



Redwood Forest Foundation

Fall 2010

Welcome

Kathy Moxon, *President*

What a successful annual meeting we had this year! Thanks to the gracious hospitality of Art and Becky Harwood, we enjoyed wonderful food and company while sharing highlights of RFFI's year. Check Summer News at

www.RFFI.org for details, including the exciting Mattson "Double Your Money" Challenge Grant!



The annual meeting provided a wonderful opportunity to meet face-to-face with members and all those in the community who are interested in our mission, and it provided a strong reminder of how important membership support is. Therefore, we've designated October as membership month: a great time to renew, get new members and give memberships as gifts. Let's all embrace this opportunity to build the RFFI community!

We have a big year ahead: nearing completion are the conservation easement, our carbon baseline calculations and our Forest Stewardship Council certification process. Steady progress is also being made on our Usal Forest Stewardship Plan, as described in the feature article of this newsletter.

With so much happening, the easiest way to stay in the know is to become a member. I hope you will participate in the October membership campaign and contribute to the Mattson challenge grant. Please join me in supporting RFFI in this critical time!

Community Outreach

Art Harwood, *Executive Director*

This year RFFI is working on several fronts to move forward with our community outreach goals. Redwood Futures is advancing through regular meetings in Mendocino County and now several local initiatives are taking shape. For details, check the Redwood Futures section of our website: at www.RFFI.org.

RFFI is also working with local tribes to set aside an 8-acre acorn orchard in the Usal Redwood Forest (URF) that can be used by all California Tribes for acorn gathering and cultural activities. We've also submitted several grant proposals seeking funding to build a Native American and Nature Study Center in the URF. Our work with the Mendocino County Woody Biomass Working Group is evaluating the potential of installing a mobile biomass unit in the Usal that could ultimately process non-commercial hardwoods and generate funds to pay for forest restoration.



Additionally, as you'll see in this newsletter, important progress is being made on the conservation easement and our stewardship plan, the feature article of this issue. As

always, check www.RFFI.org for details and opportunities to participate.

To join RFFI, return the attached envelope or visit our website:
www.RFFI.org

RFFI Announces Winners and First Gallery Exhibit of the "Paint the Forest" National Art and Photography Contest



The results are in and we now know the winners of the "Paint the Forest" Art and Photography competition which received over 200 submissions. In the Art Division, Caesar Citraro won the Gold Medal with his oil painting, "Waiting for Trilliums." Jacob Neagle won the Silver Medal for his oil painting, "Summer's End." In the Photography division: the Gold Medal goes to Frank Weston for "Tree Generations" and the Silver Medal to Winifred Helton-Harmon for "Lean on Me." Judy Hope's "Redwoods" (shown at left) won in the special

"Paint the Redwoods" category. RFFI and Juried Art Services sponsored the contest with internationally renowned artist, juror, critic and curator Bruce Helander serving as the awarding juror. The inaugural exhibit of winning art will be held from Oct-9 to Oct 24 2010, at the Lee Youngman Galleries, 1316 Lincoln Ave., Calistoga (707-942-0585 or 800-551-0585). Visit www.RFFI.org to see and purchase winning art, photographs and catalogues. You can also learn more about the artists as well as dates and locations of exhibits near you.

Wish List

- Volunteer coordinator
- Funds for Volunteer & Intern expenses
- Funds for a Forest Program Manager
- Volunteers to help with events, mailings, graphics & clerical tasks

Easement Update

RFFI, The Conservation Fund and Save the Redwoods League have made significant progress toward the sale of a conservation easement on the Usal Redwood Forest (URF). Ultimately, the easement will be purchased by The Conservation Fund with the majority of the financing provided by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The easement will prohibit future fragmentation and development, protect stream buffers and limit harvest to a sustainable level in perpetuity. The state bond freeze that had delayed the easement sale has now been lifted and RFFI is able to move forward. The required appraisal of the URF easement's value is nearly complete, and RFFI hopes that the Wildlife Conservation Board will include the purchase of the easement on its November agenda.

We would like to thank Congressman Mike Thompson, State Senator Pat Wiggins, Assemblyman Wes Chesbro, Assemblywoman Noreen Evans and their staffs for their strong support in helping RFFI secure funding for the Usal easement.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

RFFI thanks all of our members and supporters for joining our efforts to restore and sustain working forests and their ecosystems while improving the economic and social well-being of local communities. This month we wish to send a special thank you to four foundations that have provided us with significant and ongoing support.

