

Save-the-Redwoods League
Fall Bulletin 1999

The Headwaters Forest Reserve.
Photo by Evan Johnson.

This summer the League sent many of you a description of the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea and asked for your help with a purchase of 3800 acres in southern Humboldt County. We are thankful for the very broad base of response: nearly 2000 of you, from 49 states and the District of Columbia, sent gifts ranging in size from \$5 to \$2,000, totalling more than \$75,000. We appreciate your recognition of the importance of preserving lands on a landscape scale to benefit the complex of wildlife and flora which make up the redwood forest and its associated habitats. We also appreciated the following editorial from Humboldt County's largest newspaper:

Times-Standard

OPINION

A Times-Standard editorial

Old-growth pact a model for success

We wish every environmental dispute could be settled as amicably as the long-standing controversy over the Gilham Butte tract was this week. Through the efforts of Eel River Sawmills, the Save-the-Redwoods League, the state and federal governments, five foundations, and more than 1,000 private individuals, the issue has been resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The lumber company has received a fair price for its land and timber, which it intends to use to buy more logs to keep its mills running and its work force employed. Mattole Valley landowners are relieved of worry that their property will suffer erosion damage from upstream logging. Wildlife has a corridor of old growth forest through which it can move from the Eel River watershed to the Mattole. Four important salmon spawning streams are protected. And public land now reaches unbroken from the largest old-growth redwood forest in the world to the longest stretch of roadless coast south of Canada.

Gilham Butte never achieved the national attention that was lavished on the not-too-distant Headwaters Forest. It never was the focus of giant demonstrations, although lawsuits were filed when it appeared that the tract's old-growth Douglas fir forest might be clearcut. And the \$5.8 million sale price is modest indeed compared to the \$380 million taxpayers ended up shelling out for Headwaters.

But Gilham Butte may turn out to be even more ecologically important than its high-profile neighbor. Headwaters' old-growth redwoods are a refuge for nesting marbled murrelets, a critically endangered species. There are no redwoods on the butte, and probably no murrelets.

But it is a link between two of the North Coast's most important conservation areas, and as such of tremendous biological significance. If animals cannot move around easily they do not survive natural stresses such as epidemics and big forest fires. Populations become inbred and eventually dwindle to extinction.

That is why preserving pockets of suitable habitat, isolated from one another, may not be enough to save the rare species that live in them. One long, linked refuge is usually better than many separate parcels, even if the latter have more total territory.

Among the most intriguing possibilities is that the Humboldt pine marten may survive on or near the tract. A small mink-like carnivore that hunts flying squirrels, the marten was heavily trapped for its valuable fur, and probably also suffered from the loss of old-growth forest in the postwar logging boom. It had been believed extinct since at least the 1950s.

Recently, biologists have found signs of pine martens in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Have a few lonely individuals survived concealed in the crowns of its giant trees? Or have martens from the Sierra Nevada somehow found their way across many miles of inhospitable territory to colonize an area that's again becoming marten-friendly?

Even the possibility that the only mammal unique to our region may yet be alive is exciting to many people. If it does really still exist, its chances of continued survival will surely be improved by the preservation of the Gilham Butte tract, and the linking of the redwood park with the big King Range conservation area.

Our thanks and congratulations to the Save-the-Redwoods League, Eel River Sawmills, and everyone else whose hard work and intelligent cooperation made this mutually satisfactory conclusion possible.

Would that it always went so well. n

—From the Humboldt *Times-Standard*,
Eureka, California, October 6, 1999



Photos by Ernest Braun.

Dillonwood Grove

Waterfalls over granite faces measure the steep drop of the headwaters of the wild North Fork of the Tule River in the Dillonwood Grove at the foot of Moses Mountain in the Southern Sierra Nevada. Giant Sequoias, thousands of years old, raise their stately massive heads at river's edge. These monarch trees anchor half of the Garfield-Dillonwood Grove, one of the five largest of all Giant Sequoia groves. The Garfield grove is already protected in adjoining Sequoia National Park.

The League has recently completed negotiations to purchase the 1540 acre Dillonwood Grove and is supporting legislative efforts led by United States Senator Dianne Feinstein, to expand the Park boundary to join Dillonwood to its sister Garfield Grove. The League will have two years to raise the ten million dollars in private and public funding necessary to complete this purchase of the largest remaining stand of privately owned Giant Sequoias.

