



Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND

FALL 2012

Shaping the Future of the Santa Cruz Mountain Redwoods

The forests and other natural lands of the Santa Cruz Mountains have been inhabited and shaped by people throughout prehistory and history. Native Americans established travel routes and residential settlements (permanent and seasonal) and extracted resources from the Santa Cruz Mountains for thousands of years. Beginning in 1769 with the arrival of the Portolá expedition and increasingly over the last 150 years, the area has been impacted by residential and commercial development, the construction of transportation facilities (i.e., stagecoach routes, paved roads, railroads, air strips), ranching and agriculture, logging, mining, and recreational activities.

For better or worse, one thing is clear: people have altered the natural characteristics and health of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

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Preserving redwood forests
since 1900

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Science-Based Land Conservation

Planning is essential to moving forward. It helps us understand our options, trade-offs, and what it will take to realize our hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow.

Conservation planning is no different. In an area as large and diverse as the Great Park, where everything seems important, it's easy to miss the forest for the trees. To better understand this redwood forest ecosystem, we hired an outside team of environmental professionals to objectively look at all of the natural and cultural resources within our 224,000-acre Great Park planning area and identify for us, based on the best science available, where the most important natural areas are located. With this information, we can strategically implement our vision of an integrated and connected landscape.



Working with a 22-member steering committee, which we assembled to guide this planning process, our team of scientists has amassed a tremendous amount of data to help inform our resource protection efforts. This extensive data — comprising over 900 million pixels of information — has been evaluated, ranked, and summarized on 15 different electronic maps. When we overlap these maps, which detail everything from the location of old-growth forests to places that are anticipated to be more resilient to climate change, we can easily identify high priority areas for land protection.

The Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP) for the Great Park planning area will be an essential tool to help us focus our limited time and funding on the areas that will have the greatest impact on the overall health of the Santa Cruz Mountain redwoods.

In the months ahead, we look forward to sharing with you more details about this plan and how it is helping inform and guide our land protection efforts.

Thank you,

Reed Holderman
Executive Director



CAPP: The Conceptual Area Protection Plan

Going forward, we are trying to shape a healthier more robust future for the Santa Cruz Mountains — one in which the area’s redwood forests and other natural resources, exceptional biodiversity, cultural landscapes, and recreation opportunities are respected, supported, and enhanced. In 2011 we began the process of creating the Santa Cruz Mountains Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), a collaboratively-developed resource conservation plan that will help Sempervirens Fund, public agencies, and other land trusts to advance effective land conservation and sound strategies for resource management.

With a grant made through the Bay Area Conservation Initiative of the Resources Legacy Fund, we hired Jodi McGraw Consulting, an environmental consulting firm that specializes in biological resource management planning, to lead a team of scientists in the creation of the CAPP. Because we want the CAPP to be based on the convergence of science and on-the-ground experience, we also formed a Steering Committee comprising representatives from a diverse range of public agencies, land trusts, and other stakeholders. *(See page 5 for a list of members).* Together, Sempervirens Fund, scientists, and the Steering Committee have been working together to complete the CAPP. Jodi McGraw says that “it is a great experience — bringing together scientists and land conservation practitioners. We are all learning a lot from each other and creating a plan that highlights the critical resource areas that need to be conserved in order to protect the integrity of the redwood forests across the Santa Cruz Mountains.”

The first step in this process was to compile existing data and, where needed, to acquire new data about the natural and cultural resources of the area, focusing on the following types of information:

- structure and composition of the redwood forest;
- location of rare and endangered species;
- documented timber harvesting;
- ranking of watersheds in terms of ecological integrity;
- evaluation of parcels for landscape connectivity;
- location of significant cultural and historic sites; and,
- identification of areas best suited to resist the effects of climate change.

The information collected was then analyzed using a very sophisticated geographic information system (GIS) that enabled the scientists and Steering Committee to overlay data in different layers to determine where high resource areas intersect. Based on this analysis, we can now compare areas to see, for instance, that one includes healthy second-growth redwood forest while another harbors a key archaeological site, intact forest lands, and provides key landscape connectivity. The next step in the process will be to evaluate these priority areas from the perspective of possible land use changes, threats from subdivision and development, and opportunities for land conservation, and to prioritize for protection specific properties that provide multiple conservation benefits. From this information we will develop and refine the final CAPP.

