



# The Sequoia Seedling

## Quote of the season:

“Until mankind can extend the circle of his compassion to include all living things he will never himself know peace.”

Albert Schweitzer

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## Ed Begley, Jr. joins SFK's Advisory Board!

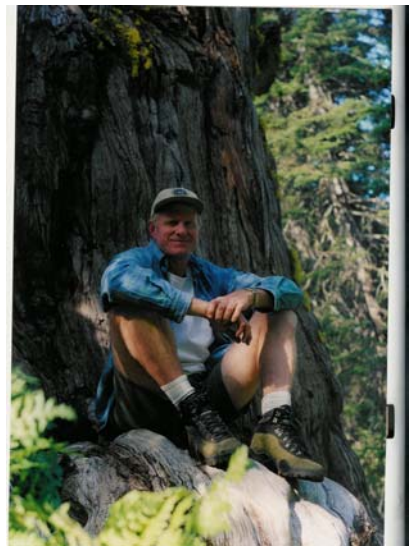
By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

Sequoia ForestKeeper is thrilled to welcome the amazing Ed Begley, Jr. to our Advisory Board! A famous actor (with a long list of credits) and a well-known environmental activist, Ed became involved with SFK after his friend Terry Tamminen, former head of Cal-EPA and advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger, told him about Martin Litton's work to protect the sequoias. Valuing Terry's input and suggestion, Ed immediately called Martin and asked how he could help. Ed has been a supporter of SFK's work ever since.

Ed Begley, Jr. didn't just jump onto the environmental bandwagon when it became fashionable to be a "green" celeb; he began working toward cutting his own carbon footprint long before the term had been coined. "I grew up around the smog, and I got fed up one day in 1970 in that horrible, choking smog," said Ed of his environmental epiph-

any, "I bought an electric car and began recycling and composting. What happened next was a big surprise; I was not only saving the environment but also saving money. Who knew that doing the right thing was good for the bottom line?"

Although he has a long list of film credits spanning thirty years, from *Goin' South*, his first film in 1978, to *Pineapple Express*, currently showing in theaters, Begley has made his biggest impact on television, best known as Dr. Victor Ehrlich on the television series *St. Elsewhere*, for which he received six consecutive Emmy Award nominations. He currently has a reality show about green living called *Living with Ed* on Discovery's Planet Green channel with his wife, actress Rachele Carson. On that show, Ed shows the nation how it is possible to change one's life one step at a time to protect the



Ed relaxes in the shade of a sequoia

Earth and our future. "There's stuff that you can do and you don't have to go for the big ticket items like solar or a hybrid car or an electric car. You can start small and build. You can pick the low-hanging fruit first: compact fluorescent bulbs, energy-saving thermostats, good insulation, a bicycle for transportation, public transportation. All of these things are good for the environment and they're really cheap," said Ed, "It's important to take

*Continued on page 2...*

## Let your voice be heard!

The Forest Service is currently seeking input on American citizens' interpretation of President Clinton's proclamation which established the Giant Sequoia National Monument. It is important that those who love the sequoias weigh in on this process. Please visit the Forest Service website:

**[gsnm.ecr.gov](http://gsnm.ecr.gov)**

and let the Forest Service know that you want the Giant Sequoia National Monument afforded the protection that was clearly intended by President Clinton when he established the Monument in 2000.

If you have any questions, or would like a sample letter, contact Valerie at (760) 376-4434 or email: [valerie@sequoiaforester.org](mailto:valerie@sequoiaforester.org)

*Ed cont'd from page 1...*

one step at a time; you get overwhelmed otherwise. You look at Mount Everest and think 'how can I ever do that?' but you just put one foot in front of the other; you do what you can and then take a break."

Despite his celebrity status, Ed remains a genuinely nice, humble, and down-to-earth guy. His proudest achievement in life has nothing to do with acting, or even environmental activism. Rather, Ed has three achievements that he is most proud of; his children: Amanda Begley (31), Nicholas Begley (29), and Hayden Begley (8). "They all care deeply about the environment and are great people," Ed beamed.

