

# Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND

SPRING 2011



## A New Entrance for Castle Rock

Imagine yourself driving up Skyline Boulevard heading out for a day hike or a couple nights of camping in your local wilderness. It takes you an hour or two — maybe a bit more, maybe a bit less — and then soon enough you're entering the gates of Castle Rock State Park, the doorstep to the Great Park of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Sempervirens Fund has shared this vision for generations and now we are making it a reality.

In September 2010, with the support of two private donors, Sempervirens Fund purchased a key 33-acre parcel located along Skyline Boulevard and surrounded on three sides by Castle Rock State Park. Because it provides an ideal site for the creation of a new entrance to the state park, the property is the number one acquisition priority in the Castle Rock State Park General Plan.

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Preserving redwood forests  
since 1900

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# The Great Park

The Great Park idea has been around for a long time. Sempervirens' founders envisioned a "magnificent domain of redwood forests and running streams, the breathing place of millions of cramped and crowded denizens of the city, at our doorstep." They understood in 1900 what we know now: bigger natural areas work better than smaller isolated ones. Their goal was not just to create Big Basin Redwoods State Park, which they did, but to link all the redwood forest lands together to form one giant protected landscape called the Great Park.

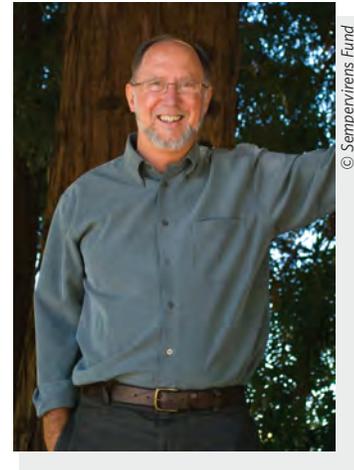
We are committed to fulfilling this vision and have made the Great Park our number one priority. Our goal is to knit together Big Basin, Castle Rock, Portola, and Butano State Parks and establish one of the largest and most significant natural areas on the West Coast, and perhaps in the western hemisphere, right here in our own backyard.

Assembling this 125,000-acre Great Park won't be easy, but we are off to a good start with 76,000 acres already protected. The rest will be purchased from willing sellers at fair market value so we can protect entire watersheds, allow for wildlife movement through a much larger landscape, maintain working forests, provide countless recreational opportunities, and, yes, preserve those amazing redwood forests.

But this will not be your traditional park. The Great Park will support a mosaic of uses, existing side by side, but sharing a common goal: preserving the natural look and character of the land as we know it today.

Even with a global recession, California continues to grow. In 30 years our population will increase from 38 to 60 million people and every community will feel the pressure to subdivide and develop open space. The landscape connectivity embedded in the Great Park will permanently conserve the open space lands at greatest risk of development, link the existing protected lands, enhance biodiversity and outdoor recreational opportunities, and make the entire bioregion more resilient to outside influences such as fire, drought and climate change.

Our founders knew that creation of the Great Park would take time. Most big ideas do. Now it's up to us finish what they started.



© Sempervirens Fund

Thank you!

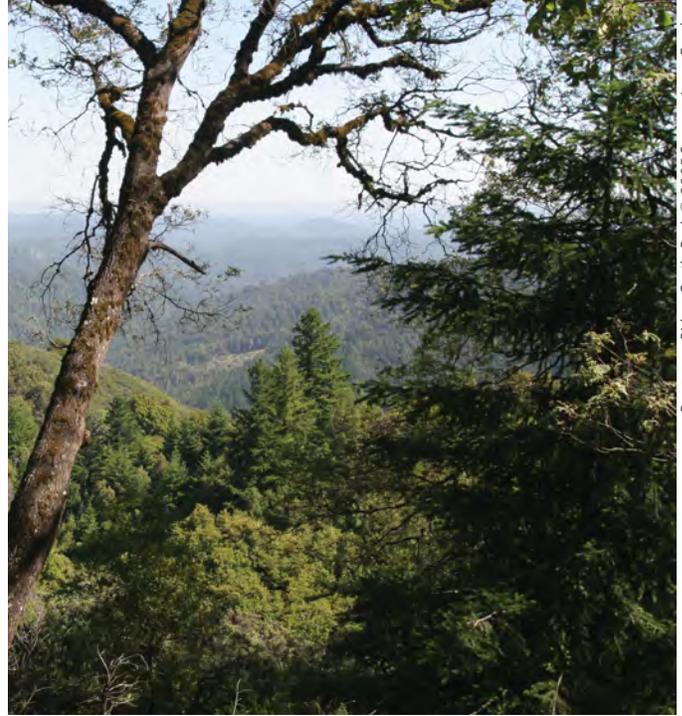
Reed Holderman  
Executive Director

# Castle Rock

(continued from cover)

Castle Rock State Park was established in 1968 but, without a formal entrance and with limited visitor amenities, it has remained unfinished. Despite this, Castle Rock is a hugely popular park, attracting 70,000 visits annually. Its varied altitude and topography are enjoyed by picnickers, bird-watchers, hikers, campers, rock-climbers, and those who simply want to enter the wilderness for a while. Our recent acquisition, Sempervirens Fund's 36th transaction in Castle Rock, is the first step toward the completion of this beloved state park.

