

Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND

FALL 2011

A photograph of a hiker walking across a wooden bridge in a lush, green forest. The bridge is made of dark wood and has a simple railing. The hiker is wearing a light-colored hat and a dark jacket. The forest is dense with various types of trees, including large, moss-covered trunks and smaller evergreens. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and pine needles.

The Future of Our Parks

The 1960s and 1970s were banner years for California State Parks. State Parks was well funded, with adequate staff to care for park resources and work with visitors. And because over 30 million people were exploring our state parks each year, the state was expanding the park system, protecting more of California's important natural and cultural resources and providing new opportunities for public recreation.

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Preserving redwood forests
since 1900

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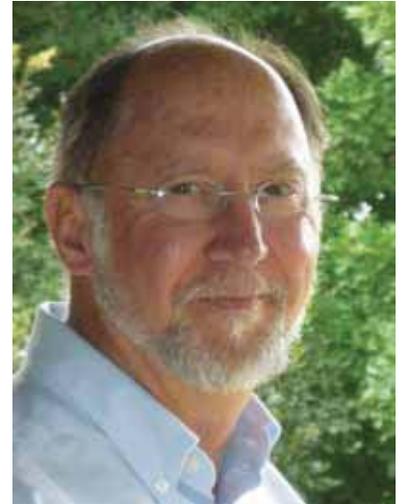
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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Finding a Solution

Many years ago I worked for the State Coastal Conservancy. Our state was in economic decline, and the Conservancy Board asked senior staff for suggestions about how to best operate the agency. Most agreed that we should cut everything back and keep a skeletal staff while the economy recovered.

A colleague and I suggested a different approach. Rather than cutting back on our conservation efforts, we asked the Conservancy Board for \$1 billion to invest in California's coastal and San Francisco Bay resources. We saw enormous possibilities for land conservation in the economic slowdown and knew that the Conservancy had an opportunity to make an incredible impact.



The good news was that neither my colleague nor I were fired that day; the bad news was the Board did not agree with our approach. They decided the best strategy for the agency was to hunker down and try not to draw attention to itself in the hopes that we might survive the crisis.

Sound familiar?

A few years later the economy did get better, and California voters, who recognized the need to invest in our parks and natural resources, passed 10 state conservation bond measures in 10 years totaling over \$15 billion.

I know that things are tough right now. I also know that we cannot abandon the incredible state park system we built over the last century. This is our natural heritage.

Many groups are grappling with innovative ways to keep our parks open and well maintained during these hard times. Our work with Peninsula Open Space Trust at Little Basin—where we transferred 535 acres to the state, complete with a park operator and a stewardship fund of more than \$1 million—is one example of how we can help State Parks in the short term. Our work at Castle Rock State Park, one of the parks that the state may close in 2012, offers a different

approach. We have joined with a private donor, the Kirkwood Family, to design and build a new and greatly improved state park entrance within two years. Once completed, we plan to turn the new entrance over to State Parks along with the necessary funding to keep the park maintained and open to the public.

But these and other approaches being taken by our conservation partners are temporary fixes to a problem that has a very long history. The sad truth is that California has never given State Parks the funding it needs to operate. Until it does, State Parks will return to this regrettable situation over and over again.

So what is the solution? Do we begin dismantling a system we spent over a century creating? Do we try again with Proposition 21—a bill which would have established a permanent income for State Parks by adding an \$18 fee to vehicle registration—in the presidential election of 2012? Or do we go back to the counties that approved Proposition 21—and there were many—and ask them to vote on a regional or county tax measure that will maintain and enhance parks of all varieties in their areas?

The truth is that no one knows the right approach at this moment. What we do know is that Sempervirens Fund cannot accept the idea that cutting back our parks — which give us hope, inspiration, and renewal — is the answer to our current economic woes. Now is the time to come up with a permanent solution and to get it right.

Thank you,



Reed Holderman
Executive Director



Castle Rock State Park



State Parks (continued from cover)

Forty years later our parks are in crisis—underfunded, understaffed, and threatened with closure. Across the state, park hours have been shortened; restrooms, campgrounds, and visitor centers have been closed; some parks have been shut down for entire seasons; and as we look forward to 2012, it is possible that as many as 70 of our state parks will be closed year-round. Despite having over 75 million visitors every year, our parks continue to suffer.

