

*Stand Tall & Support Your Public Lands*

# REDWOOD PARKS CONSERVANCY *THE REDWOOD REVIEW*

*Winter 2016-2017*

## NEW MURAL PROJECT: INSPIRATION & EDUCATION

*Watch local volunteer artists adorn the Hiouchi Information Center*

### **Brad Maggetti, Park Guide, Redwood National & State Parks**

Visitors to the Hiouchi Information Center are now able to watch local artists at work in your public lands. Volunteers are painting a series of murals depicting scenes from the incredibly varied habitats of Redwood National and State Parks. In partnership with Redwoods Mural Society, Tolowa Dee'ni Nation, Elk Valley Rancheria, and with monetary support from Redwood Parks Conservancy, the Division of Interpretation & Education commissioned these murals to invite and inspire future visitors to the parks.

When the project is completed, four unique murals, covering five hundred square feet and valued at nearly \$12,000 will adorn the outside walls of the Hiouchi Information Center. However, art has contributed more value to our public lands than these numbers can indicate.

Art has enriched and deepened the national park experience since the very beginning of our national parks. The work of 19th century artists in the Hudson River School glorified America's natural

resources in popular paintings of landscapes, including the redwood forest. They depicted the natural world as above the works of humanity, yet not immune to human abilities for exploitation and destruction. These paintings, hung on walls in homes and cities, captured the public's imagination at a time when conservation movements coalesced and created the national park system.

Art reflects the way we see the world around us, and inspires action. The Hiouchi murals will illustrate the diverse habitats and history of Redwood National and State Parks, as a visitor would experience them entering the park via Highway 199. From wild and scenic rivers to serpentine outcrops, through the old-growth redwood forest and on to the ocean, each identified with traditional Tolowa place names and English translations, these murals will create interpretive opportunities for visitors as they travel through the landscape and become part of the history of our parks.



*Top: Hard at work on the first panels.*

*Bottom: The finished panels.*

### CRITTER CORNER: SALMONIDS

*Salmon continue returning to Prairie Creek, despite threatened status*

#### **Keith Bensen, Wildlife Biologist, Redwood National and State Parks**

Prairie Creek is home to four species of salmon/trout like fish (aka salmonids): chinook or king salmon, coho salmon, steelhead trout, and coastal cutthroat trout. Only the cutthroat is not listed as threatened in Prairie Creek and is not anadromous, i.e. spends part of its life in the ocean. The best time to see spawning adult salmonids in Prairie Creek are usually in December and January after stream levels rise. The areas around the Prairie Creek campground, visitor center and along Prairie Creek Trail are particularly good.

Prairie Creek has been a hot bed of salmonid research for years due to the watershed's protected status, half undisturbed - half disturbed

habitat conditions, ease of access, and species diversity. The US Geological Survey and California Department of Fish and Wildlife have essentially conducted continuous salmonid research in Prairie Creek since the late 1990's. Many other studies were done in the previous decades. Current research in the creek includes monitoring spawning adult and downstream migrating juvenile numbers as well as studying rearing coho juvenile movements within the watershed. Unfortunately, all three threatened species populations are still at a high risk of extinction within the Redwood Creek watershed, of which Prairie Creek is a part. The primary ongoing threats include loss and degradation of habitat due to sedimentation, water turbidity and low amounts of large



Photo Credit: Jenni Morris

*Three adult coho salmon spotted from the bridge near the Prairie Creek Visitor Center in December.*

in-stream wood caused by past logging, alteration of the Redwood Creek estuary and lower floodplain, and high stream temperatures. Ongoing watershed restoration efforts by the parks may eventually alleviate some of these stressors.

### THANK YOU

To all of the businesses and individuals who helped make the Candlelight Walk a huge success:

- Abruzzi
- Anderson Valley Brewing Co.
- Arcata School of Massage
- Arcata Scoop
- Barefoot Wine & Bubbly
- Bella Baskets
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- North Coast Brewery
- North Coast Storytellers
- Northwoods Oceans 675/Sports Bar & Grill

## DISNEY'S A WRINKLE IN TIME

*Our beloved Patrick's Point State Park used for filming*

After scoping various forested locations along California's coast, Disney visionaries selected Patrick's Point as the perfect backdrop for the film adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. The forested bluffs and rocky outcrops of Patrick's Point resemble a whimsical environment depicted in the youth-oriented

science novel. The park was packed with production crew vehicles and equipment, and RPC staff were lucky enough to participate in the excitement. Production staff enjoyed the RPC-run visitor center, and offered a \$2500 donation to help support educational projects and programs offered by the Conservancy.