“The plan that Sempervirens Fund and its team are developing will serve management now and into the future, as well as provide a tremendous tool for facilitating a more informed dialogue with our stakeholders and the public.”

Dave Holland, Assistant County Manager, San Mateo County

The process of creating the CAPP is long, complicated, and expensive. We expect to have a plan completed by February 2013, and will then seek approval and adoption of it from the California Department of Fish and Game, which will make the priority acquisitions within the CAPP eligible for state grant funds.

Throughout the planning process we have been reminded again and again what incredible resources lay at our back doorsteps. The approximately 224,000-acre planning area spanning Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties represents the largest area of unfragmented habitat within the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion and is uniquely positioned to become the largest contiguous protected refuge for nature in the San Francisco Bay Area. Within this area, 62,000 acres have never been fragmented

by roads or development and are virtually pristine wilderness. There are almost 9,000 acres of old-growth redwood and Douglas fir forests that provide essential habitat for the federally endangered marbled murrelet, and the area is home to 184 rare, threatened or endangered species, some of which are found no where else on earth. The CAPP area also contains 179 known Native American archaeological sites, nearly 67,000 acres of parkland available for public recreation, 28 campgrounds, and an extensive network of trails including the Bay Area Ridge Trail, California Coastal Trail, and the Skyline to the Sea Trail.

Despite the fact that humans have impacted this area for thousands of years, the Santa Cruz Mountains are still magnificent ... and we plan to keep them that way. 🌲



CAPP Steering Committee

Steve Abbors, Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
Chet Bardo, California Department of
Parks and Recreation
Trish Chapman, California Coastal Conservancy
Casey Cleve, Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
Rick Cooper, Bureau of Land Management
Terry Corwin, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Mike Higgins, Central Coast Regional
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Dave Holland, County of San Mateo
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Fish and Game
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Karen Kidwell, Bay Area Open Space Council
Marc Landgraf, Peninsula Open Space Trust
Kick Lenington, Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
Emily Limm, Save the Redwoods League
Val Lopez, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of
Ohlone/Costanoan Indians
Paul Michel, Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary
Jessica Neff, Save the Redwoods League
Ana Ruiz, Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District
Brian Shelton, California Department of
Fish and Game
Chuck Striplen, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of
Ohlone/Costanoan Indians;
San Francisco Estuary Institute
Nick Wyckoff, Sempervirens Fund



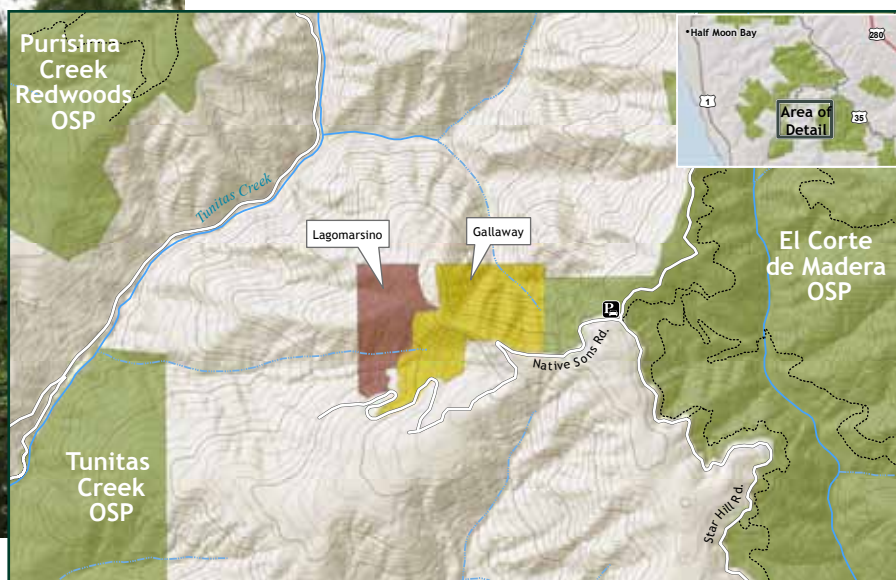
New Collaboration with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Saves Old-Growth Redwoods and Expands Park

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (the District) comprises more than 60,000 acres of open space lands, including magnificent ridgetops with spectacular views, cool redwood forests, rolling foothills, and baylands. This past summer, the District’s preserve system grew by 89 acres.