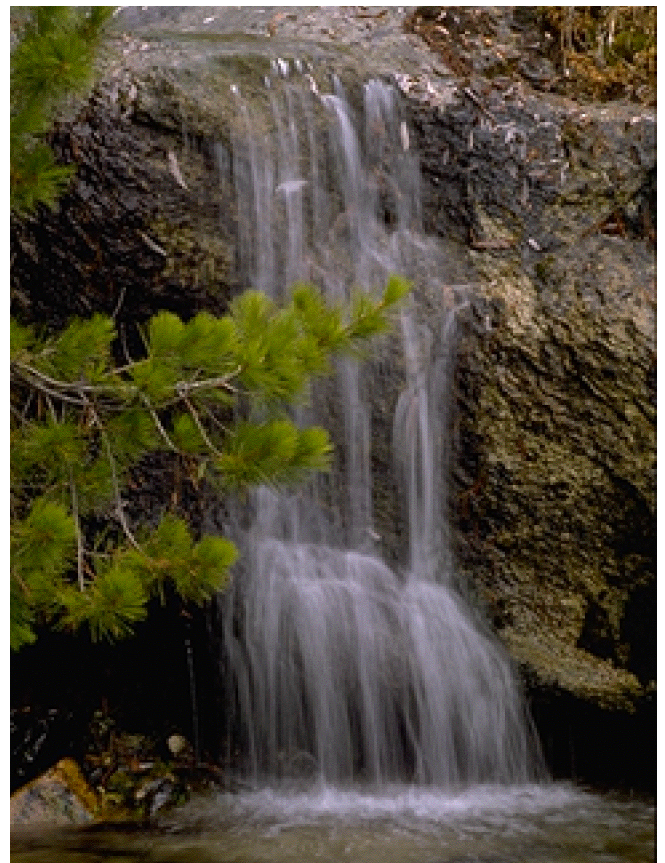
For thousands of years, humans have shared the Dillonwood Grove with wildlife including black bear, mountain lions, and numerous smaller

species, many now threatened and endangered. Until the 1960s, California Condors ranged in the high remote reaches.

Obsidian remnants and granite grinding stones indicate that Yaudanachi Yokut Indians may have had a seasonal hunting or foraging camp as early as A.D. 240 on the high elevation benches at Dillonwood, one of the oldest sites known in the area.

In the early 1900s a mill was operated at Dillonwood, fed by conifers from the area including old growth Giant Sequoia. Huge Giant Sequoia stumps remain today, interlaced with the multi-aged second growth Giant Sequoia forest that now prospers in the forest openings left after logging, thanks in large part to the responsible stewardship of the current owners.

Stands of Giant Sequoia of this age class do not exist in the National Park or elsewhere in the range of the Giant Sequoia, because of long-standing fire suppression policies. It now appears that natural regeneration of Giant Sequoia requires the forest openings and soil and seed conditions created by fire. Purchase of the Dillonwood Grove will protect permanently a unique component of the Giant Sequoia forest.



The Headwaters Forest Reserve

Purchase of the 7500 acre Headwaters Forest Reserve from Pacific Lumber Company in March this year was an important milestone in saving redwoods. This high elevation, steep-sloped survivor of the ancient forest is now permanently

new standards will apply to all timber harvest plans on Pacific Lumber Company's lands and will be enforceable by State as well as Federal agencies, for the next fifty years, thanks to the leadership of California State Senator Byron Sher.



Headwaters. Photo by Evan Johnson.

protected. The United States Bureau of Land Management has opened a single trail to the edge of the larger of the Reserve's two old growth groves. The difficulty of the long rugged hike through cutover forest lands will limit the number of those who reach the quiet of the old growth grove, where trees tower above the dense tangle of mosses, ferns, and bushes blanketing the forest floor.

Implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan on Pacific Lumber Company's surrounding 190,000 acres of forest land was an important part of the public benefit secured by the Headwaters purchase. The Plan bars timber harvest in old growth stands, necessary for the conservation of the marbled murrelet, an elusive rare seabird that nests only in old growth trees. The Plan also bars timber harvest in buffer areas along streams in which the threatened coho salmon spawn. The

Controversy continues as the Company seeks to continue timber harvest. The California Department of Forestry has recently required that harvest on the Company's land adjacent to the Headwaters old-growth grove comply with the new standards. This mature second growth forest, bordered to the northeast by the publicly owned 600-foot-wide buffer along one fork of the Elk River, is

surrounded by the Headwaters Reserve. Public ownership of this "Hole" in the Headwaters would make a logical extension of the protection of the Reserve and its wildlife. To date, the Company has indicated no interest in selling these lands, nor have funds been identified for their purchase.

The legislation appropriating \$130 million for the State's contribution to the Headwaters purchase included an additional \$100 million for the purchase of two other old growth groves known as the Owl Creek and Grizzly Creek groves. Grizzly Creek Grove, approximately 1400 acres, will be added to Grizzly Creek State Park, quadrupling its current size. The League and staff of the State's Wildlife Conservation Board are engaged in negotiations to develop a fair appraisal of these stands and to complete their purchase.

The Redwood Forest

The Redwood Forest, written as part of the League's Master Plan for the Redwoods, was published by Island Press on November 1. Noted conservation biologist Reed Noss edited contributions from more than thirty leading authorities on redwood ecology and natural history. The book includes the results of ground-breaking research on topics like redwood canopy communities, the role of fog in sustaining redwood forests, and the function of redwood burls.

Since the arrival of European settlers, more than 95% of the old-growth redwood forest has been cut. Human activity continues to impact the sensitive faunas of redwood forests and streams. *The Redwood Forest* makes clear that to avoid loss of an intact redwood ecosystem we must pursue conservation efforts on a landscape scale based on an understanding of forest processes. It provides the scientific basis for three types of action: protection, restoration, and sustainable management.

The Redwood Forest is available directly from the League for \$35.00, including sales tax and shipping, or from Island Press or your favorite book retailer.

"[*The Redwood Forest*] is an extraordinary scientific treatment of the coastal redwood forests that should be the primary reference for all interested parties. ... This book creates a model that hopefully will be followed for other important forest types throughout the globe."

—Jerry Franklin,
Professor of
Ecosystem Analysis
University of
Washington

Vote Yes on Proposition 12!

A broad-based coalition of environmental groups working with the California Legislature and Governor Gray Davis has succeeded in placing a measure for park bonds on the March 2000 ballot. Proposition 12 is an opportunity for California voters to approve \$2.1 billion in bonds to expand and maintain State and local parks. \$10 million will be set aside for matching funds to purchase redwood forest lands

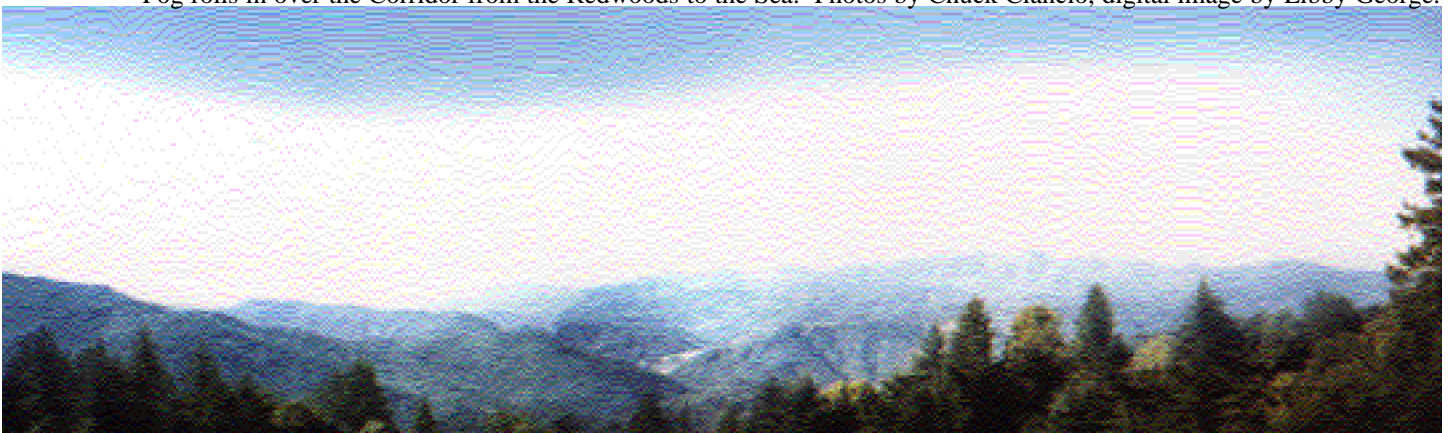
Funds from the last park bonds approved in 1988 were exhausted years ago. Facilities at State and local parks have deteriorated, and purchase of sensitive lands by the State for addition to parks has virtually halted. Opportunities to meet the park needs of the State's ever-expanding population are lost every day.

