

# Mountain Echo

THE NEWSLETTER OF SEMPERVIRENS FUND | SUMMER 2025



## Redwoods Forward

For 125 years, thanks to you, Sempervirens Fund has been a driving force in protecting the iconic redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Now, as the climate crisis and ongoing development threatens these iconic landscapes, we are launching our most ambitious plan yet: *Redwoods Forward: Resilience for the Next Century*, a strategic plan that charts a course through 2030 and beyond.

The plan acknowledges the urgent threats confronting redwoods today—from rising temperatures and severe droughts to increased wildfire risk and urban expansion. It builds on a legacy of conservation victories, including the protection of over 36,000 acres and the establishment of beloved parks like Big Basin.

Now, Sempervirens Fund aims to accelerate and scale its efforts through four strategic pillars:

**Protect, Restore, Connect, and Advance.**

**Protect** remains at the heart of our mission. We aim to safeguard over 7,000 acres of vulnerable forests by 2030, including 10% of the last remaining unprotected old-growth redwoods. These efforts focus on acquiring land, establishing easements, and permanently safeguarding properties critical to climate resilience and biodiversity.

**Restore** focuses on healing the land. With more than 3,000 acres targeted for restoration, Sempervirens Fund will lead efforts in fuel reduction, watershed renewal, and habitat enhancement. *Continued on page 3.*



# The Chronodiversity of Resilient Redwoods

Thanks to our dedicated supporters, Sempervirens Fund protects and restores the coast redwood forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains. One of our most powerful tools is fostering chronodiversity: the presence of trees of varying ages living together.

Chronodiverse forests reflect the rhythms of time. Old-growth redwoods tower over younger generations, providing structure, shade, and critical carbon storage. Younger trees, in turn, grow stronger under their shelter and continue the legacy of resilience. This diversity of age makes forests more adaptable to the challenges of climate change.

Redwoods are remarkable for their interconnectedness. Though their roots are shallow, they stretch wide and intertwine with others, providing mutual support during storms and floods. And old-growth redwoods serve as vital anchors in these ecosystems. Their massive size and longevity not only define the forest's structure but also play a crucial role in carbon sequestration, making them invaluable in combating climate change.

Your continued support enables us to implement restoration practices that promote chronodiversity, ensuring that redwood forests remain vibrant and resilient for generations to come. Learn about age diversity in redwood forests:

[sempervirens.org/chronodiversity](https://sempervirens.org/chronodiversity)



## Shop for Redwoods

Check out our limited-edition candle, logo-wear, and more:

[sempervirens.org/store](https://sempervirens.org/store)

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These restoration projects will serve as living laboratories guided by science, Indigenous knowledge, and climate-smart forest management.

The third pillar, **Connect**, deepens people's relationships with redwoods by supporting parks, education programs, and equitable access. This includes protecting over 500 acres of campgrounds and outdoor education areas, and working in partnership with local Indigenous communities to restore access to ancestral lands.

The fourth strategy, **Advance**, ensures the long-term momentum of strengthening public and political support for redwood conservation. Through targeted policy advocacy, Sempervirens Fund will work to secure more than \$10 billion in funding for conservation, forest management, park expansion, and climate resilience.

Underpinning all four strategies is a commitment to **innovation** and **partnerships**. Whether through

pioneering conservation models or collaborating with universities, landowners, Indigenous leaders, and Silicon Valley changemakers, Sempervirens Fund is harnessing the power of collaboration to ensure long-term impact.

*Redwoods Forward* is not just a plan—it's a call to action. The future of redwoods depends on bold, collective efforts today. Sempervirens Fund invites everyone to join this movement and help ensure that coast redwoods continue to thrive for generations to come. To learn more, visit [sempervirens.org/redwoods-forward](https://sempervirens.org/redwoods-forward)

**GIVE SMART. GROW GOOD.**

Enjoy potential tax savings when you donate appreciated stock (SMART) to help protect redwoods (GOOD).

[sempervirens.org/tax-wise-giving](https://sempervirens.org/tax-wise-giving)



## Donor Profile: Rani Menon and Keith Amidon



Rani Menon and Keith Amidon first encountered redwoods at Muir Woods in Marin County. Keith remembers “the experience instilled an immediate and lasting respect for these majestic trees and the peace of the forest.”

Now living in Los Altos, Rani and Keith venture into the redwoods often, and Castle Rock State Park is their favorite destination. “We feel a special connection there,” says Keith. “Looking out from panoramic viewpoints in the park, it is possible

to imagine a continuous forest blanketing the mountains all the way to the ocean.”

Over the years, their concern grew about climate change and ongoing habitat fragmentation, seemingly in parallel with the Sempervirens Fund's work to address those issues in Santa Cruz Mountain forests. While redwoods are charismatic mega-flora, “Sempervirens Fund's recognition that their preservation requires the maintenance of the entire surrounding ecosystem—that generates tremendous leverage for their work,” says Rani.

“We have increased our support over the years because the organization's staff, some of the most genuine and committed people we've had the pleasure to know, have the grit, wisdom, and insight to adapt methods as the world changes,” says Keith.

Learn more about all the ways you can support Sempervirens Fund: [sempervirens.org/support](https://sempervirens.org/support)

# 125 Years of Your Support

Millions of years ago, a remarkable and enduring species emerged and has withstood the tests of time to find refuge along the coast of California: coast redwoods.

For a mere blip of that time, Sempervirens Fund—and a vast community of committed supporters and citizen activists—have worked tirelessly to protect, restore, and care for *Sequoia sempervirens* in the Santa Cruz Mountains. As we celebrate 125 years of your support, we reflect together on the milestones and look ahead to the important work to come.

Sempervirens staff are proud to share a collection of photos from the past 125 years that showcase our community's efforts to protect millions of redwoods, establish and expand more than a dozen state, local, and private parks, and care for thousands of acres of redwoods, watersheds, wildlife, and more.

We invite you to enjoy a look back through time for redwoods and for us all:

[sempervirens.org/125-years](https://sempervirens.org/125-years)



## Sempervirens Fund

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