What happened to California's state parks—our state's largest tourist attraction and guardian of many of its most precious resources? The answer is complicated, but the heart of the matter is money. Budget cuts to the state park system began in the 1980s, increased in the 1990s, and have continued dramatically over the last decade. Over the past five years alone, State Parks has lost approximately 40% of its operating budget. Deferred maintenance throughout the system is now estimated at almost \$2 billion.

Last fall, Sempervirens Fund joined with a broad coalition of environmental groups to support Proposition 21, the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund, which would have added an \$18 fee to all California vehicle license registrations, establishing a stable and permanent income stream for State Parks to keep our parks open, maintained, and safe.

But Proposition 21 did not pass, and the threats to our state parks have continued to grow. In May 2011, the state proposed closing 70 parks, including Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks, in order to meet \$33 million in reductions to State Park's budget over the next two fiscal years. Ironically, when voters were asked how they voted on Proposition 21, many said that they supported State Parks but did not think there was a funding crisis because all of the parks were open last summer.

What do we do now?

Remain hopeful. We must be. Hope is what fueled the passion of the original members of the Sempervirens Club in 1900, and it has helped us to protect more than 25,000 acres of coast redwoods since then. Hope is what created our state park system. Hope is what made California a beacon of innovation and creativity that others have followed. Although the proposal to close up to 70 of our state parks is dire, we are hopeful that between now and July 1, 2012 (when park closures would take place) some of the parks slated for closure will be removed from the list as more tax revenue comes into the state and other solutions for keeping the parks open are found.

Be realistic. In spite of our hope, there is no denying the fact that California's economy continues to struggle, and without adequate and steady funding for the state park system, the incredible natural, cultural, and recreational resources protected within state parks across California will continue to decline.

With the passage of AB42, nonprofit organizations will now be able to take over operation of parks slated for closure. This bill authorizes State Parks to enter into agreements with qualified nonprofits to



© Scott Peden

operate the parks. However, we will be surprised if this solution works for all parks on the closure list because park operating costs typically exceed the fees collected from park visitors, requiring nonprofits to subsidize these costs using their own funds.

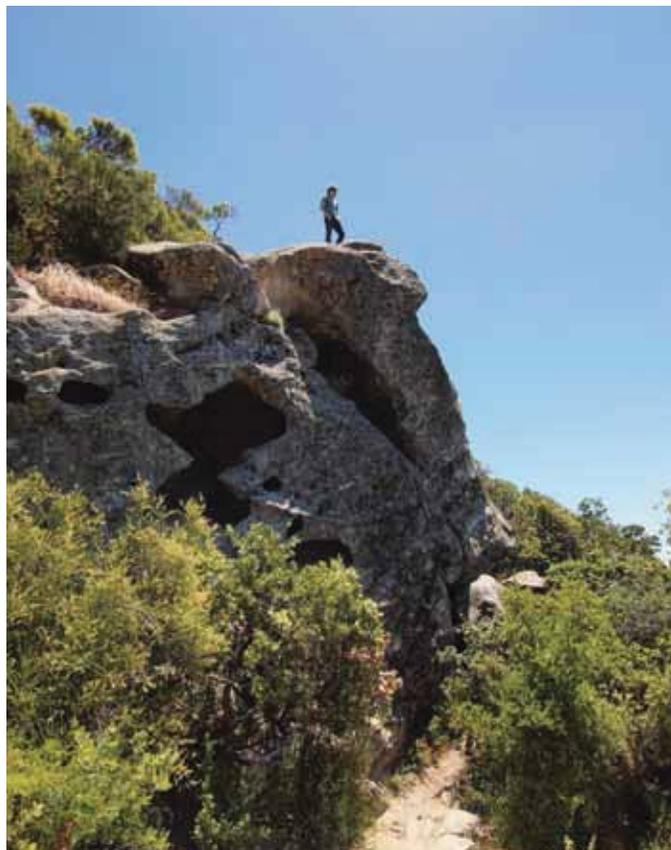
Help define the solution. We are working with State Parks and our conservation partners to find a permanent, long-term solution that ensures that our parks thrive today and in the future.

Partnerships will likely save some parks from closure, but a secure source of funding for State Parks is crucial. One solution is a county or multiple county tax measure that will fund all parks (state, regional, county, and city) in a specific geographic area. Another idea is to place Proposition 21, or something like it, back on the ballot during the presidential election in 2012. We are exploring other solutions as well.

The fact of the matter is that state leaders are reducing affordable outdoor recreational opportunities when State Park visitation is at its highest point in history and is expected to grow. If the state closes 70 parks, California will still have 208 open state parks that will absorb this additional use and require more — not less — staff, land, and maintenance.

