



Redwood Forest Foundation

Fall 2014

Welcome

Kathy Moxon, *Chairman, RFFI Board of Directors*



It was great to see so many RFFI members at our annual meeting this year! Attending this event is a great way for members to hear about all the projects we are working on, and this year we also offered tours in the Usal Redwood Forest, led by experts who discussed

timber harvest and vegetation management challenges. The weather was perfect and the food, including barbequed tri-tip and fresh local salmon, was fantastic, as always. The great turnout and our members' ongoing financial support both offer a tangible demonstration of how important this experiment in creating a community forest is. Thank you!

October is Membership Month, our annual campaign to expand RFFI's community. Membership is what sustains our capacity to expand the programs and projects that support forest restoration and reconnect people with the land. If you are already a member, we hope we can count on you to renew your commitment. If you are not yet a member, we encourage you to join us at whatever level you choose. We are "making the path as we walk it" and everyone is welcome to join us. Think of it as an investment in the future!

A 100-Year Vision – Yours, Mine, Ours

Mark Welther, *RFFI President and CEO*

RFFI Volunteer of the Year Warren DeSmidt spoke passionately about his vision of a healthy and productive redwood forest at this



summer's 2014 RFFI Annual Meeting. He told the crowd of 130 that he never thought he would see the day when business and public leaders, timber industry workers and environmental activists, like himself, would all work together to rebuild the redwood forest.

"Going to our Usal Forest continues to be a very emotional thing for me," he said. "We have a chance to create a business model that will treat forests and livelihoods in a way that respects both people and the environment."

We each have a vision – and it is our collective vision that bonds the Redwood Forest Foundation community together. My own vision also begins with creating a new "RFFI" business model of forestry, one that uses innovative and best forest practices to improve forest health and the long term productivity of Usal Redwood Forest.

This RFFI model includes using least-toxic vegetation management to control hardwoods and completing the transition to uneven-aged forest management sooner than our conservation easement requires. It also includes engaging the redwood community in forest management decisions and creating opportunities for public access as soon as possible.

Once RFFI owns the property outright, I see us growing a sustainable forest in perpetuity and selectively logging conifers in a way that creates community jobs, products and profits for the community, while also protecting the species that need a healthy forest to survive. I envision a visitors' center and regular community educational and recreational access to the forest.

In an age full of resource depletion horror stories, this RFFI forestry vision represents a world-changing model of economic and environmental balance.

In the short-term, the business of

continued on page 2 ▶▶▶

A 100-Year Vision - Yours, Mine, Ours

continued ▶▶▶

converting a young hardwood-dominated forest into a mature community redwood forest is made up of a thousand steps, some of which are high-minded and glamorous, others of which are “pick and shovel” or even painful, all of which are important.

In 2014, these steps included:

- Fighting fires. You can visit www.rffi.org for a report on August’s Lodge Complex fire, which burned nearly 500 acres - 1% - of our Usal Forest. Read about how the threat was handled.
- Developing eleven new Timber Harvest Plans (THPs) and increasing our harvest to meet financial obligations for the next three to five years.
- Restoring the forest, including:
 - Completion of Phase 5 of our 6-phase Standley Creek restoration project, by removing stream obstructions and decommissioning roads in the watershed. This is funded by a grant RFFI and Trout Unlimited received from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.
 - Adding Large Woody Debris (LWD) to Usal Creek and testing ground water

levels in an effort to improve stream flow and salmon survival rates. This is funded by grants from CA Fish & Wildlife and Mendocino County Fish & Game.

- Kicking off our Biochar Demonstration Project – the inaugural production of North Coast Biochar begins this fall - see the Biochar Report in this Newsletter (below).
- Completing Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in 2015, a requirement of our conservation easement.
- Progressing toward carbon registration and sales in 2015 and beyond.