Your vote for Proposition 12 will provide critical funding for the State Department of Parks and Recreation to care for and to provide a high quality experience for visitors to the State's redwood parks. The League's strategic plan has identified passage of a park bond measure as one of the key action steps necessary to achieve the League's goals.

Further information about Proposition 12 is available on the World Wide Web at safeparks.org. Your support for the bond in conversation with friends and neighbors, and in local organizations, will help pass this measure.

The March ballot will also include a \$1.97 billion clean water bond that will provide funds for watershed acquisition and restoration, some of which will be available for redwood forests.

Fog rolls in over the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea. Photos by Chuck Ciancio, digital image by Libby George.



1998 - 1999 Financial Review

From the Treasurer

To the League's members and supporters:

Save-the-Redwoods League continues to enjoy a strong financial position, while increasing the size and pace of redwood land acquisitions and stepping up the League's education and public awareness efforts.

As of March 31, 1999, the League's cash and investments stood at \$19.6 million and contributions receivable totalled \$10.7 million (Figure A).

In order to smooth the year-end workload for the League's staff, the Board of Directors has changed the League's fiscal year end from December 31 to March 31 for financial and tax reporting purposes.

During the fifteen-month period ended March 31, 1999, the League spent \$7.8 million to purchase 690 acres of redwood lands. The League also completed the transfer of the Coast Dairies property to another non-profit agency for interim management until it is transferred to public ownership.

The acquisition of the 7000-acre Coast Dairies property by the League resulted in preservation of five miles of spectacular coastline, redwood forest, and open space in Santa Cruz County. This is an example of the League's increased conservation efforts and our sense of urgency as we move into the next century.

The League's administration and fundraising consumed only 5% of total expenses during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1999 (Figure B). This is consistent with the League's historical pattern of maximizing the use of contributions received from League members for achieving our conservation goals.

The League's Board of Directors is committed to significantly increasing the League's resources in the coming months so that the League will continue to have an impact.

Sincerely,

Frank W. Wentworth
Treasurer

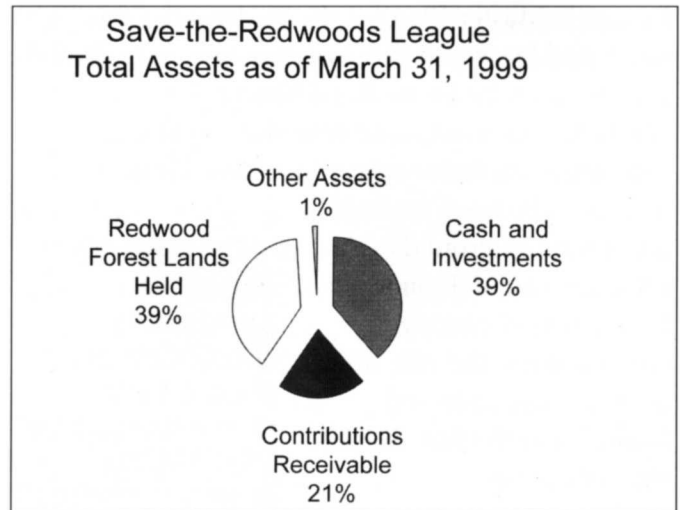


Figure A.

Redwood Forest Lands are held pending transfer to public agencies. **Contributions Receivable** reflect the estimated value of irrevocable trusts in which the League is named as a beneficiary.