For the past few years, Sempervirens Fund has been working with the District to protect two forest properties — Lagomarsino and Gallaway — and create public access to them. In 2010 Sempervirens purchased the Lagomarsino property to protect its redwood forests from an approved timber harvest plan, and in June 2012 we transferred this 31-acre property to the District. The Lagomarsino property includes a breathtaking old-growth grove that includes some of the tallest redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains and 60 trees with diameters over 72 inches.

In August 2012, the District purchased the 58-acre Gallaway property, located between the El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve and the Lagomarsino property. Acquisition of the Gallaway property links Lagomarsino to El Corte de Madera and advances the District’s long-term goal of eventually creating a link between El Corte de Madera and the nearby Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve. The District’s purchase of the Gallaway property also allows for the eventual extension of trails within El Corte de Madera, across Gallaway, and into the Lagomarsino property, thus providing public access to Lagomarsino’s old-growth grove.

The District’s purchase of the Gallaway Property was supported by a \$375,000 grant provided by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through the Living Landscape Initiative Challenge Grant Program of Resources Legacy Fund (RLF). RLF also provided \$50,000 to support the District’s initial stewardship activities on both properties. Gary Knoblock, Program Officer for Land Conservation within the San Francisco Bay Area Portfolio at the Moore Foundation says, “These acquisitions are precisely what the Living Landscape Initiative is all about — protecting natural resources and connecting landscapes in the heart of coastal California.” We couldn’t agree more. 🌲





CEMEX © William Matthias

UPDATE:

CEMEX Redwoods

In December 2011, we celebrated with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) the purchase and protection of the 8,532 CEMEX Redwoods property. Since then we have been very busy with our partners — POST, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and Save the Redwoods League — stewarding the property, learning more about the natural resources on it, and planning for its future.

Sempervirens Fund and POST are actively stewarding the land. This includes regular patrols to reduce illegal entry and use, road maintenance, fuels management, creek crossing repairs, and the removal of invasive species.

Together with our partners, we held two community meetings in Boony Doon and Davenport to hear the public's concerns and hopes for the future of the CEMEX Redwoods. The greatest issues raised at the meeting were how (and when) the public would be invited to access and use the property. Many attendees of the meeting also suggested that we change the property's name. (Agreed!)

In order better understand and protect the properties tremendous resources, and to determine best approaches for granting public access, we have also been working with our partners to prepare a

conservation plan for the property. To create this plan, we analyzed the property's conservation values, including old-growth redwoods, wildlife habitat, water resources, and resiliency to climate change and identified the most sensitive habitat areas on the property.

The next major step for the CEMEX Redwoods is for the partners to prepare a conservation easement that will remove the threat of development and ensure the permanent protection of old-growth redwoods and other sensitive, unique, and endangered species on the property. We are working on this now.

In the meantime, several scientific studies are underway, including the Bay Area Puma Project (to study the puma population), creek and stream monitoring (to assess the health and habitat of Coho salmon, Southern steelhead, California red-legged frogs, and other aquatic species), and an analysis of tree ring patterns by the San Francisco Estuary Institute to help understand how Native Americans used fires as part of their landscape management practices.

For more information about what else is happening, please contact Aaron Hébert, Land Stewardship Manager, at ahebert@sempervirens.org or (650) 949-1453. 🌲

A Visit to Castle Rock

Part of Sempervirens Fund’s mission is to encourage people to appreciate and enjoy the magnificent redwood forests and other natural resources of the Santa Cruz Mountains. One of the ways we do this is by organizing semi-annual outdoor education field trips for students from Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose. For our most recent field trip, we took a group of APH High School students and their teachers to Castle Rock State Park. Miles Standish, who served as Head Ranger at Castle Rock for 30 years, led the group on a vigorous and informative



hike — pointing out the variety of wildflowers and trees, explaining the wonders of the tafoni rock formations, and detailing the park’s incredible vistas. This was the first visit to Castle Rock for all of the students and one that we believe left a lasting impression. As we work to keep Castle Rock State Park open, we are hopeful that they will have the opportunity to visit and enjoy Castle Rock again and again. We are very grateful to the Robert C. and Janie Pace Rempel Family whose generous donation made this trip possible. 🌲

