

Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND

SPRING 2015

JOIN THE MONUMENT MOVEMENT



SANTA CRUZ
REDWOODS
NATIONAL MONUMENT





Preserving redwood forests
since 1900

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reed Holderman

DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shelley Ratay

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Patrick Gibbons

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Anne Dimock

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Keeley, President
Jacqueline B. Wender, Vice President
Richard L. Conniff, Treasurer
Betsy Herbert, Ph.D., Secretary
Howard Chao
Philippe S. Cohen, Ph.D.
Kevin Flynn
William N. Harris
Robert L. Katz
Dan Martin
Amanda Montez
Craig Neyman
Marina Park
Kent Putnam
Austin Swift
Diane Talbert
Emily F. Thurber
Stephen N. Wyckoff, J.D.

SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL

Betsy Herbert, Ph.D., Chair
Anthony R. Ambrose, Ph.D.
Philippe S. Cohen, Ph.D.
Robert Curry, Ph.D.
Wallace "J" Nichols, Ph.D.
Will Russell, Ph.D.
Steve Singer, M.S.
Jerry Smith, Ph.D.

FOUNDING DIRECTORS

Andrew P. Hill
George C. Collins
Howard J. King
Claude A. "Tony" Look
Dorothy Varian

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sempervirens Strong!

Thanks to you, our loyal and enthusiastic donors and friends, Sempervirens Fund is better than ever. We have a grand strategy to re-establish the redwood forest — The Great Park — based on the best available science, we are underway on a series of innovative and exciting initiatives, and we have a phenomenal staff and Board to make it all happen.

In the coming pages we are thrilled to share with you the latest on our efforts to bring national recognition and enhanced protection to our beloved local redwood forests through a campaign to establish the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument. Take a moment to add your name to the campaign and recruit a friend too!

Behind the scenes, we have been working on another plan to make Sempervirens Fund better and stronger. After serving as our Deputy Director for the last 12 months, Shelley Ratay has been appointed by our Board of Directors to become the next Executive Director effective April 1. Yes, after 36 years conserving land in California, I am passing the baton to the next generation of leaders like it has happened many times before during our 115-year history. Shelley is our future — young, super smart, a Stanford MBA, and most important, a genuinely delightful person. Years ago, Shelley and I worked together at The Trust for Public Land. I knew then that Shelley was a rising star who would one day lead and grow an organization like Sempervirens Fund and leave a deep and lasting impact on the world. That day, my friends, is now.

In my six years at Sempervirens Fund we have done a lot of wonderful things together and had fun doing them. I will always remember these times with great fondness and pride, and I'm thankful that I can continue to be involved as a project consultant. The redwoods are very special and the work we do is extremely important to me, to our community, and to people around the globe. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to lead this prestigious organization. It has been a real pleasure and honor. See you in the redwoods!



Thank you,

Reed Holderman
Executive Director



SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Monument Vision

As loyal supporters, you already know that our local redwood forests are national treasures. Now we have a wonderful opportunity to make sure that these redwoods get the national attention and protection they deserve.

Sempervirens Fund is leading a campaign to establish a new Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument on the 5,800-acre Coast Dairies property. Located in the town of Davenport, just north of Santa Cruz, the property merits national recognition because of its significant cultural and natural resources — redwoods forests, stunning coastal views and connectivity to over 12,000 acres of adjoining protected lands, including the San Vicente Redwoods property and Swanton Pacific Ranch.

“Securing this monument designation will increase protection for the property, raise awareness

about the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains and bring in more funding to care for the land and provide public access,” says Reed Holderman, Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund.

Coast Dairies plays an important role in the creation of the Great Park. Donated by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2014, the property shares part of its eastern border with the 8,500-acre San Vicente Redwoods, co-owned by Sempervirens Fund and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). To the north lies Cal Poly San Luis Obispo’s 3,200-acre Swanton Pacific Ranch, and the adjacent property on the coast-side of Highway 1 is owned and operated by California State Parks. The proposed monument creates a perfect opportunity for stewardship coordination between the community, the federal government and State Parks.