By walking his talk, Ed has set the bar high for himself and others who care about the fate of our planet. His children are proof that what you do at home affects the next generation, and he strives to be a good example for his neighbors, friends, and viewers. "I live simply so that others may simply live," Ed explained. On behalf of Mother Earth and all of her creatures; Thank You, Ed!



## SFK Welcomes 08 Summer Interns!

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

Because the inaugural year of our Summer Intern Monitoring Program went so well in 2007, Sequoia Forest-Keeper is continuing the program in 2008 with three young women who have been hard at work in the forest. The interns are monitoring forest health and sequoia regeneration at various points in Sequoia National Forest and the Monument, and the information they gather will be crucial in getting the big picture about forest health in areas that have been "treated" (i.e. logged) by the Forest Service vs. areas that have been left to maintain themselves naturally.

This year, we are adding a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) component to the program, so that a spatial analysis can be done to show on a map forest health throughout the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest.

We recruited close to home this year in California only, and are thrilled to have found an all-female team; ambitious forest lovers who don't mind getting their hands dirty.

**Christian Michele** graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a Bachelors of Science degree in Ecology and Evolution less than a week before she arrived in Kernville for her SFK internship. The first in her family to graduate from college, Christian grew up in the small town of Corcoran, CA, near Fresno, where she was in the top 10% at her high school. While at UCSB, Christian was awarded the C.H. Muller Award for an independent research project she conducted on how fire affects soil. "I'm here because I have always wanted to work in the forest; this is my idea of an ideal job straight out of college. I love the pine trees and Sequoia trees are AWESOME," states Christian, "I love encountering wildlife. However, I like to keep a safe distance from bears and big cats! There is so much to learn about and see out here."



*Learning to identify sequoia foliage the first week on the job.*



Christian Michele, Natalie Stauffer, and Marissa Williams

*Interns Continued...*

**Natalie Stauffer** is from Petaluma, CA, and recently graduated from UCLA where she majored in Ecology, Behavior and Evolution minored in Environmental Studies. At UCLA she was very active in environmental and sustainability issues and worked to help “green” the campus. Natalie loves the outdoors (especially the Sierra Nevada) and she loves traveling. Last year, she had the privilege of studying Spanish in Venezuela, and ecology and conservation in Costa Rica. Natalie hopes to attend graduate school at UC Berkeley or UC Santa Barbara next year, where she plans on studying Environmental Science or Giant Sequoias. “I am thrilled to be out in the forest and to be part of Sequoia ForestKeeper, a job I feel is of utmost importance,” said

Natalie, “I would like to thank SFK for this amazing opportunity, and my family and boyfriend for their unending support.”

**Marissa Williams** is the youngest of our three interns this summer, at the age of nearly nineteen. She graduated with the class of 2007 as a valedictorian from Clovis West High School in Fresno, CA. Currently she attends California State University Fresno and is a member of the Smiffcamp Family Honors College. Marissa is majoring in Biology with interests in both environmental studies and medicine. While in high school, Marissa was an active member of the Environmental Club. She also volunteered often with the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, helping to clean the river and surrounding areas. Now in college at Fresno State, she continues her

environmental efforts by participating in the Recycling Club. Some of Marissa’s other interests include playing soccer, badminton, rock climbing, and spending time with family.

Sequoia ForestKeeper is grateful to have these three amazing young women as interns this year, and would like to give giant heartfelt thanks to the **Unity Avenue Foundation** for making our Summer Intern Monitoring Program a reality in 2008. We would also like to thank **Norcross Wildlife Fund** for funding our GIS Program and **Patagonia** for helping us in purchasing the necessary monitoring equipment.

## Want to Help?

We hope to continue this important program in 2009, and we are currently seeking funding and applicants.

The program costs \$15,000-\$20,000 annually, which includes insurance, food, travel expenses to get the interns here, fuel for their travel within the forest, and other fees.

If you would like to help with the cost of this worthwhile endeavor, or become an SFK Summer Intern, please call Valerie at (760) 376-4434.