Sempervirens Fund is very grateful to the estate of Ben and Helene Brenchley and to the Kirkwood Family whose gifts made this acquisition possible. Bob Kirkwood, spokesperson for the Kirkwood Family, which is donating \$1,500,000 toward the project, says his family has long sought to complete and enhance Castle Rock State Park. "My family had a pear farm on land which is now part of Castle Rock State Park. I spent many days of my childhood and youth on the land exploring the caves and climbing Castle, Goat, and Chimney Rocks. The Castle Rock landscape is truly remarkable and all kids should have access to it and the privilege of enjoying it as I did."



Panorama Ridge, Castle Rock © 2005 Sempervirens Fund

Over the next few years Sempervirens Fund will be planning, designing, and constructing the new Castle Rock State Park entrance. The entrance will provide safe and convenient access to the park and enhancements such as off-street parking, restrooms, campgrounds, and a visitor center. We look forward to keeping you informed along the way and to soon sharing with you the joy of finally completing Castle Rock. 🌲

## FROM THE ARCHIVE:

# The Creation of Castle Rock State Park

Russell Varian, an inventor and entrepreneur, grew up hiking in the area that is now Castle Rock State Park. He loved the Castle Rock wilderness, once saying, "without contact with wilderness, I would be a different person. Wilderness, for an adult, is a place of inspiration, for reverence and for quiet examination...a sanctuary into which to retire from an over-civilized world." Russell dreamed of creating a state park at Castle Rock so that all would be free to experience it as he did, and before his unexpected death in 1959 he laid the groundwork for protecting 27 acres there. His wife, Dorothy Varian, and a small group of conservationists subsequently acquired additional land, donating 513 acres to the state in 1968. Castle Rock State Park opened to the public that same year. This group renewed the charter of the original Sempervirens Club and became what is now known as Sempervirens Fund. A new era of redwood conservation had begun. 🌲



Dorothy Varian and friends, Castle Rock, 1960s.

# Lagomarsino:

## *Amazing Old-Growth Redwoods Protected*

In early 2010, Sempervirens Fund staff visited a 31-acre property located on Skyline Boulevard in Woodside between the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's El Corte de Madera and Purisima Creek Open Space Preserves. Once there we knew that we had arrived at a special place. The property is dense redwood forest land that includes over 60 old-growth redwoods — something truly remarkable for a property of this size.

We immediately began talking with the Open Space District about the property as it seems a natural addition to their network of open space preserves. Our time was limited since the landowners had recently filed for a timber harvest plan on the property. The plan was subsequently approved and included the logging of old-growth redwoods.



Reed Holderman at Lagomarsino © Sempervirens Fund

Thankfully, the landowners were willing to discuss with us a conservation purchase of the property instead of going forward with the planned logging. After months of negotiations we struck a deal, and in September 2010 purchased the property for just over \$1 million.

Jessie Shields, one of three sisters from whom Sempervirens Fund purchased the property said:

“This forest has been in our family for years and it is wonderful to know that it will be taken care of and protected for years to come. We have many childhood memories of running through this forest and we are gratified to know that many other children will enjoy the same experience that we did.”

Inspired by the work of Sempervirens Fund, Jessie Shields and her sisters, Mary Elizabeth Minton and Louanne Rose Lagomarsino, made a substantial charitable donation to support our continued efforts to protect the redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. We are very grateful for their gift.

Sempervirens Fund will steward this beautiful property until we can complete its transfer to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Thanks to these thoughtful landowners and the support of our generous donors, the old-growth redwoods that have grown in this forest for centuries will inspire awe and wonder for generations to come. 🌲

*“It is wonderful to know that it will be taken care of and protected for years to come.”*



## *In Memory of* **Mary Davey**

It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of Mary Davey, a longtime friend and advisor to Sempervirens Fund. She served as President of Sempervirens Fund's Board of Directors from 1993 through 1995 and as a member of our Advisory Board until her death in October 2010. Mary loved the outdoors and was a passionate advocate for the protection of the Bay Area's natural lands.