Sempervirens Fund and a local Citizens Campaign Committee are guiding the campaign, with support from our Living Landscape Initiative (LLI) partners. Major funding for LLI and the campaign is provided by the Bay Area Conservation Initiative of Resources Legacy Fund, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Conservation Lands Foundation. Numerous local businesses and organizations are also signing on as sponsors.

Throughout the year the campaign will hold gatherings and community-wide meetings to explore the national monument process, explain the benefits, gather input and ideas from local citizens, and collect signatures of support. The Campaign Kick-off event in February at the Kaiser Permanente Arena in Santa Cruz was a great success, with 1,500 people in attendance. The event featured remarks from former Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, a declaration of support from Governor Jerry Brown's office and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo's announcement of legislation in support of the monument designation.

"The prospect of gaining national monument status here in Santa Cruz for the beautiful and unique property known as Coast Dairies is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It is a win for the environment and it is a win for the public. I urge the community to learn more and support this proposal wholeheartedly," said Babbitt.

To help ensure effective stewardship of the land, Sempervirens Fund will help establish a local "Friends" group upon successful monument designation. This group will work in partnership with the BLM to provide on-site education, stewardship, advocacy, fundraising and communications to further the goals of the monument.

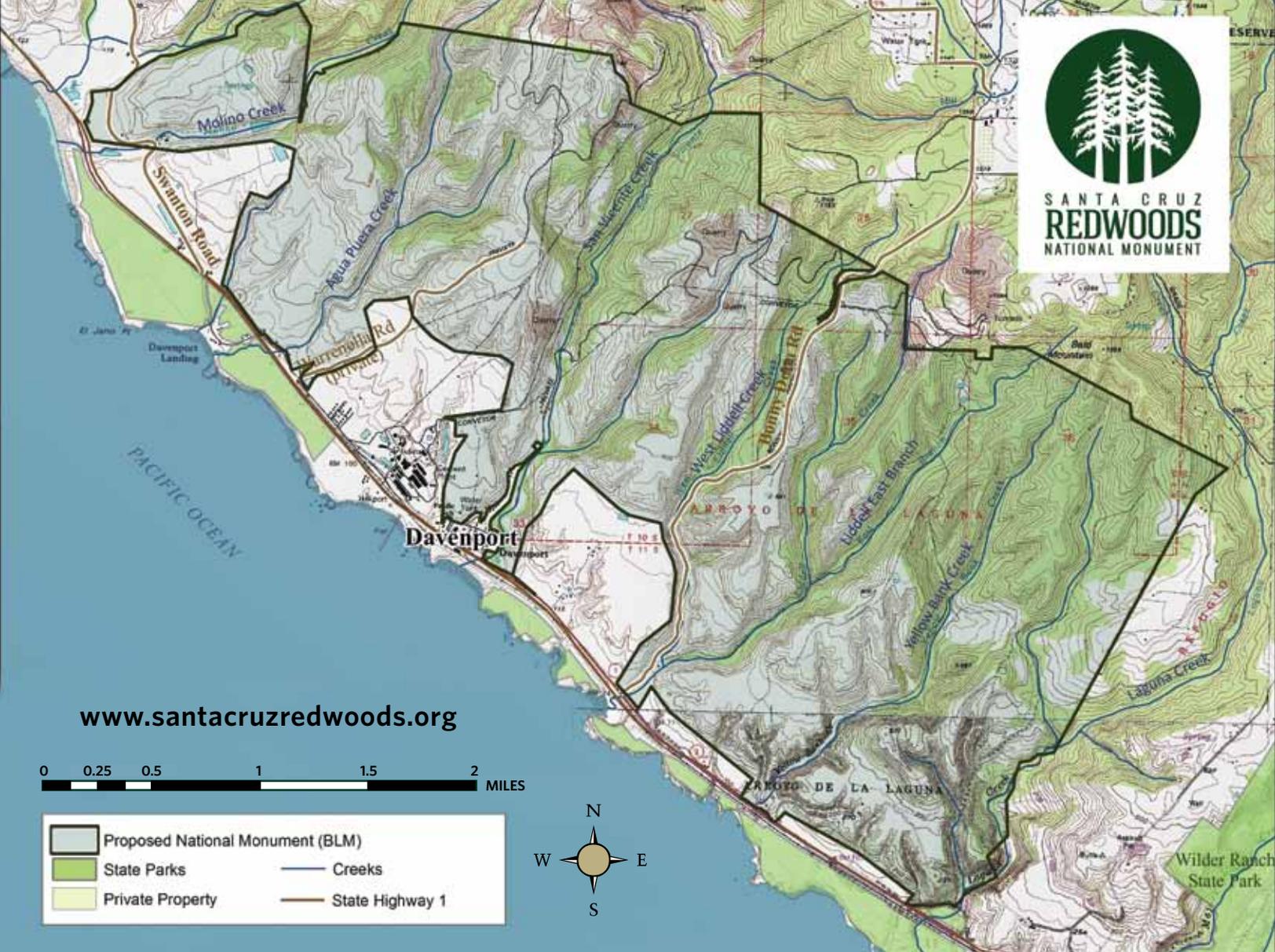
What is a National Monument or National Conservation Area?