## Earn \$\$\$ for SFK without spending a dime!

What if Sequoia ForestKeeper earned a penny every time you searched the internet? Well, now we can!

**GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it’s powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter Sequoia ForestKeeper as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

## JOIN US TODAY!

As a membership organization, we depend on the support of individuals, businesses, and organizations. Membership funds go directly to sustain the valuable work of the ForestKeeper. When considering what to buy the person in your life who has everything, why not give the gift of philanthropy? Membership benefits include:

- 🌲 Quarterly Newsletter
- 🌲 SFK Bumper Sticker
- 🌲 Organic Cotton SFK T-Shirt Printed with Natural Organic Ink\* (American Marten Level and above) \*Please Circle: S M L XL - Mens or Womens
- 🌲 Organic Cotton SFK Tote Bag (Northern Goshawk Level and above) Individual

and gift Memberships are available at the following levels:

<b>PACIFIC FISHER.....</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>PILEATED WOODPECKER.....</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>AMERICAN MARTEN.....</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>NORTHERN GOSHAWK.....</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>SPOTTED OWL.....</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>GIANT SEQUOIA*.....</b>	<b>\$1000+</b>

\*Please call 760-376-4434 for details on this special category

Enclosed is my donation of: \$\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_ become a member of or \_\_\_ renew my membership with Sequoia ForestKeeper.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:

**Sequoia ForestKeeper-  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 2134  
Kernville, CA 93238**

**Adopt a Sequoia**

Sequoia Forest-Keeper is continuing our Adopt a Sequoia program due to popular demand. For only \$100 for a single tree and \$2,500 for a stand of sequoias\*, you can give yourself or those you cherish a gift that will last for generations. All proceeds will be used to continue our work to protect and preserve the Giant Sequoias

**ADOPT A SEQUOIA**

I would like to adopt:

Single Sequoia (\$100)\_\_\_\_\_ Stand of Sequoias (\$2500)\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Recipient Name(s) (if same, write n/a): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Message to Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would like a photo of the top or trunk of your sequoia.

\*Adoption of sequoia does not indicate legal ownership

*Sequoia Adoption includes:*

- 🌲 A beautiful certificate of adoption
- 🌲 GPS coordinates of your adopted Sequoia
- 🌲 A map so you can visit your tree or stand of trees anytime you wish
- 🌲 A lovely 8x10 color photo of your tree or stand

If you are interested in adopting a Sequoia for yourself or a loved one, call Valerie at 866-KEEP-TREES (533-7873) or fill out the form above and mail it to the Sequoia ForestKeeper office with payment.



Example of Sequoia trunk picture

*Giant Sequoias are the world's largest living things. These majestic trees can easily grow to over 300 feet with diameters approaching 40 feet. They weigh up to 600 tons.*



Example of Sequoia top picture

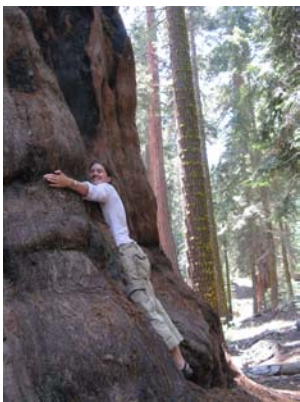


Reconnect with nature at the Great American Campout!

Call Valerie at (760) 376-4434 or email her at:

valerie@sequoiaforesterkeeper.org

Reserve your spot today!



Hug a sequoia at the Great American Campout!

## Join SFK for our Second Annual Great American Campout

We will be hosting our second annual Great American Campout this Aug. 22-24. Due to the great success of our last campout, this year SFK will move to a larger location, at the Quaking Aspen campground in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. A fun event for all ages, we have added a presentation by the local leading expert on the natural history of the Southern Sierra, Alison Sheehy ([www.natureali.org](http://www.natureali.org)), who

will also lead a nature walk to help identify the flora, fauna, and minerals of the forest. A hike down the Nelson Trail will leave everyone in awe of the beauty of the majestic sequoias, and once again, Valerie will offer children's games and activities with the help of Montessori teacher Michelle Maring. The campout will also serve as a farewell party to our 2008 summer interns, who will give a presentation about their

accomplishments and findings from their work throughout the summer. Bring a dish to share at the Saturday night potluck, and a musical instrument for a fireside music jam, if you wish. To help defray the cost of reserving the campsites, we are asking a \$25 suggested donation per tent, but anyone who wants to join us is welcome, and can volunteer in lieu of donating funds.

