the afternoon, we reviewed our 5-year strategic plan to see how we are measuring up to the goals set in the plan. I am happy to report that things are pretty much on track, but of course this is a never-ending process.

In our last Bulletin, I asked for volunteers to serve on an Event Planning Committee. I am happy to report that we have a very busy committee and the members are Cathy Fitzpatrick, Jane Escola, Lauren Scott, Mara Naber, Vida Kenk, Bunny Firebaugh and Scot Bishop. We are looking at the "big picture" and planning events and fundraisers. The next event will be a Holiday Gathering on December 28. Bunny has offered to head up that event. You can read more about it elsewhere in this Bulletin. We had this type of event last December and the comments were "Do it again next year"! So we are happy to oblige.

Next up will be a very special gala weekend on the President's holiday in February. Plans are in the works for a premiere showing of a movie about state

parks in which Calaveras Big Trees is prominently featured. There will be something for the whole family with activities revolving around Snowshoe Thompson and his escapades in the winter Sierra. More on this will be e-mailed.

Now that we have the Event Planning Committee up and running, I would like to invite members to join a Marketing Committee. This was a lack that we found when reviewing the strategic plan. I know there are members who have experience in this area. We can use your expertise. Please give me a call at 795-8385 and let's chat about it.

My kudos to Vaughn Smith and Scot Bishop who were co-chairs of this year's Family Day—another very big success. This has become a real tradition. It was started about 25 years ago and remains our biggest event of the year.

I want to remind you to use your Shares Card while shopping at SaveMart. If you don't have one, you can pick one up the next time you are at the Visitor Center, or give us a call and we will send you one.

I want to close with a quote from Margaret Mead that has been a guide for me for many years and is reflective of what we are all about..... "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has".

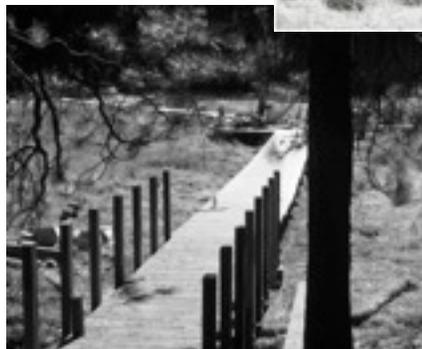
Park Update

by Gary Olson, Superintendent 1

The Visitor Center construction has begun, but we are off to a slow start. The contractor encountered several problems with the soil compaction and it delayed the construction schedule about four weeks. The contractor is pouring concrete the week of October 17, and we should begin to see progress on the foundation soon. The contract stated that the work will stop on November 1 for the winter shut down, however, if the weather holds, we may authorize additional work time. If the contractor feels they can get the building framed and a roof on before the winter snow, they may attempt to frame the building shortly.



The CCC's meadow boardwalk project is moving along, with a large section already installed. We anticipate the project to be completed by the end of November, provided we do not get heavy snow. Once completed, the boardwalk will be ADA accessible.



this 'n that

HOLIDAY SALE - SAVE THIS DATE.....This year's annual CBTA Holiday Sale will take place on Friday, November 18, 2011 from 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m. CBTA members, docents and state employees that shop that day will save 40% on most items and 30% off books. The sale is open to the public on Saturday, November 19, and goes through November 30, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CBTA members, docents and state employees that choose to shop those days will receive their standard discount. This is CBTA's way of saying "**Thanks**" for all you do for Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Enjoy hot apple cider and homemade goodies and get great deals on all your Holiday needs while supporting Calaveras Big Trees State Park. A Santa's Express donation station will be in the Visitor Center during the sale, so please bring in your donations of non-perishable food items. Santa's Express makes holiday meals a reality for families that otherwise may not have one.

.....Tami Rakstad-Schaner

CBTA invites you and your family to a **Winter Wonderland** in Calaveras Big Trees State Park on Wednesday, December 28, 2011 from 11:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. (regardless of weather). Events include a scenic wagon ride, crafts for kids, music for all and much, much more. Enjoy hot cocoa, hot apple cider and cookies. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults and \$8.50 for children under the age of 12. If space available, tickets will be available at the door for \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children. (This event sold out early last year!) Ticket price includes entry to Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Buy tickets online at bigtrees.eventsbot.com or call (209) 795-3840 for information.....Bunny Firebaugh

The **Docent Holiday Potluck** will be held on December 7, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in Jack Knight Hall. Ham and beverages will be furnished by CBTA. Please bring a side dish or a dessert to share, plus your plate and utensils. Please give me a call at (209) 795-4305 if you have any questions.

.....Bunny Firebaugh

Mark your calendar for CBTA's **Spring Seminars:**

Saturday, May 5, 2012....Dr. Paul Ustach, Biology Professor at San Joaquin Delta College will present a program about the *Bears of Calaveras Big Trees State Park* and the surrounding Sierra. Although we do not see them often, bears are among the most popular animals in the Park. Dr. Ustach presented a very popular seminar about our reptiles and amphibians here at the Park in 2009. He continues with a long college tradition of bringing his students to Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Recently he has been volunteering during summer in Yosemite National Park.