National Conservation Lands are the nation's newest network of protected lands and stand alongside the National Parks, National Forests and National Wildlife Refuges. The country's National Conservation Lands include 28 million acres of land and waterways mostly around the Western United States such as National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Historic Trails and other special designated places.

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are permanent designations for public land that can be established either by Congress, or in the case of National Monuments, directly by the President via the Antiquities Act of 1906. First used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, sixteen U.S. presidents of both parties have used the Antiquities Act to better protect America's public lands and waters. Many iconic sites — including the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Muir Woods and Giant Sequoia National Monument — were first protected by presidents using the Antiquities Act.

National monument designation highlights an area's unique natural, historic and cultural heritage and provides protections from future oil and gas leasing claims, commercial development, and over-use. National monuments can be managed by one of several federal agencies: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Bureau of Land Management. The federal agency that manages the national monument develops a resource management and public access plan with local input.

Before TPL donated the Coast Dairies property to the BLM, TPL prepared a management plan, including an extensive environmental survey. If the land is designated a national monument, the existing management plan will become the basis for the BLM to develop a final management plan in collaboration with the public and other local agencies.



Providing Better Protection through National Monument Designation

When accepting the Coast Dairies property from TPL, the BLM adopted the strong protections in the property deed, including that the property must remain open space and that off-road vehicles are prohibited. The Santa Cruz County development restrictions and conservation overlays strengthen this further. And as TPL retained mineral and water rights on the property, oil and gas exploration activities are also prohibited. However, the only way to bring absolute protection of the property’s resources and to ensure that it is permanently accessible to the public is via National Monument or National Conservation Area designation — providing protections that cannot be changed by future administrations or Congressional action.

Take Action! Lend Your Name in Support

The campaign must generate widespread public

support to convince President Obama or Congress to designate the Coast Dairies property as a national monument. Other monument campaigns across the country are vying for federal attention. We need to show our government that Santa Cruz and the greater Bay Area wants to save our local redwood forests, wildlife habitat, clean waters and recreation opportunities.

Please sign and mail in the enclosed postcard to add your name to the list of supporters. Or sign up online at bit.ly/redwoodspledge and pass the postcard along to a friend or family member. Kids are encouraged to sign the pledge of support too, as the monument will belong to them and future generations. Find additional information on the campaign website, www.santacruzredwoods.org.