That is my vision, and RFFI’s. What is yours? I challenge you to stay focused on our collective long-term vision of RFFI’s redwood forests as we take these short-term steps together. You can support your vision by donating, volunteering and advocating on behalf of RFFI’s world-changing mission. The more community support we generate, the more trees we can plant and the more we can leave to grow.

I encourage you to email me at vision@rffi.org and share your 100-year vision. Excerpts will appear on the RFFI website in the coming months.



The Results Are In!

RFFI is excited to unveil the winning logo. In August 2014, RFFI launched a branding and logo contest for “North Coast Biochar”, a name chosen by the RFFI network. The winning logo, shown on the left, was one of 40 submissions that competed for a \$350.00 grand prize. RFFI will use this logo to distinguish our locally produced biochar, which supports Usal Forest restoration, from biochar that is produced outside of the area using unknown sources of biomass. RFFI will begin selling North Coast Biochar soon after our biochar conversion unit arrives and begins production in October.

Elizabeth Finley Broadus



Redwoods Planted as Tribute to Teen-Ager Who Moved Thousands to Appreciate Nature

Elizabeth Finley Broadus' mother, Julie, entreats us: "Please smile when you see nature in its glory, laugh at our own foolishness, and bear all things with strength and selflessness — and to pay her tribute, remember to care for this planet as she cared so much. In this way you will help to keep her with us".

Members of Finley's extended family in California and Texas arranged for the Redwood Forest Foundation (RFFI) to plant 25 redwoods in her honor after a rare form of liver cancer claimed the Virginia teenager's life. This tribute was a particularly fitting celebration of Elizabeth's life, for she was an avid supporter of tree-planting projects. While battling the incurable cancer that was diagnosed in December 2013, she set up Finley's Green Leap Forward. Read about her work, in support of "local and global efforts that have a positive impact on the environment, moving us forward towards a healthy, sustainable planet" at: www.facebook.com/FinleysGreenLeapForward.

Friends and family members set a goal to raise at least \$18,000 by Elizabeth's 18th birthday on March 12, 2014. By that date, donations to the fund had surpassed \$74,000 and by Earth Day 2014 they had reached \$100,000.

"Finley's Fight" ended on June 2, 2014, but she continues to inspire thousands through her courage and her foundation to support global environmental causes.

This tribute was made possible via RFFI's Plant a Redwood Now (www.rffi.org/Plant-a-Redwood.html). RFFI is proud to play a part in honoring this exceptional young woman who remains an inspiration and standard bearer for our mission and work. Visit www.rffi.org for more information about Elizabeth and Plant a Redwood Now!

Volunteer Coordinator

RFFI seeks funding to establish a Volunteer Coordinator to orient and supervise volunteers. RFFI would like to be able to respond to the frequent and numerous requests from prospective volunteers.

Redwood Forest Foundation Outstanding Volunteer Awards 2014

Lillian Frazer

Tribal Consultant for Cultural and
Outdoor Activities

Louis Hoaglin

Tribal Consultant for Cultural and
Recreational Activities

Jill Hannum

Copy Editor for RFFI Promotional Materials

Thank You!

The California Wildlife Foundation awarded RFFI \$1,000 in recognition and support of our outstanding forest restoration efforts.

Please Support RFFI
Donate online at www.rffi.org

Or mail your check to:
RFFI, PO Box 12
Mendocino, CA 95460

Redwood Forest Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 12
Mendocino, CA 95460
www.RFFI.org

PRESRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
UKIAH,CA
EXPRESS-IT



October is RFFI Membership Month!

Join, Renew or Give a
Gift Membership Today

\$1,000	Redwood	Patron
\$500	Douglas Fir	Sustainer
\$250	Chinquapin	Supporter
\$100	Madrone	Contributor
\$50	Huckleberry	Family
\$35	Redwood Sorrel	Individual

Membership Benefits

- Newsletter with information on community forestry, Usal and RFFI activities, and more.
- Participation in Annual Meeting and Barbeque
- Tours and Events