- Giles W. and Elise G. Mead Foundation
- Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund
- Mattson Family Foundation
- Bank of America Foundation

Their support joins yours to fund our efforts to build a future that embraces people, ecology and economy— a global model for resource management.

STEWARDSHIP PLAN

John Rogers, *RFFI Board Member and Executive Dir. of the Inst. for Sustainable Forestry.*

RFFI's mission is to acquire, protect, restore and manage forestland in the Redwood Region for the benefit of the forest ecosystem and the local communities. Making this a reality requires creating a stewardship plan that simultaneously builds ecological, social and economic equity in working forests and incorporates an innovative approach to community-based forest management and forest ownership on the north coast. In effect, the Plan will concretize RFFI's mission, integrating the diverse elements of RFFI's vision and providing an umbrella document that guides current and future activities.

Designing our model "working community forest" requires a high level of professional, community and on-the-ground engagement. The 50,000-acre Usal Redwood Forest we've purchased offers RFFI and Usal's adjacent communities the opportunity to explore, articulate and eventually implement specific strategies to build all three types of the equity we hope to achieve.

Forest stewardship is an on-going, dynamic process. Changes in forest growth, regional markets and community demographics, as well as climate change and our increased understanding of forest functions will all influence the desirability or feasibility of specific stewardship priorities into the future. Thus, the Stewardship Plan will also be a "living" document capable of providing a strategic action plan for activities in the Forest for generations to come.

RFFI's intention is for the Stewardship Plan to strike the optimum balance between ecological functions and forest productivity; between habitat restoration and fiscal responsibility; between local knowledge and professional expertise. To achieve an environmentally sound and economically viable Stewardship Plan, we will

engage the expertise of professionals, scientists, and community representatives to address the key elements of the Plan. These include:

- Natural Resource Assessment and Land Use History
- Ecological Restoration Goals and Objectives
- Community Access, Recreation, Cultural Resources and Stewardship Participation
- Economic Strategies to Achieve Stewardship Objectives
- Forest Management Planning and Regulatory Compliance

RFFI believes that the Usal Redwood Forest has the potential to provide a ground-breaking model of community-based, restoration forestry that is powerful and unique.

Three independent, active working groups are already in place and their expertise and experiences on the ground are helping RFFI determine "best

practices" for the Stewardship Plan. The RFFI Restoration Committee has implemented over \$1.6 million dollars worth of restoration projects on Usal. The Tanoak/Herbicide working group is moving forward to articulate and evaluate hardwood treatments that do not require the use of herbicides. And the Cultural Resources working group has identified tanoak groves with potential for being managed for acorn production. RFFI has also completed the initial scoping session seeking Forest Stewardship Council certification.

RFFI believes that the Usal Redwood Forest has the potential to provide a ground-breaking model of community-based, restoration forestry that is powerful and unique. Yet we also recognize that some stewardship objectives will be challenging to achieve. We appeal to you for your committed participation and support so that we can continue to develop the Stewardship Plan with a clear vision for the future and articulate the steps necessary to restore a healthy, productive and mature Usal Redwood Forest for coming generations.



The Mattson Team Challenges RFFI Supporters:
Double Your Money and Leverage \$20,000 for RFFI!

Now is the time to make your gift to RFFI really count! Pete and Patty Mattson teamed up with anonymous donors to issue this challenge: If RFFI can raise \$10,000 by November 1, 2010, the Mattson team will donate an additional \$10,000! This is an “all or nothing” proposition! Help RFFI meet the challenge at this critical time! Donate online or return a check in the enclosed envelope. Consider forwarding this challenge to everyone on your email list!



October is Membership Month!

Renew your membership — Get a friend to join — or Give a membership as a gift. Help build RFFI’s community, support our work and keep in touch with our progress. You will receive the newsletter, enjoy RFFI tours and participate in special events.

Join online at www.RFFI.org or return the enclosed envelope.



Plant a Redwood Now

Help RFFI reforest our redwood forests. Plant young redwoods in your name, or in honor of a friend or loved one. The Honoree receives a beautiful certificate with a customized message that’s suitable for framing. Redwoods make enduring “green” gifts for any occasion— birthday, memorial, anniversary or holiday! Pay online to have tree(s) planted or return a check in the enclosed envelope.



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