Sempervirens Fund is committed to addressing the need to expand services at iconic parks like Big Basin, and the need to find innovative solutions and funding to keep all of our state parks open. This will not be an easy task, but we are doing everything we can to find both short-term and long-term solutions to our State Parks funding crisis.

For more information about the proposed closures or to learn what you can do to help prevent them, visit www.sempervirens.org. 🌲



Castle Rock State Park © Scott Peden



Redwoods, Bull Creek Flat, Northern California, ca. 1960. Photograph by Ansel Adams

FROM THE ARCHIVE:

Ansel Adams' Portfolio Four

Russell Varian, co-founder of one of the first high-tech companies in Silicon Valley, Varian Associates, was also an active conservationist with a vision of creating a state park at Castle Rock—as well as a good friend of Ansel Adams. Shortly after Varian's unexpected death in 1959, Adams created *Portfolio Four, What Majestic Word*, to raise funds to help realize his friend's dream. Adams created only a limited number of Portfolio Four, which includes 15 photographs that Adams felt reflected the spirit of his friend.

In 1992 Varian Associates generously donated the remaining copies of the portfolio to Sempervirens Fund. We shared these wonderful photographs at a reception last month for members of our Redwood Legacy Society, a select group of donors who have included Sempervirens Fund in their estate plans.



111th Anniversary Celebration Picnic at Little Basin

We were very pleased to see so many of you at our annual picnic on May 7, 2011 at Little Basin. More than 200 people came out to enjoy sunshine, live bluegrass, tasty barbeque, ice cream, hikes, and good conversation with friends. Assemblyman Bill Monning's office honored us all with a certificate recognizing Sempervirens Fund's contributions over the past 111 years. Thanks to all who helped us to celebrate another big birthday and to REI for donating prizes to our raffle! 🌲



Harmonizing People and Nature: An Evening with Gretchen Daily

Across the globe, people are recognizing that healthy ecosystems are capital assets integral to human life and livelihood. Join us for an evening with Gretchen Daily, Bing Professor in Environmental Science at Stanford University, to learn about key scientific and technological tools, finance mechanisms, and policies that are being used to evaluate environmental resources and make smart investments in the natural world. Sempervirens Fund is co-sponsoring this event with Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. *September 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m. Portola Valley Community Hall, 765 Portola Road, Portola Valley. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP not required.* 🌲

Cultivating Redwood Stewards

In April 2011 we held our annual redwood education field trip for students of Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose. These trips are designed to offer students an opportunity to experience the wonder of the redwoods, first hand. Fifty-four students enrolled in the high school's Green Tech Academy and their teachers joined us at Sanborn County Park for a day of learning and exploration. Sempervirens Fund Field Representative Laura McLendon and Joe Maguire, the forester who completed the carbon audit of our Lompico Forest Property, gave the students a basic lesson in carbon sequestration and how it works in a redwood forest. Then they led the students in completing a mock carbon audit of the forests at Sanborn. The students spent the day measuring trees and using homemade clinometers to determine how much carbon is sequestered by small samples of trees. They left the forest with a better understanding and appreciation of the value of our local redwoods. The trip was paid for with a generous grant from the Morgan Family Fund, an advised fund of the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

Shortly after the field trip, we presented this year's Tony Look Scholarship — an annual \$1,000 award that we give to a graduating senior from

Andrew P. Hill High School who is college-bound and planning to major in environmental studies or a similar field. This year's recipient was Kristy Uyen Le. Throughout high school, Kristy led multiple campaigns to engage fellow students in litter clean-up both on the school campus and at local parks. Kristy graduated in May 2011 and will begin studies at UC San Diego this fall. 🌲



Andrew P. Hill High School students at Sanborn County Park.



Forester Joe McGuire talks to students about redwood forests and carbon sequestration.