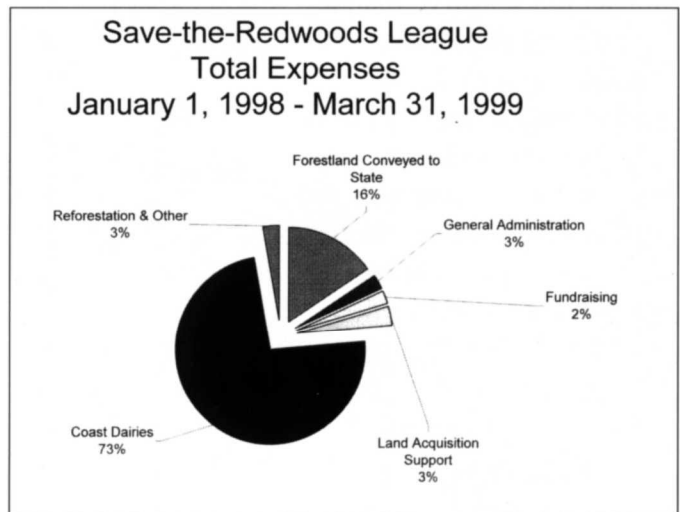


Figure B.

Fundraising includes direct fundraising expenses and member services. **Land acquisition support** includes reforestation and research grants, appraisals, and other direct costs.

League Office to Move

The Save-the-Redwoods League office has been in the Adam Grant Building, 114 Sansome Street in San Francisco, for sixty years. The League has outgrown its space on the sixth floor and we are pleased to be moving in January 2000 to larger offices on the twelfth floor.

We would welcome your visit in the new year.

In Memoriam

The Save-the-Redwoods League regrets to report the deaths of three distinguished Councillors: Charles Daly, James Gilligan, and Wilson Riles.

Charles Daly was an owner of Daly's department store, founded in Eureka by his father and uncle in 1895. He was one of the early supporters of redwood protection in Humboldt County. He joined the Council in 1940 and maintained his interest in the League for nearly sixty years.

James Gilligan joined the Council in 1966. He was a professor of forestry, Extension Forester for the University of California, and was a wonderful resource for the League and many others who studied the management of redwood forests for economic and ecological values.

Wilson Riles joined the Council in 1977, while he was Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State of California. He first encountered the League when he helped promote the California PTA Grove among the state's educators.

Memorial and honor groves established in 1999:

Big Basin Redwoods State Park
Frank L. Babbott, Jr. Grove

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park
Berniece Ryan - Cornelia A. Tomes Memorial Grove

Humboldt Redwoods State Park
Boyer & Hamilton Families Memorial Grove
Ruby Hale Field Grove

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park
Edward T. Planer, Sr. & Mabel Planer Grove
Tomiyasu Family Grove

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park
William F. Allewelt, Sr. Grove
Amelia Earhart Grove Addition

Navarro River Redwoods State Park
George and Mary Gardner Grove

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
Walter S. Bloom Memorial Grove
Jolley-Hootman Family Grove
Shirley Resnick Memorial Grove

Maurice William & Claire Ruth Savage Grove

Revisiting the Dawn Redwoods

In May 1999, a delegation from Save-the-Redwoods League, including Councillor Joseph H. Engbeck, Jr., travelled to China to investigate the status of *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, the dawn redwood. The League delegation was following in the footsteps of Professor Ralph Chaney, world-renowned paleobotanist and president of the League, whose trip to China in 1948 was both momentous and widely publicized. Mr. Engbeck, who is writing a book on the history of the redwood forest preservation movement, gave us this account:

We went first to Beijing where we met with representatives of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the National Herbarium, and the Beijing Botanical Garden. Later, in Hunan Province, we were joined by Chinese academicians and park officials for the trip up into the mountain area that Chaney visited in 1948. Along the way we stopped in a pair of villages where three large *Metasequoias* grow. We were received with great pleasure and excitement by the local villagers who made it clear that they not only revered their *Metasequoias* but had fought to protect them.

Continuing north, we travelled for many hours on winding gravel roads until we arrived in the secluded valley where the world's last *Metasequoia* forest, some 5,000 trees, still clings to life. Along the way the roads were lined with carefully planted dawn redwoods and other conifers, but we could see that the whole area had been heavily logged and was only beginning to recover. Grazing, soil erosion, conversion to intensive agriculture, and urban development have replaced all but scattered fragments of central China's native forest.

Today it is illegal to cut a dawn redwood. It's even illegal to trim *Metasequoia* branches for firewood, but cones are collected for their seeds and millions of seedlings are grown for sale. As a result, no natural regeneration is occurring. Unless something more is done to ensure the survival of *Metasequoia* as a natural forest species, an extraordinary chapter in forest history will inevitably come to end. The dawn redwood will become merely a nursery plant—a cultivar, a decorative, domesticated commodity—totally removed from the mixed conifer/hardwood forest in which it has survived for 65 million years.

