

**Quote of the season:**

“I would feel more optimistic for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit nature and more time respecting her seniority.”

E.B. White

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# The Sequoia Seedling

## Sequoia ForestKeeper Welcomes Summer Interns

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

Sequoia ForestKeeper is very pleased to announce that we have selected four college student interns through the Student Conservation Association to perform in-depth monitoring of forest conditions in the Giant Sequoia National Monument and Sequoia National Forest throughout the summer. The interns will spend the summer monitoring forest conditions to acquire factual data regarding forests that have been logged or otherwise altered and those that have remained untouched.

The monitoring performed by SCA interns will include documenting the health of the forest in areas that have not had any logging or grazing activity compared to areas that have been managed. They will also be performing intensive monitoring in sequoia groves.

The findings will be used to determine the differences between managed and unmanaged forests, such as past fire behavior, wildlife use, seedling regeneration, canopy cover (shade), watershed health, and more. This data can be useful in future litigation and rulings, and will be beneficial to organizations and agencies across the



*Ben Parsons, Michael Gatlin, David Wood, and Chris Hansen*

nation, but most particularly in California, where forests are disappearing at an alarming rate due to development and logging.

Due to the rural nature of the Kernville area, with a population of fewer than 20,000 in the entire Kern River Valley, it is difficult to gather enough volunteers to monitor specific parts of these 1.2 million acres where we need to compare logged verses unlogged forest areas. It is our hope that the interns will prove useful in gathering data needed to scientifically compare those areas.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a well-

known and respected organization that has been linking students with agencies and organizations for fifty years. Since 1957, SCA has served as a source for motivated full-time interns and adult-led high school conservation crews to assist with natural and cultural resource management tasks. SCA annually fields more than 1,500 Conservation Interns and 100 Conservation Crews, who perform more than 1,500,000 hours of valuable conservation service.

After extensive review of over fifty applications, and interviews with the top thirteen candidates, the four interns we have chosen are:

*Interns continued on next page...*

## CAN YOU HELP?

The cost of our summer student intern monitoring program will be approximately \$15,000, which includes insurance, food, travel expenses to get the interns here, fuel for their travel within the forest, and SCA fees.

If you would like to help with the cost of this worthwhile endeavor, please call Valerie at (760) 376-4434 or send a check to:

Sequoia ForestKeeper

Summer Monitoring Program

P.O. Box 2134

Kernville, CA 93238

Or make a donation online on our website:

[www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org](http://www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org)

**Michael Gatlin**, a second-year Wildlife Management major from Oklahoma State University and life-long outdoorsman. Michael said that what he hopes to gain from this internship opportunity is hands-on experience that will give him real knowledge of what he will be doing in his career. Michael's southern charm, passion, and real life experience as well as his understanding of forest issues impressed SFK staff, and we couldn't pass him up. "I have wanted to work in the field for as long as I can remember. Now that I have found a way to do that while still in school I want to jump on the opportunity," he said.

**Christopher Hansen** is a fourth-year Ecology major from the University of Georgia, as well as an accomplished backpacker and vegetarian camp cook. Christopher's family has spent many summers camping; one summer

they spent amongst the sequoias, and these trees have carved a place in his heart. Christopher made a very strong impression with SFK staff, and his extensive back country experience as well as ability to articulate his passion for the environment will add a great deal to this project. "The path our civilization has chosen is unwise, unaesthetic, and untenable; I cannot imagine doing anything with my life other than attempting to minimize the damage that my culture inflicts on the earth," he said.

**Benjamin Parsons**, a first-year Environmental Studies major from Western Michigan University, grew up on an organic farm and spent last summer on a road trip visiting 15 National Parks in the Western U.S. His passion for the cause, as well as his familiarity with environmental policy, makes him a great asset to the team. "I'm in love with the outdoors and have concen-

trated my studies in the environmental field. I think it is crucial in this present day to be concerned about the state of the environment worldwide. I want to help in this cause, and I'm also looking forward to seeing new places and meeting new people along the way," he said.