Photo Courtesy of MROSD

In the 1960s, she helped found the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, which has since created 24 public open space preserves. We are honored to have worked with Mary for so many years and to benefit from her legacy. 🌲



## **Southern California Event**

*Sempervirens Fund is supported by individuals from across California and the country. On October 6, 2010 we hosted an event at the Los Angeles River Center and Gardens to celebrate our Southern California donors. Many thanks to all who joined us and to Joseph T. Edmiston and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for the free use of their facilities.*

Little Basin © Sempervirens Fund



*Despite California's economic struggles, Sempervirens Fund and California State Parks continue to work together to protect the coast redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains and to provide new opportunities for the public to enjoy them.*

## **Two Properties Transferred!**

In December 2010, after more than 12 years of ownership, we transferred the beautiful 160-acre Island Forest property to the state as the newest addition to Portola Redwoods State Park. Island Forest provides for the seamless connection of trails from Portola Redwoods into the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. Because Island Forest is located adjacent to an existing state park, the state was able to take on this property without additional management costs.

This January, on the heels of Island Forest, we transferred the 535-acre Little Basin property to State Parks. We conveyed Little Basin with a concessionaire in place, who will operate and maintain the property's existing campground and extensive recreational facilities. And, together with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, we are establishing a \$1.3 million stewardship fund in order to ensure that the state has the resources to keep Little Basin well maintained. 🌲



## PLANNED GIVING: A Thoughtful Gift from an Old Friend

Isabel Sewell first started supporting Sempervirens Fund in 1969, during our campaign to expand the newly created Castle Rock State Park. She loved the Santa Cruz Mountains and often took her children there to explore among the redwoods.

Isabel was a generous donor to Sempervirens Fund during her lifetime and served on our Board of Directors. Upon her death in fall 2010 we learned that Isabel's support of our work was far from over. In her estate planning, Isabel had named Sempervirens Fund a partial beneficiary of three of her retirement accounts. This type of gift is distributed outside of probate and is entirely free of both federal estate and income tax. With her generous donation, Isabel created a personal legacy that will help Sempervirens Fund to protect redwood forests today and for future generations. We are deeply thankful to Isabel for her thoughtful gift.

To learn about planned giving options, including naming Sempervirens Fund in your retirement plan, please visit our website at [www.sempervirens.org/plannedgifts](http://www.sempervirens.org/plannedgifts) or call us to receive a copy of our planned giving brochure. If you would like to discuss a planned gift to Sempervirens Fund, contact Kerry Bresnahan, Director of Advancement, at [kbresnahan@sempervirens.org](mailto:kbresnahan@sempervirens.org) or (650) 949-1453. 🌲



*First Committee on Saving the Redwoods, Stanford University, May 1900 by Andrew P. Hill*

## STANFORD *and* SEMPERVIRENS

Sempervirens Fund has had strong ties to Stanford University since our very beginnings.

In May 1900, Stanford University's president David Starr Jordan worked with our founder Andrew P. Hill to convene a meeting of people who could help to protect the coast redwoods, which were then being logged at an alarming rate. At this meeting, William Dudley, a professor of biology at Stanford who had surveyed and mapped the Big Basin area, convinced the attendees that Big Basin was the ideal site for a public park. Soon thereafter, the "Sempervirens Club" was formed with the goal of lobbying for the creation of a park there. The state acquired the 3,800 acres that were to become the California Redwood Park (renamed Big Basin Redwoods State Park) in 1902.

Ten years later in 1912, Herbert C. Jones, a Stanford University alumnus and the son of one of the Sempervirens Club's eight charter members, Louise Jones, was elected to the State Senate. Jones, a lifelong member of the Sempervirens Club, carried on the work that his mother began and became one of California's great conservationists. As a senator, he was instrumental in securing appropriations for the creation of two roads into Big Basin to allow for easier public access and for the addition of 1,200 acres to the park.

Today, Sempervirens Fund's connections to Stanford University remain strong. Many of our volunteers and donors are Stanford alumni or staff, including Stanford University President emeritus Donald Kennedy, who serves on our Advisory Board, and Board Member Philippe Cohen, Administrative Director of Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve. 🌲

# Tributes

*Dedicated Redwood Trees and Legacy Grove gifts were established in honor or memory of the following people between July 27, 2010 and December 21, 2010:*