## CLEAR CREEK: The project that wouldn't die

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director

In our last issue of the "Seedling," we updated you on our victory against the Clear Creek project, but the Forest Service is at it again, determined to remove trees from crucial habitat so that the local timber mill can profit. The project is located in the southernmost portion of Sequoia National Forest in the Piute Mountains, which is adjacent to the Mojave Desert and includes one California spotted owl protected activity center (PAC) and its associated home range core area, one northern goshawk PAC, and a portion of the wildland urban intermix zone associated with the Valley View community.

After conceding defeat

and halting the project to avoid further litigation, the Forest Service re-released the same project on May 8, with a revised Environmental Assessment; basically restarting the process from the beginning and expecting different results. Then, on June 28, a fire began near the Clear Creek project; and over 37,000 acres burned, costing the Federal Government over \$23 million to fight the fire.

In our lawsuit against the Clear Creek logging project, which is ongoing in federal court, we were only challenging removal of the medium and large trees 12-20 inches and 20-30 inches in diameter. We specifically stated in our complaint that we were not asking for an injunction against the proposed thinning of small

trees less than 12 inches in diameter. In fact, Sequoia ForestKeeper has always been a proponent of thinning the ladder fuels and removing those trees that are an actual fuel hazard. Scientific studies show that fire severity can very effectively be reduced by thinning only small diameter trees less than 12 inches in diameter.

The Forest Service claimed that the Clear Creek Project would reduce fire severity, yet if logging had proceeded as planned, all of the highly combustible logging 'slash' debris (branches, tree tops, twigs and needles) would have been on the ground at the time of the Piute Fire. This would have caused the fire to burn much hotter and

Clear Creek Continued...

faster. Ironically, the Forest Service has been unofficially placing the blame on SFK for the fire, despite the fact that they cut a fire line around and saved 80% of the project area to be logged at a later date.

One of the reasons that we filed suit against the Clear Creek project is that the Forest Service refused to require the timber sale contractor to immediately remove the slash debris. Instead, the Forest Service only required slash piling and burning within 50 feet of roads. Everywhere else it would be scattered to a depth of 18 inches (more than knee deep).

The forest ecosystem, and the wildlife that live in it, depend upon fire and fire-killed trees, as well as the patches of shrubs that grow in after fire. Many species of birds, including woodpecker species, require an abundance of large dead trees, and small mammals depend upon the large downed logs (from large fire-killed trees) and post-fire shrub patches. California spotted owls also depend upon patches of higher severity fire effects in their territories because such areas create habitat for one of the owl's key prey species, the Dusky-footed woodrat. Scientific studies show that owls only

m a i n t a i n stable or increasing populations when they have this type of habitat in ample supply in their territories. If these burned forest patches are salvage logged, however, the owls avoid them and they do not provide benefits.

It is far too early to speculate about how the fire burned in the forest. Fires in the Sierra Nevada are a mix of low, moderate, and high severity effects—all of which are important for wildlife. We will not know the details of the fire until the Forest Service has evaluated the area.

It is unclear at this time how the fire will affect the litigation. The Forest Service is requesting more time from the Court to review the project. Even if the fire may have killed some larger trees (a fact, which in most cases will not be determinable until the first growth season after the fire, i.e., July 2009) these large snags will be invaluable to the California spotted owl and will improve habitat in this spotted owl area of concern.

Fortunately, our interns were able to survey the Clear Creek project area before the fire began. We will soon return to the burn area to resurvey and see the damage for ourselves.