**David Wood** is a second-year Forestry major from Humboldt State University in Northern California, who is working toward becoming a National Park Ranger. David is very proud to have earned the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America in 2004, and the skills he has gained in that organization, as well as his intimate knowledge of the Sierran ecosystem, will be true assets to the project. "I care for the environment and I feel that if we keep living the way we are, the environment will be wiped out, so we need to protect it," he said.



## Forest Service to Close Campgrounds Across U.S.

By Valerie Cassity, Programs Director

The Forest Service recently released to the public their Recreation Site Facility Master Plan (RSFMP), which will close and decommission thousands of recreation sites all over the nation, including over 100 sites in Sequoia National Forest and the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Although the RSFMP was completed in April 2006, it was just released to the public in February. It was kept from public release until that time at the orders of the National

Forest Service offices in Washington, D.C. Mary Cole, Sequoia National Forest Recreation Specialist explained that this is a nation-wide process happening on all National Forests because of slashed recreation budgets due to the money being funneled into the war in Iraq. She said that many of the campsites on Sequoia National Forest were built in the 1950s and geared towards tent camping families of four, and that the reality of recreational use has changed in the last 57 years and now families are utilizing RV parks

more than primitive camping areas. "[The RSFMP] is not a decision document, it's a plan to address one of President Bush's agenda items to match performance to budget," said Cole, point person on the Sequoia National Forest RSFMP.

Sequoia National Forest is considering decommissioning eleven campgrounds, including Long Meadow, Redwood Meadow, Leavis Flat, and Coy Flat, reducing services at perhaps 60 other locations, and

Continued on page 7...

## Why I'm on the Board of SFK...

By Kristina Haddad, Vice President

I love trees. That's the easiest way to explain it. In my opinion, it's impossible not to. Sort of like a beautiful sunset, moonlight reflecting off the ocean, wildflowers dancing in a meadow. Those sorts of things are hard to not feel a sort of love for. But I have to say I might put my love of trees above even those treasures...

My love for trees – large trees in particular— started a very young age, 3 specifically. My immigrant Greek grandpa and grandma lived in a small coastal town in Northern California. My grandpa had worked (ironically) in the mills of northern California when the resources in America seemed abundant.

Every vacation, my family would drive north from the San Francisco Bay Area to their home at the tip of the state – the once thriving logging (and fishing) town of Crescent City. Driving north through the redwoods was for me magical; magical to the 100<sup>th</sup> degree. We would often stop and have lunch in Redwood National Park and then continue our drive north. In the summer we would stay in an old weathered cabin overlooking the pristine Smith River. In the winter we would stay

in “town.” Running through the forest, exploring, playing hide and seek, or just resting in the middle of the sanctuary of trees are my most potent and joyful memories. In the forest anything could happen. In the forest I felt perfection.

Years later I found myself living in Los Angeles, working as both an actress and a forest protection activist at the Environment Now Foundation. It was there that I met SFK's Executive Director Ara Marderosian. He was simply one of the most passionate and dedicated activists I had encountered and his love for the Giant Sequoias was palpable. I was also fortunate to meet his “partners in crime,” the legendary Martin Litton and Charlene Little. They expressed the dangers that still loomed for the Sequoias and there began my odyssey.

I've been on the Board of Sequoia ForestKeeper since their inception (6 years ago). The work that Ara, Valerie Cassity and now Kalyani Robbins do is extraordinary. They and their colleagues are – simply put – the reason why we will have the giant sequoia ecosystem intact for future generations to enjoy. I'm consistently inspired by them and the fact that this very small group of individuals is saving one of the most precious places on earth for the rest of us to enjoy. It's a privilege to serve on the Board of SFK and to work with Sequoia ForestKeeper.

Finally, in an effort to merge my passion for acting and my passion for the Sequoias, a few years ago I created a one-woman



environmentally-themed show called “Save Sheldon!!!” It's the story of an activist's attempt to save a 3,000 year old sequoia tree named Sheldon– it's both an homage to the trees SFK is fighting diligently to protect and to the trees that served as magical inspiration in my childhood.

I will be performing Save Sheldon in San Francisco August 2nd as a benefit for SFK. After performing Save Sheldon to audiences throughout the west, I'm heartened to learn that I'm not the only one that loves trees. . .