Together we can make the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument a reality for us today and for future generations to enjoy! 🌲

Design Students Get Creative to Help the Redwoods



“It was a great learning experience to get to work on a school project that’s being put to use for an important cause.”

– Duc Le, graphic design student
from San Jose

The Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign was in need of a logo, and fast. We couldn’t launch the campaign without one so we reached out to graphic design instructor Gokce Kasikci at The Art Institute of California – Silicon Valley in Sunnyvale for a win-win opportunity. Sempervirens Fund had previously collaborated with one of Kasikci’s classes to create an eye-catching banner wrap for our truck. This time her Design Team class took on the challenge of developing a logo and collateral materials (tri-fold brochure, letterhead, etc.) from concept to completion. The students presented multiple rounds of designs to our staff, just as if they were an agency presenting to a client. The class even went on a field trip into the redwoods to gain understanding and inspiration for their designs. We are grateful to the class for their wonderful work! 🌲

Linda Yule - An Appreciation

Linda Yule, who worked for Sempervirens Fund for 26 years managing our dedicated trees and groves program, recently retired. Linda was the face of Sempervirens Fund for supporters who dedicated a tree or grove in memory or in honor of a loved one. She was an important part of Sempervirens Fund and worked tirelessly on behalf of the redwood forests and all who loved them. Many supporters will recall her tender care and sincerity as they worked with her on tree and grove dedications.

By proclamation of the Sempervirens Fund Board of Directors, Saturday, April 11, 2015, will be Linda Yule Day in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The Board has also given Linda Yule the organization’s highest honor by placing her name on the Tree of Honor. And as befits Linda who helped so many with their dedications, we will pay tribute to her with a special tree dedicated in her honor.

If you are in the area on April 11, 2015, please stop by the Sempervirens Room at Big Basin Headquarters between 11am and 4pm. We will gather notes and cards to send to Linda, affix her plaque to the Tree of Honor, and plant the stake at her dedicated tree. 🌲



Trail Blazers

We need trails so we can enjoy the wonders of the forests, but it can be easy to take them for granted. It's usually not until a downed tree blocks our way or eroded paths threaten our footing that we remember the importance of well-maintained trails. Unfortunately there are no magical forest elves who remove the branches and fix the erosion. It takes hard-working park staff and dedicated volunteers countless hours and ongoing vigilance to keep our trails open and safe.

Sempervirens Fund has a long history of involvement with trail creation and maintenance. In 1969, our director Tony Look worked with California State Parks and Scout Leader Bob Kirsch to found the Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association (SCMTA), making it possible for us to build the world-class Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail that same year. Three volunteer trail crews formed under SCMTA to maintain a vast network of trails throughout Castle Rock and Big Basin Redwoods State Parks. Sempervirens Fund helps these hard-working crews by replacing worn out tools.

The **Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail Crew** maintains 16 miles of trail extending from Castle Rock along Highway 236 and into Big Basin. Trail crew leader Al Lisin has been volunteering since 1991. Al and his crew logged 680 volunteer hours this past year. "It's good exercise. I get out in the fresh air, and it's a nice change of pace," says Al. "Most gratifying is cleaning up debris after a big windstorm. There's great satisfaction in opening the trail up." Working in tandem with Al, volunteer Kevin McDevitt leads the **Castle Rock Trail Crew**, which cares for all trails in the park other than Skyline-to-the-Sea.

cont'd on page 8

As Sempervirens Fund prepares to create a new entrance for our beloved Castle Rock State Park, we'll keep you apprised of exciting opportunities to help build new trail connections into the park. Stay tuned!



© Al Lisin

Volunteers hard at work keeping the STS Trail clear.