2011 Tony Look Memorial Scholarship winner, Kristy Uyen Le



© Scott Peden

In Memory of Ellen Weaver



Sempervirens Fund lost a dear friend when Ellen Weaver passed away in May 2011. Ellen was a beloved wife, inspiring mother, artist, accomplished musician, and world-class scientist with a career as both a researcher and educator in plant physiology. She was the first woman chair of the Biology department at San Jose State University and a life-long promoter of women in science. Ellen was also a passionate environmentalist with a special interest in protecting redwoods. She was a strong supporter of Sempervirens Fund and served for many years on our Board of Directors and as a counselor and science advisor at Save the Redwoods League. Board Member Emy Thurber says, “Ellen was tirelessly dedicated to students, learning, and the redwoods. She encouraged the Board to develop further Sempervirens Fund’s relationship with Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose, resulting in our annual education field trips and the Tony Look Memorial Scholarship, a legacy in and of itself.” 🌲

Rempel Family Gift

We are very grateful to the Robert C. and Janie Pace Rempel Family for their generous gift in honor of Harry E. and Ellen C. Weaver and Claude A. and Mildred Look. The Rempel Family donation will support two redwood education field trips this year for students at Andrew P. Hill High School and fund the Tony Look Scholarship for 10 years. The fieldtrips and scholarship are designed to cultivate the next generation of redwood stewards by teaching youth about redwoods and encouraging them to pursue their interest in the natural world. Janie Rempel says of their gift, “We wanted to ensure that our gift had a long term impact and so giving to support the environmental education of youth just seemed to make sense.” With the help of the Rempels’ gift, we can encourage young students’ interest in the environment for years to come. 🌲



Azalea – Big Basin © 2006 Dan Quinn

PLANNED GIVING:

Investing in the Future

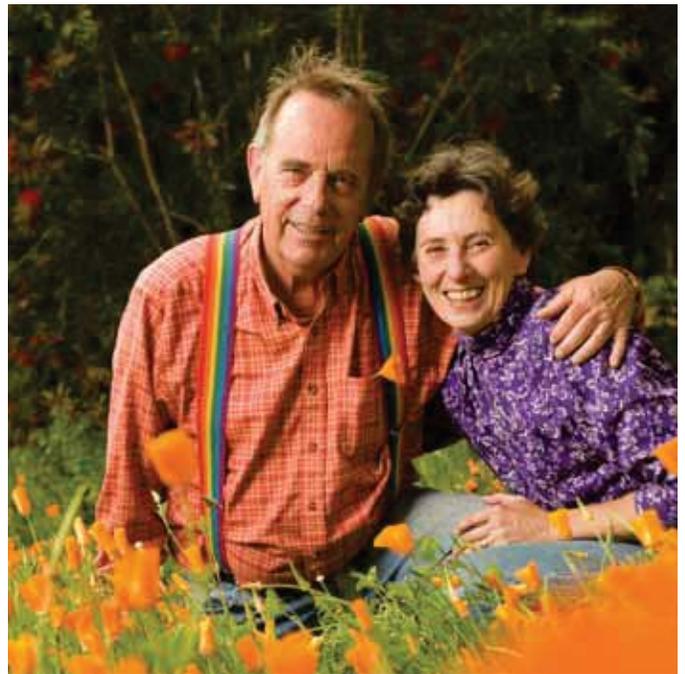
The Living Landscape Initiative, launched earlier this year, is a collaborative effort of Sempervirens Fund and four other land conservation organizations—The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, The Nature Conservancy, POST, and Save the Redwoods League—to create and maintain a vibrant and sustainable landscape in the heart of coastal California. The partner organizations, brought together by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, and the Resources Legacy Fund, seek to protect 80,000 acres over the next 20 years between Mount Hamilton and South San Francisco, including 30,000 acres of redwood forests. To support this goal, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation offered a \$15 million grant that must be matched 3-to-1 in three years, requiring the five partner organizations to raise an additional \$45 million in public and private funds.

Pamela and Allen Rozelle, who moved to the Bay Area three years ago, believe in the Living Landscape Initiative's vision and decided to help make it a reality. In an incredibly generous act, the Rozelles gave \$100,000 charitable gift annuities to each of the partner organizations in the Living Landscape Initiative, for a total gift of \$500,000. These donations enable the Rozelles to take an immediate tax deduction and establish an income stream for the remainder of both of their lives.

"We were impressed by the cooperative aspects of the project and galvanized by the \$15 million

commitment put forward by the Moore Foundation," says Pamela. With these gifts, the Rozelles are investing in both their own retirement and in the long-term future of the place they now call home. Thank you Pamela and Allen!