Please contact Valerie Cassity for more information to reserve your seat for the show today! For more information on Save Sheldon visit [www.kristinahaddad.com](http://www.kristinahaddad.com).

Please join us on August 2 for Kristina's performance of

SAVE

SHELDON!!!

At the New Langton Arts Theater in San Francisco.

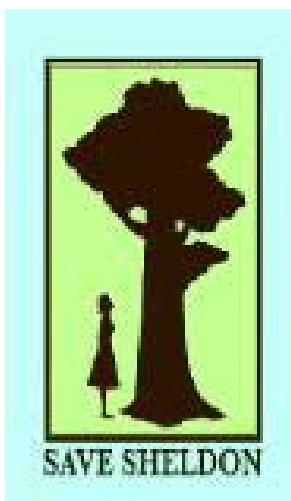
Call 866-KEEP-TREES for further details.

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 new 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 Size: **S M L XL**
- 🌲 Organic Cotton SFK Tote Bag (Northern Goshawk Level and above)

Individual and gift Memberships are available at the following levels:

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

\*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**

# The Sequoia Seedling

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A woman ventures into a two-millennia-old sequoia



The Trail of 100 Giants is a great place to learn about the sequoia ecosystem



Reconnect with nature on the trail...



And enjoy some breath-taking views along the way



This could be you! Join us for an experience to remember

## Join SFK for our First Annual Great American Campout among the Giants!

This July 27-29, Sequoia ForestKeeper will be hosting a campout for sequoia lovers of all ages at Long Meadow Campground in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. The trip is a way to learn more about the sequoia ecosystem while having fun and getting to know other SFK members and supporters.

Saturday, there will be a variety of hikes from an easy one mile loop through the scenic Trail of 100 Giants for the kids, elders, and those who just want a relaxing sequoia experience without too much

exertion. For the stouter of heart and body, longer hikes will be offered to show sequoias in a more primitive setting. Children's crafts and activities are also planned.

Our SCA interns will join us to give a demonstration of the monitoring work they are performing throughout the summer, and anyone who wishes can try their hand at monitoring.

Saturday night will be a potluck-style dinner, followed by campfire songs, stories, and great conversation. Please bring your musical in-

struments to add to this experience.

The suggested donation for this event is \$10 per person or \$25 per family (one tent per family, please), and includes a spot for your tent and activities only. Campers are asked to supply their own equipment and food, although anything forgotten will be willingly shared.

If you are interested in attending this unique sequoia experience, please call 760-376-4434 to reserve your spot today!

## SFK LEGAL UPDATE

By Kalyani Robbins, Legal Director

I am pleased to report that our new legal department has gotten off to a great start! In the first few months I spent most of my time learning about the issues most critical to our mission, as well as studying how best to address them. Throughout that time, I took over the responsibility for drafting administrative comment letters to the Forest Service regarding the many projects it has already proposed this year.

Not entirely surprisingly, the Forest Service denied our appeal of their refusal to create an environmental impact statement (EIS) for a thinning project that will log trees up to 29.9 inches diameter at breast-height. The project will have a significant effect on the environment; is not designed according to proper scientific standards, and thus warranted an EIS. I spent many hours on a series of conference calls

with the Forest Supervisor, hoping to persuade her to make some changes to the plans for this project, but ultimately to no avail.

At this point we are awaiting the right moment to begin litigation to stop this project from moving forward. We will be working with counsel from the John Muir Project, our co-plaintiff for the case. We have been waiting to be able to legally challenge this type of environmentally destructive project since SFK was created!

I am especially excited to announce that I have a full-time legal intern this summer. Her name is Claire Tonry, and she is a very bright and capable law student at Lewis & Clark Law School here in Portland, OR (where I live). So far she has already completed two (and nearly three) legal memoranda based on research I assigned her, which has been enormously

helpful to me as I strategize for this lawsuit and various other matters.

Finally, I have some great news! On June 8, 2007, the Ninth Circuit upheld a nationwide injunction against the Forest Service which was attempting to exclude a large number of logging projects from public review and comment. The Forest Service was trying to exclude any project fewer than 4,200 acres from environmental review. SFK brought this case in conjunction with the John Muir Project. This June 2007 opinion cemented the holding that the Forest Service may not exclude the public from commenting on those projects which used fire as an excuse to get more logs to the timber mill.