Tips for Reporting Trail Issues

Help keep trails safe by following these tips that allow trail crews to prioritize issues and know what tools and how much time is needed to clear a trail:

- 1. Severity of Obstruction** - Note the extent to which the trail is impacted by the obstruction. Is it easy to walk around? Impassable? Dangerous?
- 2. Material and Size** - Report whether the trail issue is a downed tree, washout, rockslide or other obstruction. If a downed tree is on the trail, make sure to note the tree type and diameter.
- 3. Location** - Identify the trail name and the nearest landmark on the trail (distance from a trailhead, trail junction, bridge, etc.). If possible, note the GPS coordinates.
- 4. Pictures** - Take photos of the obstruction in context of the trail to provide a much clearer idea of the issue. Including a reference object such as a water bottle, hat or pack is a great way to show scale.

Report trail issues to a ranger on duty, leave a note at the nearest park kiosk or call the park as soon as you get home. The trails and your fellow hikers thank you!

Thanks to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation for providing information for these tips.

“The trails make it possible to see the glories of the parks. Without trails, you wouldn’t know where to go or have a practical way to get there.”

— Stuart Langdoc, Vice President, Portola and Castle Rock Foundation.
Stuart receives trail patrol reports from volunteers and feeds any maintenance issues to the SCMTA trail crews.



Two young trailblazers enjoying Castle Rock.

Deeper into the redwoods, the **Big Basin Volunteer Trail Crew** also operates under the SCMTA umbrella, maintaining more than 80 miles of trails throughout the park with support from the Mountain Parks Foundation. Last year 33 people devoted 852 hours of work — a real labor of love. And they are always looking for more volunteers. Crew leader Jeff Bleam says that along with the thrill of opening trails “what I like is seeing parts of the park that most people don’t see, like Chalk Mountain.”

Ready to lend a hand to these crews? Regular workdays take place each month. Visit our web page at www.sempervirens.org/volunteer to find schedules and other volunteer opportunities within the Great Park. 🌲

The Great Park Success within Reach!

Sempervirens Fund’s Great Park Campaign is heading toward success. While there is much left to do, there has been steady progress toward our \$22 million goal. The response from our supporters has been terrific. You heard our message of re-connecting our local redwood forest ecosystem to re-grow a towering redwood forest for generations to come.

Our vision resonates well with our supporters. As of this writing, we have raised over \$19 million toward our \$22 million goal!

Hundreds of new donors have joined our work. Many of our steady, loyal donors made extra gifts or increased the size of their annual donations. Sempervirens Fund has always been about what many people can do together. We see this in our Great Park Campaign too. During the recent year-end fundraising season, we celebrated the stacks of mail containing donations of all sizes. Online



© Brian Steen

contributions are on the rise too. The feeling is infectious and we hope you can feel the excitement as resources grow to make our Great Park vision a reality.

There is still a lot of work ahead but we are heartened by how much we have already achieved. Our most profound thanks goes out to all of you who have stepped up and made special Great Park Campaign contributions. Onward!

Not familiar with the Great Park Campaign yet? Learn more online: bit.ly/GreatParkCampaign 🌲

“Team Redwoods” Adds New Players

Sempervirens Fund has added Amanda Montez and Austin Swift to the Board of Directors, a move that, in the words of Board President Fred Keeley, represents “yet another step into the 21st century for an organization that dates back to 1900. These two are part of that generation of young folks who are attached to the outdoors, care about their community, and want to take specific, measurable action to enhance redwood forests.”

Based in San Jose, **Amanda Montez** specializes in communications at Destination: Home. She serves on the board of the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters, participates in Stanford’s Latino Leadership Alliance, and was selected by San Jose’s Mayor as citywide representative to the Housing and Community

Development Commission. Amanda previously worked at the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. She holds an MA in Political Management and a BA in Political Communications from George Washington University.



Amanda’s favorite place to unwind: Castle Rock State Park’s observation deck at Castle Rock Falls

Austin Swift is a Google channels specialist tasked with recruiting top talent to the company. Austin has strong ties to the Santa Cruz Mountains and is passionate about helping others discover a love of the outdoors. A Santa Cruz native, Austin led Santa Cruz High School to the state basketball championships and went on to play basketball professionally in Europe. He studied business at Cal Poly-Pomona and graduated from the UCLA Anderson School of Business Riordan Fellows Program.