Memorial and Honor Gifts

Honor Groves offer an opportunity to name an individual tree for someone; the name is recorded on the map of the grove so future visitors can find the exact tree.

New honor and memorial trees:

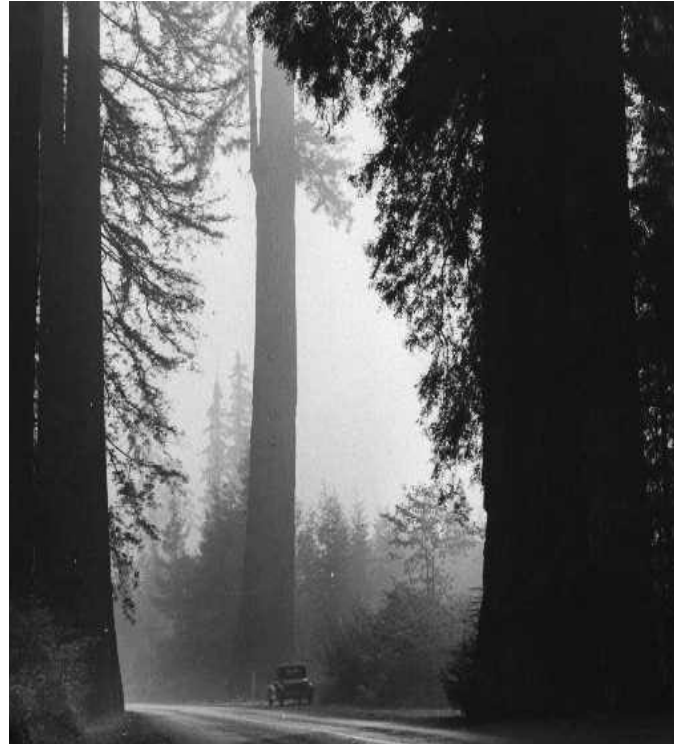
Honor Grove South
Humboldt Redwoods State Park
George Edward Polansky, 1998
Ms. Gloria R. Barron, 1998
Beverly Ann Miklich, 1998
Elaine Fox, 1998
Geoffrey Howard Martin, 1999
Katherine Hoyt McCaughey, 1999
Nadine Bixby Kirk, 1999

Honor Grove
Portola Redwoods State Park
Fred W. Ruhland, 1995
Earl K. Dore, 1995
Ross Elliot Peckat, 1995
Edwin S. Thomas, 1995
David Sarlin, 1996
David McCosker Family, 1996
Clara Horton Jenkins, 1996
Kathmann & Lange Families, 1996
Ruby Hale Field, 1897 - 1997, 1997
Brian & Michael Starr, 1997
Cynthia C. Gish, 1998
Mabel Thacher Edwards, 1998
Adelaide Virginia Black, 1998
Frederick R. & Sonia V. Scheerer, 1999
Analisa Bosche Adams, 1999

The original Honor Groves, established in 1971 and 1985, are now filled. The Honor Grove at Portola Redwoods, established in 1995, and the Honor Grove South at Humboldt Redwoods, established in 1998, have beautiful trees available for naming.

If you are interested in including the League in your estate planning and would like a copy of our new planned giving brochure, call the office at (888) 836-0005.

Since 1920 the Memorial and Honor Grove Program has been a major source of support for the League's success in building redwood parks. Park staff play a pivotal role in the Grove Program. This summer a family visited their grandmother's grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Rangers cleared and marked the trail into the grove, ferried the family across the Eel River in a boat because the usual summer bridge had been washed away, helped two elderly visitors climb the hill to the grove with ropes, and even took photos so the whole family could be together. Please contact the League if you would like to visit or establish a grove yourself.



The Honor Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park as it appeared in 1935. Photo by Schoeb.

Save-the-Redwoods League

114 Sansome Street, Room 605
San Francisco, CA 94104

<http://www.savetheredwoods.org>
saveredwoods@igc.org

Check our web site for holiday gift ideas that also help support redwood parks!

Save-the-Redwoods League is a California non-profit corporation organized under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.