We are all so grateful to our members who contributed to the legal program and made all this possible!



## Forest Service Will Not Appeal Monument Lawsuit Ruling

By Ara Marderosian, Executive Director

On May 21, 2007, Sequoia ForestKeeper was informed that the Forest Service will not appeal Judge Breyer's 2006 ruling that the Forest Service's Management Plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument was illegal, and the Forest Service will now be forced to rewrite the Management Plan to provide actual protection for the Giant Sequoia ecosystems and the species and objects they contain.

Sequoia ForestKeeper and five other groups filed the suit in Jan. 2005 to dispute the Forest Service's Giant Sequoia National Monument management plan, which called for annual logging ~ supposedly for fuel reduction and catastro-

phic fire prevention ~ of 7.5 million board feet of trees up to 30-inches in diameter. This amount of logging would fill 1,500 logging trucks per year, a far cry from the protections called for in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument.

In response to our winning this lawsuit, the Forest Service is repeating the same old lie that logging will cure forest flammability. This is a clear example of government deliberately fostering a misunderstanding of fire's beneficial role in the Sierran ecosystem to justify the enhancement of corporate profits. The truth is that fire is a natural part of the mixed conifer ecosystem; logging increases, not decreases, fire risk and severity.

Although the Forest Service has continually denied that it lost this case, even in front of Congress, they're failure to file an appeal demonstrates the strength of our win. Hopefully, the next Congress will not only cut funding for logging in the Giant Sequoia National Monument but will also transfer the Monument from the control of the Forest Service and into the care of the National Park Service.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Call your Senators and Representative and ask them to support the transfer of the Monument into the care of the National Park Service.



### Campground Closure Continued from page 2...

closing some sites in favor of privatized recreation sites for corporate profit. While the Forest Service says that these documents are not decision documents, it is clear that they indicate what the FS wants to do and that continuation of the process of closing these facilities will occur unless public pressure forces a change in FS direction.

Recreational use is one of the purposes of the forest and brings in significant revenue. While it may be possible to maximize the economic benefit from the ratio between revenues and expenses by having fewer campgrounds, to do so is to treat the forest as a business

purely for profit. It ignores the need to retain existing facilities and seeks to concentrate concessions into fewer locations to save money, while still spending significantly more on logging and other projects which consistently lose money at the taxpayers' expense.

The Forest Service, the agency charged with preserving America's recreational opportunities, will be closing these campgrounds despite their vow to protect these opportunities. They plan to remove bathrooms, destroy fire rings, and otherwise obliterate the simple amenities that bring people to the forest year after year to camp, fish, hike, and otherwise spend their time there. Sequoia ForestKeeper is a proponent of recreation in the for-

est, and we find this misallocation of resources deplorable. People need the opportunity to spend time in our forests to find a sense of peace and connectivity to all living things. That anyone would be denied that right because the government is irresponsible with their funds is unacceptable. National Forests are public lands, owned by all Americans, and it is our right to recreate in and enjoy them.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Please call your Congressperson, (202) 224-3121, and ask them to make the FS properly manage its recreational components: the component most important to most citizens.



## SPECIAL THANKS

Sequoia ForestKeeper would like to thank Sundog Expeditions for the excellent fundraiser they organized on behalf of SFK. The rafting trip with Martin Litton, which took place May 20-24, was great fun to all involved, and the SFK team is grateful to Sundog Expeditions for this creative and lively way to support our cause!



SEQUOIA FORESTKEEPER

P.O. Box 2134  
Kernville, CA 93238  
Phone: 760-376-4434 or  
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ara@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

Programs Director, Valerie Cassity  
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Legal Director, Kalyani Robbins  
kalyani@sequoiaforestkeeper.org

# www.sequoiaforestkeeper.org

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Do you work for a corporation, agency, or company that offers matching grants for charitable donations? If so, **your employer might be willing to match your donation to Sequoia ForestKeeper!** Next time you are renewing your membership, ask your employer if they have a **matching grant program**, and if so, you can increase your donation by up to 100%!

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