Austin’s Great Park favorite: Big Basin, where he hiked and camped as a child

Research scientist **Dr. Anthony Ambrose** has studied the redwood forest for more than 15 years, making him an ideal addition to our Science Advisory Panel. Anthony holds a Ph.D. in Tree Ecophysiology from UC Berkeley and degrees in Natural Resources Planning and Forestry from Humboldt State

University. He has worked as a forest and GIS technician and as a firefighter and national forest monitor. As a principal investigator of the Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative, Anthony conducts multi-year research aimed at understanding the effects of environmental change on coast redwoods.



Anthony’s Great Park favorite: Redwood Grove Loop Trail in Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Mike Kahn, our Communications and Outreach Manager, joined us from KQED, where he produced social media for QUEST and supervised projects for KQED Presents. He previously worked for EcoIQ and ran a multimedia business, serving clients such as Greenbelt

Alliance, Sustainable Silicon Valley and Committee for Green Foothills. A Bay Area native, Mike is an avid hiker and nature photographer. Like us on Facebook so you can enjoy Sempervirens Fund news and musings year round, courtesy of Mike. 🌲



Mike’s Great Park favorite: Big Basin’s Berry Creek Falls Trail

Tree Plantings & Land Restoration in The Great Park

Sempervirens Fund supports and carries out many land restoration projects with the goal of restoring degraded ecosystems to healthy native forests across the Santa Cruz Mountains. We plant native trees like redwood and Douglas fir on damaged land to improve watersheds, provide habitat for wildlife, stabilize soils and control invasive weeds. We recently completed three projects that will have lasting benefits to our local forest ecosystems.

Redwood Seedling Planting at San Vicente Redwoods

One hundred and sixty coast redwood seedlings recently found a new home along San Vicente and Mill Creeks as part of a UC Santa Cruz restoration internship funded by Sempervirens Fund and Peninsula Open Space Trust, co-owners of the San Vicente Redwoods. Intern Jenny Rieke, another student volunteer, and property manager and forester Nadia Hamey planted seedlings grown from local seed stock at UCSC's Greenhouses. Once the seedlings mature into towering adults, the redwoods will out-compete the invasive weedy vines that currently dominate the riparian area, making long-term control of invasive species easier. In the future the trees will also contribute woody debris to the creeks, enhancing aquatic habitat for anadromous salmonids (fish that live in the ocean and freshwater), including steelhead trout and coho salmon.



© California State Parks



© Nadia Hamey

Portola Redwoods State Park Restoration and Tree Planting

Last year, Portola Redwoods State Park staff came across a half acre of forest that was severely damaged by trespassers. Rather than leave the area full of trash and overrun by newly established invasive Italian thistle, State Parks restored the site thanks to a grant from Sempervirens Fund. In just one big day of work this winter, a crew of State Park staff cleaned up the trash, removed the invasives and restored it with native plants and Douglas fir trees grown from local seeds.

Lompico Stream Improvement and Revegetation Project

The Lompico Creek riparian forest area just got some much needed care through a stream improvement project at Sempervirens Fund's Lompico Headwaters property in Felton. The project was done in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District, which oversaw all aspects of the project, including design and construction by Waterways Consulting and permitting from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. The tributary was reshaped, stabilized with rock and revegetated along its banks with coast redwood, bigleaf maple, tan oak, western sword and chain ferns, common horsetail, thimbleberry, and snowberry. The project decreases the volume of sediment in the creek while enhancing the health of the local forest ecosystem. 🌲

Discover Sempervirens Falls at Big Basin Redwoods State Park

On one of my first visits to Big Basin Redwoods State Park I went to Sempervirens Falls. The 20-foot waterfall was gently flowing over the stone wall surrounded by moss-covered tan oaks, Douglas firs and coast redwoods. I stopped and listened to the quiet sound of the water, reflecting on this hidden gem.