## **Dedicated Redwoods**

Pearl Abbott

*Given by Mark and Jocelynn Abbott*

Belz Family

*Given by Helene Belz*

Helene Fulton Belz and

John Francis Belz

*Given by Helene Belz*

Marc and Rita Bond

*Given by Marc and Rita Bond*

Richard Bowman

*Given by Friends and Family*

Gus Braunstein

*Given by Micki Miller and Kay and Mark Barchas*

CGCI Presidents from 2000-2010

*Given by California Garden Clubs, Inc.*

James C. Corey

*Given by Ralph and Starla Turner*

Hendre Falkson

*Given by Friends and Family*

Nancy Ferguson

*Given by Robert L. Katz*

Jim Foran

*Given by Jim Foran*

Robert Frazer

*Given by Friends & Family*

Ruth Goldhammer

*Given by Ruth Goldhammer*

Richard Goldman

*Given by Robert L. Katz*

Yoriko Isshiki

*Given by James and Erica Schleicher*

Bob Katz

*Given by Dick and Ellie Mansfield*

Starrett Kreissman

*Given by Susan Fuller*

Jim Laster

*Given by Dick and Ellie Mansfield*

Bill and Shirley Lausten

*Given by Sonia Cook*

Gregory E. Luna

*Given by Leanne Luna*

Larry L. Lundberg

*Given by Larry L. Lundberg*

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*Given by Robert and Jean Baer*

Emily Anne McDonald

*Given by J.A. Wunderlich*

George Moore

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Ray Ogburn

*Given by Robert L. Katz*

Tom Potterfield

*Given by Ellen Granucci*

George Ramsay

*Given by Robert and Jean Baer*

Dorothy Dot "Ann" Schafer

*Given by Stanley Barnes and Dick Schafer*

Sandra A. Seid - "Raven"

*Given by The Betty Lo Foundation*

Ralph Shabetai

*Given by Matthew and Marcia Allen*

Robert B. Suhr

*Given by Bonnie Weston*

Mark Thomas

*Given by Dick and Ellie Mansfield*

Kathleen Tolvanen

*Given by Jack Tolvanen*

George K. Ullman

*Given by Marc and Nadia Ullman*

Naomi Wirt

*Given by Friends and Family*

Woodmen of the World

*Given by Sheehy and Associates*

Zuckert Family 2010

*Given by Warren and Jane Zuckert and  
Judith Zuckert*

## **Legacy Grove Gifts**

Freda and Peter Balzer

*Given by Ruth Ocheltree*

Anthony L. Bright

*Given by Oretho Abello*

Cohiba

*Given by Gerry and Brenda Schwartz*

Marika Giselle Conniff

*Given by Richard and Sandi Conniff*

Robert Cowell

*Given by Juliette Cowell*

Beth Dawson

*Given by Beth Dawson*

Eugene and Ann Fanucchi

*Given by Dan Strazzullo*

Robert Frazer

*Given by Friends & Family*

The Garden Club of Los Altos

*Given by The Garden Club of Los Altos*

Elizabeth Hansot

*Given by Elizabeth Porteous*

Betty Jackson

*Given by Betty Jackson*

Christine Jobe

*Given by Christine Jobe*

James Kamicar

*Given by Jack and June Hedrich*

Elinor Keating

*Given by Matthew and Sharon Beauregard*

Arthur and Eleanor Kellond and

David H. Kellond

*Given by Tom and Jeri Kellond*

Ray & Frances Lindeleaf

*Given by Warren Lindeleaf*

Kathi Ludwig

*Given by Pamela Womack*

Eric Ohms

*Given by Lois Ohms*

Elizabeth B. Ross

*Given by Donald Ross*

Vera Salem

*Given by Louis Horvath*

Sandra Sue Schriener

*Given by Mary Schriener*

Latifeh Tahbazof

*Given by Soodi Zamani*

Charles Thompson

*Given by Charles Thompson*

Kevin Williams

*Given by Betty Dodd*

## **Two Challenges Met**

### **Thank you for your help!**

Many thanks to all of you who helped us to match recent grants from The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation (\$15,000) and The San Francisco Foundation (\$50,000). Both foundations requested that we match their grants dollar for dollar with gifts from our other donors, and with your help we've done it. Thanks to our generous donors we've received over \$60,000 in donations matching the Brenner Foundation grant and more than \$250,000 in donations matching the San Francisco Foundation grant — truly amazing. All of these gifts will help us to continue our efforts to protect and link together redwood forest lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



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## Plant a Tree Today!

Honor a loved one or celebrate a special occasion with a planted tree. For a donation of \$50 we will plant a tree in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and your gift will support our forest restoration work — helping redwood forests to thrive today and long into the future. Visit [www.sempervirens.org/tribute](http://www.sempervirens.org/tribute) or call us at (650) 949-1453 to plant a tree.

## Renew your support for 2011!

Sempervirens Fund depends on the annual support of our donors. We could not continue to protect our redwood forests without it. A giving envelope is enclosed for your convenience. You can also donate online at [www.sempervirens.org](http://www.sempervirens.org), or by calling us at (650) 949-1453. Thanks for your continued support!

## Charitable IRA Rollover Extended for 2011

Through 2011, individuals age 70½ or older can distribute up to \$100,000 tax-free directly from their traditional individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to charities. Take advantage of this limited-time opportunity and make a donation to Sempervirens Fund today!

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