## SFK FUNdraiser a Success!

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

Mama Hillybeans was scented with coffee and thick with love for the forest on July 21, as the Tehachapi coffeehouse hosted a nonprofit fundraiser for SFK.

Over 40 people attended the event, which utilized the entire Mama Hillybeans facility. Guests were served a delicious organic, vegetarian dinner with lovely background music by Jon Hammond on the hammered dulcimer while the guests dined al fresco. After the meal was finished, Ed Begley, Jr. gave a speech about why protecting the sequoias is crucial. "If the government wanted to tear down the Smithsonian to use the bricks to build cheap housing, we wouldn't stand for that; there would be mass public outrage. We all own the Smithsonian, just as we all own the sequoias, and we need to ensure that they, too, remain standing for all to enjoy," said Begley.

After his speech, Begley ushered the guests inside for a brief PowerPoint presentation by Valerie about SFK's history, programs, victories, and goals for the future. Valerie then showed a film about envi-

ronmental legend Martin Litton, President of SFK, titled "Among the Giant Sequoias," in which Litton demonstrates why the Giant Sequoia National Monument must be transferred from the care of the U.S. Forest Service into the care of the National Park Service. Following the film, Valerie's young daughter Sophia drew the names of guests from a basket, and everyone in attendance was given a prize, including t-shirts, tote bags, wildflower guides, books, DVDs, a day trip to the sequoias with Valerie, and a field guide to the Sierra Nevada.

The evening concluded with musical entertainment by Archie Logsdon (Lost Hills), with Mike Gallagher and Pat Seamount of Out of the Blue, who performed original songs as well as classic favorites such as "Red Tail Hawk" and "Home Grown Tomatoes." Everyone who attended the event left with a gift in their hands and a smile on their face. We are so grateful to the entire team at Mama Hillybeans for making our event such a smashing success!





SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER

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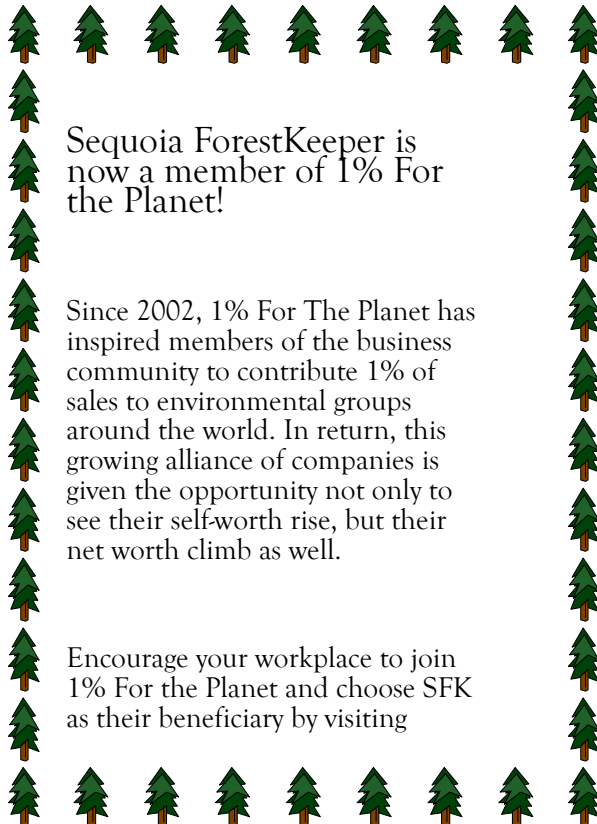
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- ◆ Kristina Haddad
- ◆ Richard Kangas
- ◆ Charlene Little
- ◆ Martin Litton
- ◆ Stacia Wells



Sequoia ForestKeeper is now a member of 1% For the Planet!

Since 2002, 1% For The Planet has inspired members of the business community to contribute 1% of sales to environmental groups around the world. In return, this growing alliance of companies is given the opportunity not only to see their self-worth rise, but their net worth climb as well.

Encourage your workplace to join 1% For the Planet and choose SFK as their beneficiary by visiting

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