Tony Look Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Kevin Hoang is the 2012 winner of the Tony Look Memorial Scholarship — an annual \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a graduating senior from Andrew P. Hill High School in San Jose who has distinguished him or herself scholastically and who has a keen interest in the natural world. Kevin has spent his life in urban San Jose and, partly because of this, he has a deep appreciation for open spaces... and trees. In summer 2011 he traveled to Nicaragua where he, along with a group of other teenagers, developed and implemented a project to reforest a poor barren neighborhood in the city of Estelí. “There was nothing there to protect the people from the sun and the rain. It was really desolate. The trees will add so much.” We are very pleased to be able to support Kevin with this scholarship as he heads to the University of California at Davis to begin studies this fall. Thank you to the Robert C. and Janie Pace Rempel Family for their generous donation in support of this scholarship. 🌲



New Exploration Center Opens In Santa Cruz

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, which opened in July 2012, is located across the street from the Santa Cruz Wharf and expected to receive 200,000 visitors each year. It will feature interactive, interpretive exhibits and programs designed to teach visitors about the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary offshore, the issues affecting it, and what we all can do to ensure the continued health of this national treasure. Sempervirens Fund collaborated with the Exploration



© NOAA

Center to develop two watershed exhibits that highlight the relationships between the forest and the sea, and the rivers that connect them. Admission is free! To learn more visit www.montereybay.noaa.gov. 🌲

Banana Slugs © Kevin Osborn



New Faces on the Staff

We are pleased to introduce Anne Dimock our new Director of Development who joined Sempervirens Fund in July 2012. Anne previously worked for Habitat for Humanity in Kaua'i. 🌲



Welcome Diane Talbert as Board President!

Diane Talbert has been a member of Sempervirens Fund's Board since 2007 and served as vice president for the past two years. She brings to the Board years of commercial real estate and fundraising experience and a deep passion for the redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains. "I am so thankful for those who had the foresight to protect these beautiful forests. I grew up on the Peninsula and though much of this area has changed dramatically since I was a child, the redwood forests have stayed pretty much the same. I am proud to be leading Sempervirens Fund as we continue to complete strategic conservation projects that will protect the forests for all of us today and for future generations." Diane is a resident of the town of Woodside, where she was named Woodside's Citizen of the Year in 2005. 🌲



PLANNED GIVING:

A Gift to the Redwoods, Close to Home

Jo Blue has been supporting Sempervirens Fund for a long time. She was with us in the 1970s when we conserved the core of Castle Rock State Park and she is still supporting us today as we continue our efforts to protect and steward redwood forests across the Santa Cruz Mountains.

“When I first moved to this area years ago I learned about Sempervirens Fund and thought it had a wonderful philosophy. I really like the idea of protecting nature close to home. And since I live in Menlo Park I made the choice to support Sempervirens Fund, in my small way.”

For over thirty years Jo has been a loyal donor to the organization and, looking ahead, she has also included a gift to Sempervirens Fund in her estate plans. “It’s not huge. But it’s what I can do to help ensure that others who live in this area are able to enjoy these forests long into the future.” We are very grateful to Jo for her generosity – past, present, and future.

If you would like to discuss a planned gift to Sempervirens Fund, please contact Anne Dimock, Director of Development, at (650) 949-1453 or adimock@sempervirens.org. To read about various planned giving options, please visit our website at www.sempervirens.org/planned-gifts or call Anne to receive a copy of our planned giving brochure. 🌲



“I really like the idea of protecting nature close to home.”



Help us make the Dean Witter Foundation Challenge Grant!

The Dean Witter Foundation has presented Sempervirens Fund and its donors with an exciting and generous challenge. If 25 donors increase their annual support to \$1,000, the Foundation will give us a \$25,000 grant. They understand the urgency of our land conservation efforts and the necessity of large gifts to make our efforts possible.