This spring you will find Sempervirens Falls flowing with the water from the winter rains collected in Sempervirens Creek. While you are there be sure to take a minute to look at the rock face to see the five-finger ferns (*Adiantum aleuticum*) that cover it. And keep your ears open for the chirping of dark-eyed juncos under the huckleberry bushes.

The five-finger ferns are an interesting fern found in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They grow in a finger-like pattern with five stems growing out from a base stem. You will see them only in very moist areas, usually near creeks.

Dark-eyed juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) are a common bird spotted in flocks in Big Basin year round. You will most often see them hopping, scratching and chirping in the undergrowth of the forest. They are a medium-sized dark-brown and gray bird with a dark cap. Besides the dark cap, another good field mark would be the white feathers that you will see in their tail as they fly away from you.



© Scott Peeden



Getting to Sempervirens Falls is just a short 1.7-mile hike on the Sequoia Trail where you can enjoy many large coast redwoods towering above. Cross over Sky Meadow Road and walk about 30 steps down to the viewing platform. Or you can get to the falls by biking or driving on Sky Meadow Road, parking in the spot just after the falls.

Whichever way you travel to the falls, be sure to bring a picnic and take some time to view the nearby Slippery Rock and the Founders Monument that declares Big Basin Redwoods as the first State Park.

If you can't make it to the falls you can view my video on our YouTube channel by typing in this link: bit.ly/SempervirensFalls

Stop and say hello if you see me in the forest.

Amanda Krauss

Amanda Krauss
Tribute Program Manager

© Amanda Krauss





NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 90
SANTA CLARA, CA

419 South San Antonio Road, Ste. 211
Los Altos, CA 94022-3640

Forwarding Service Requested



Save the Date

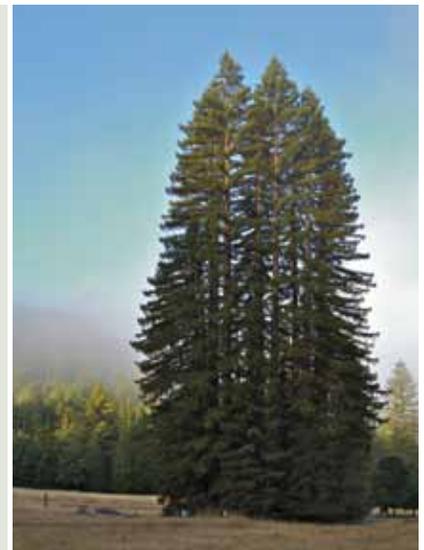
Sempervirens Fund Annual Picnic

Saturday, May 16, 2015, 11am – 3pm, at Little Basin

Join us to celebrate the 115th Anniversary of Sempervirens Fund in one of the parks your generosity helped protect! There will be a BBQ lunch, live music, hikes, youth activities and more. Camping will be available.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for ticket and event details via postcard and email. We hope to see you there!

If you are interested in volunteering at this event, please contact Mike Kahn, Communications and Outreach Manager, at (650) 949-1453 or mkahn@sempervirens.org.



© Dan Quinn

Mountain Echo is published by:

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

Dan DiVittorio, Design

Contact Sempervirens Fund to republish or reference content. © 2015 Sempervirens Fund.

Staff

Reed Holderman, Executive Director
Shelley Ratay, Deputy Executive Director
Patrick Gibbons, Director of Finance
Anne Dimock, Director of Development
Michael Kawalek, Associate Director of Development
Laura McLendon, Stewardship Program Manager
Amanda Krauss, Tribute Program Manager
Mike Kahn, Communications and Outreach Manager
Ann Blanchard, Development Associate
Arielle Patton, Office Manager
Arlene Markakis, Administrative Assistant

Please remember to notify Sempervirens Fund when you change your address.

Sempervirens Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.