## CANDLELIGHT WALK

RPC hosted the 27th annual Candlelight Walk at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park in December. Guests arrived to hear the enchanting sounds of local Celtic harp musician Howdy Emerson before enjoying a selection of refreshments, an extensive silent auction and an enchanted walk through the redwoods. The event was especially popular this year, selling out less than 48 hours after tickets became available. To accommodate growing interest in the event, RPC plans to hold the next walk over two consecutive nights in December 2017. As a new benefit, our members will receive

priority invitations to purchase tickets before they are available to the public. We hope to see you at the 28th annual walk!



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

**Cathy Bonser,  
Executive Director**

Thank you for your part in protecting public lands last year. With your help we were able to contribute about \$350,000 in direct program support to our public land partners as well as providing visitor guides, Junior Ranger programs and badges, education related to condors, cultural awareness, interpretive relevancy in the visitor centers, public art installation at Hiouchi Visitor Center, special events (National Park Centennial celebrations, Rock the Redwoods II, Halloween at Headwaters, Prairie Creek Redwoods 5k run, weekly Tolowa Dunes programs and seminars, and more – much more. In fact, to see a list of our activities and accomplishments, which we couldn't have accomplished without you, please go to our web site and click on Who We Are.

**We want to hear from you!**

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707.464.9150

[redwoodparksconservancy.org](http://redwoodparksconservancy.org)

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- The Wagner Family
- Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation/Smith River Rancheria
- Tomo Japanese Restaurant

- Trees of Mystery
- U.S. Cellular
- Vita Cucina
- Danielle Westberg
- Paul Woodland
- Woodland Villa Cabins & Country Market
- Zoe Restaurant

To our recent donors:

- Walt Disney Studios
- All who participated in our holiday "white envelope" project



## REDWOOD PARKS CONSERVANCY

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# PROTECT THE GROVE OF TITANS

Perhaps you've heard of it: the secret grove of ancient giants hidden deep within Redwood National and State Parks. Around its discovery in the late '90s, the grove was nearly inaccessible, surrounded by thick under-story with no direct trail access. As knowledge began to spread, mainly via websites touting the locations of the trees, visitors began venturing off-trail. What began as a few explorers has increased to unmanageable levels, with as many as 50 people a day wandering freely through the grove. As a result, negative impacts to the grove have been observed, including: absence of healthy vegetation on the forest floor; stripping of outer bark layers on tree bases, damage to fragile and shallow root system; and compacted soil.

California State Parks is dedicated to the protection of this grove, and has set out to build a boardwalk and viewing platform that would protect the Titans from any further damage. This would allow visitors to experience the awe-inspiring grove, while preserving it for generations to come.

Alas, State Parks has very limited funding for these types of infrastructure projects, so Redwood Parks Conservancy is leading a fundraising effort to raise the **\$1 million** required to get this project off the ground. We are confident that the many people who support the preservation of ancient redwoods will stand up against the destruction of these famous giants.

Your help is needed to reach this goal. Please consider offering

a philanthropic gift to help protect the Grove of Titans. If you have any questions about donating, or about ways we can acknowledge you as a donor, don't hesitate to contact us.

### Rock the Redwoods: May 12

Join us at the Arcata Theatre Lounge for live music and a silent auction at our annual spring fundraiser. Enjoy the sounds of local bands Object Heavy and Ghost Train. Tickets will be available at the Arcata Theatre Lounge website ([www.arcatatheatre.com](http://www.arcatatheatre.com)). One hundred advance tickets will be available online for \$15. Ticket sales and auction proceeds help to support RPC projects and programs. Doors open at 7:30, music starts at 8:00. Tickets \$18.