If you are interested in stepping up to this challenge, please use the enclosed remit envelope. Or call us at (650) 949-1453 to give a gift or find out more.

Tributes

Dedicated Redwood Trees and Legacy Grove gifts were established in honor or memory of the following people between April 3, 2012 and July 15, 2012:

Dedicated Redwoods

Ray N. Atkinson
Given by William N. Harris

Dr. Joe Fischer
Given by Robert and Jean Baer

Barbara G. Fuller
Given by Friends and Family

Kayla Harder
Given by Thomas and Carolyn Harder

The Harder Family
Given by Thomas and Carolyn Harder

Elizabeth Hines Holzer
Given by Joan A. Holzer and Minerva Muñoz

Justine
Given by Cheyne Howell

Sally S. Kittross
Given by John Kittross

Leonard Lockert
Given by Andrew Lockert

Ronald I. Lyons
Given by Edward Zwieback and Mona Panitz

Dale McLellan
Given by William N. Harris

David Ambia Molina
Given by Michael Chin

Margaret "Peg" Riopel
Given by Friends and Family

Patricia and David Samuelson
Given by Olivia Orr

Sheldon Dexter (Zeke) Sicotte
Given by Robert and Jean Baer

Sophia Isabella Smith
Given by Murphy and Carol Sabatino

Odine Wiens
Given by Susan Baker

Legacy Grove

Emily Benatar
Given by Callie Elliston

Charles Girsky
Given by Amir and Tami Raubvogel

Ann Fitzpatrick Klein
Given by Mary Spiesman

Blaine Kranz
Given by Frances Malamud-Roam

Edward Leahy
Given by Lee Besse

Ella Lepold
Given by Micki Miller

Janet A. Macdonald Reiter
Given by Alexis Raleigh

FRANK DELFINO:

A Special Place

Frank Delfino and his family have a special place in the redwoods.

"It all began when my wife Janice passed away. She had a real connection to the redwoods — an historical connection actually. Her ancestor, a member of the Portola Exhibition in 1769, was among the first Europeans to see the redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains. And so I decided that it would be nice to dedicate a redwood tree to her. Then we added my name to the tree next to Janice's, and eventually I dedicated a tree to each of my kids and one to my sister right in that same area. And our family cat, who was very beloved by my wife, also has a tree — a small one. Now we are together in the redwoods."



Frank Delfino and his sons visit their family trees a couple of times each year: "It is really nice to be able to go to our special place to remember and honor our family."

Through Sempervirens Fund's Tribute Program you can honor someone you



Frank setting a stake at one of his trees in Big Basin.

love or mark an important occasion by dedicating a single redwood or a grove of redwoods while supporting our efforts to protect and care for the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. We have a special arrangement with California State Parks that allows our donors to make a gift to Sempervirens Fund and create a personalized tribute in the forests of Big Basin Redwoods, Butano, Castle Rock, or Portola Redwoods State Parks.

If you would like to discuss dedicating a tree or redwood grove, please contact us at (650) 949-1453 or redwoods@sempervirens.org. To read more about our tribute gift options, please visit our website at www.sempervirens.org/tribute or call us to receive a copy of our tribute brochure. 🌲



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Girl Scouts Dedication

Join us as we celebrate with the Girl Scouts of Northern California the protection of 412 acres of coast redwood forest and two popular Girl Scout Camps in the Santa Cruz Mountains!

October 27, 2012 at Camp Butano Creek.
Visit www.sempervirens.org/news for details.



© Girl Scouts of Northern California

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Sempervirens Fund

419 South San Antonio Road, Ste. 211
Los Altos, CA 94022-3640
Tel: (650) 949-1453
Fax: (650) 949-1483
redwoods@sempervirens.org
www.sempervirens.org

Margie Ryan, Copywriting
Dan DiVittorio, Design

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Barbara M. Woodbury, Chief Financial Officer
Anne Dimock, Director of Development
Linda Yule, Forest Programs Manager
Scott Nichols, Annual Giving and Communications Manager
Laura McLendon, Project Manager
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