Saturday, May 19, 2012....Jim Mori of Sonora will present a program on the butterflies of our Park and the surrounding areas. Mr. Mori has long shared his expertise and interest in butterflies with Park groups. He has presented to docent groups and at Family Day. He has also provided the excellent collection of butterflies which is displayed in the Park's natural history collection located in the Visitor Center. Mr. Mori is an entomologist, retired from the State of California and has had a deep interest in butterflies since he was a child.

Both seminar presentations are at 10:00 a.m. in Jack Knight Hall. They are free and open to the public, but there is an admission fee to the Park of \$8.00 per car.....Steve Stocking

In Memoriam

Betty Ann Prescott
Theodore Rischard
Mary Jane Winter

I hope you have all had a good year enjoying the wonders of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. A lot has happened this year. This past Winter and early Spring brought great snowshoe guided walks and the comfort of the Warming Hut. The Spring brought us the exciting groundbreaking of the new Visitor Center. The Summer brought great guided walks, fun Jr. Ranger activities and campfires, as well as fascinating looks into the night sky. Of course, none of this would have happened without all the great docents that volunteer their time to make Calaveras Big Trees State Park one of the great interpretive parks in the state. But these docents couldn't have done it without your continued support through your membership in CBTA. Your membership dues and donations help CBTA fund the materials needed to put on quality interpretive programs.

Inserted in this Bulletin is the form to continue your support of CBTA. Bulletin e-mail recipients will receive their renewal notification separately by mail. Please consider renewing your membership. In these times of tightening state budgets and park closures, a greater burden of providing quality interpretive programs will rest upon CBTA. 100% of your membership and donations go directly to the interpretive programs supported by this Association. ***Renew your membership today!***



Another successful Family Day.....

SAVE \$ AND TREES.....I would like to let everyone know that there is an option to a hard copy of the Bulletin. I definitely want to leave the option up to each of you, but if you would prefer to have the Bulletin sent to you electronically it would save printing costs, mailing costs and perhaps a tree. I understand that some people prefer to have their hands on a hard copy, and that is fine, however, if the electronic option appeals to you, e-mail cbtvc@goldrush.com to change to an electronic version.....Marilyn Regan

Welcome to CBTA.....

General Membership:

Alan Beymer, Arnold, CA
Scot and Peggy Bishop, Angels Camp, CA
Angela Brown, Oak View, CA
Steve and Sue Burg, Murphys, CA
Kathy Enea, Camp Connell, CA
James Fletcher, Angels Camp, CA
Janice and Alan Gates, Arnold, CA
Tamiel Jones, Mokelumne Hill, CA
Eva Lee, Arnold, CA
Kathy Maloney, Oakland, CA
Sid Marsh and Kate O'Keeffe, Arnold, CA
Valerie and Robert Mergl, Murphys, CA
David Morell and Janet Bruno, Sonoma, CA
Michelle Plotnick, Murphys, CA
Bob Polakov and Marg Donnelly, Arnold, CA
Max Rejkonski, Arnold, CA
Pam Rubesa, Danville, CA
Barbara Stewart, Murphys, CA
William Tweed, Three Rivers, CA
Judy Ward, Camp Connell, CA
Linda Yates, Arnold, CA
Marc Yates, Galt, CA
Leonard Zavertnik, Arnold, CA

Business Membership:

Bryan Gabbard, ECOCABS, Chico, CA
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, Sonora, CA

FUN FACTS.....

What am I?

Although new ones are being described all the time, presently there are about 5,000 species worldwide and 500 in the United States.

Some are less than an inch long and the largest is just over 4" long with a 5-1/4" wingspan.

Speed can be as fast as 30 to 35 mph.

The only place I'm not recorded is Antarctica; otherwise I can be anywhere I want to be.

What am I??

I hibernate in hundreds of herds.

I prefer to be near water or reliably moist places so I don't dry into jerky.

What am I???

I am small and flat and can float through the air.

Winds can carry me an estimated 580 feet from my mother.

What am I????

I almost always lay two eggs.

My babies hatch in the order that they were laid.

I love sugar, but spiders and other insects help provide me with protein and other essential nutrients.

What am I?????

I am a mammal, not a rodent.

I groom myself much like a cat does.

I am not dirty and do not smell.

What am I.....

? I am a *dragonfly*.

?? I am a *ladybug*.

??? I am a *Giant Sequoia seed*.

???? I am a *hummingbird*.

????? I am a *bat*.

The color of Springtime is in the flowers, the color of Winter
is in the imagination ~ Terri Guillenets

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

The Board meets monthly the last Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and is open to the public. Please call the office at 795-3840 to confirm meeting date, time and place.

The CBTA dues year is the calendar year. You may renew your membership by mailing a check payable to CBTA in the envelope enclosed with your Winter Bulletin or renew/donate through our website www.bigtrees.org. Your membership/donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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