If you would like to create a charitable gift annuity to support Sempervirens Fund or make a gift to support the Living Landscape Initiative, please contact Kerry Bresnahan, Director of Advancement, at (650) 949-1453 or kbresnahan@sempervirens.org. 🌲



Allen and Pamela Rozelle © Paolo Vescia

Help Us Make New Friends

Are you a donor to a local public radio station, like KQED or KAZU? If so, please consider making your next donation a challenge grant during your station's pledge-drive and sharing your "airtime" with Sempervirens Fund. Doing so allows you to leverage your charitable gift while helping to increase Sempervirens Fund's name recognition. Diane Talbert, Sempervirens Fund Board Member, offered a challenge grant in honor of Sempervirens Fund to support KQED's spring 2011 pledge drive. Over the course of a week,

Sempervirens Fund's name and mission were repeatedly mentioned on the air. This is a wonderful way for Sempervirens Fund to make new friends and supporters throughout the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Thank you Diane!

If you are considering sharing your airtime with us please contact Kerry Bresnahan, Director of Advancement at (650) 949-1453 or kbresnahan@sempervirens.org so that we can coordinate with the radio station. 🌲

Tributes

Dedicated Redwood Trees and Legacy Grove gifts were established in honor or memory of the following people between March 13, 2011 and June 24, 2011:

Dedicated Redwoods

William Cokash

Given by Rosemarie Cokash

Laurel Crittenden

Given by Friends and Family

Ruth Ann Emmons

Given by Leo and Lee Mary Brenneisen

Carmel M. Frees

Given by Consuelo Duncan

Garside Family

Given by Michele Garside

James "Jim" R. Kelley

Given by Judey Miller

Diane Ebert Kranich and Albert J. Locatelli

Given by Soroptimist International of Santa Cruz

C. E. Long, III, M.D.

Given by C.E. Long

Karen "Lucy" Millikan

Given by Jackson Millikan

Chuck Patterson

Given by Robert and Jean Baer

Richard L. Rairden

Given by Richard Rairden

Mrs. Marie Roberts

Given by Leo and Lee Mary Brenneisen

Harold Frost Sauflay III

Given by Bruce Hildenbrand

Margaret Launer Smith

Given by Margaret Smith

Miriam Karin Smith

Given by Margaret Smith

Judith Steiner

Given by Sempervirens Fund Board Members

Marge Thomas

Given by Robert and Jean Baer

Justin Van Alstyne

Given by Friends at New Mexico Student Loans

Dawna Wolfson

Given by Calman Wolfson II and Dawna Smart Wolfson

Jake Wolfson

Given by Calman Wolfson II and Dawna Smart Wolfson

Annette Woolsey

Given by Robert Woolsey

Meyers Circle of Trees

Given by John and Emily Meyers

Legacy Grove

Mr. Tom Allman

Given by William Allman

Francis Fink

Given by Judith Heath

Catherine Mae Lucey

Given by Sharon Wood

Paul and Winona McNitt

Given by Winona McNitt

Soraya Meshkat Razavi

Given by Thomas Biagini

Constance Amy Schmitt

Given by John and Gail Stypula

Frank Takahashi

Given by Frances Takahashi

Mary Frances Zettler

Given by Marc and Rita Nevarez and Caroline Zlotnick



Reed Holderman presents the state resolution for the Wender Group Grove to Jacqueline and Paul Wender.

The Wender Group Grove: Honoring the Forest and Celebrating Community

The Wender Group Grove in Castle Rock State Park is a special place. The grove was established by students, colleagues, friends and family of Professor Paul Wender, who heads the Wender Group, a chemistry research unit at Stanford University. One of the group's many accomplishments is creating a synthetic substitute for the medicinal compound taxol, which was previously extracted from the bark of trees.

According to Jacqueline Wender, Paul's wife, "the grove was created to celebrate the Wender Group's amazing community and to honor their connection with our forests."

If you are interested in finding out more about Sempervirens Fund's dedicated groves, please contact Kerry Bresnahan, Director of Advancement, at (650) 949 1453 or kbresnahan@sempervirens.org. 🌲



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Camp at Little Basin!

Sempervirens Fund and Peninsula Open Space Trust purchased the 535-acre Little Basin property in 2007 and transferred it to California State Parks earlier this year. Now a part of Big Basin Redwoods State Park and open to the public for camping and day use, Little Basin is a unique camping destination with tent sites, cabins, two ball fields, a tennis court, basketball court, playground, picnic areas, open meadows, and miles of hiking trails. United Camps, Conferences, and Retreats, a nonprofit organization with over 40 years managing and operating camps in California, is operating Little Basin for State Parks. To make a camping reservation, please visit their website at www.littlebasin.org or call 1-800-678-5102. 🌲



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