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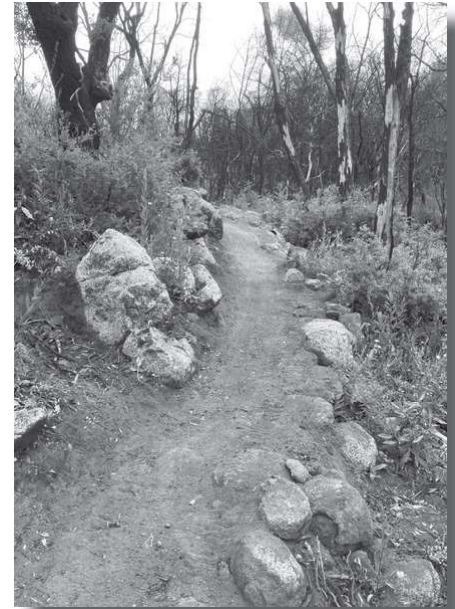
Highlander

Sept./Oct. 2022

The Rural Bonny Doon Association Newsletter

RBDA Virtual Public Meeting
Redwood Double Header:
Foresters Answer Your Questions & San Vicente Redwoods Update
Wednesday September 21, 7:30 p.m. - Virtual Video Conference Meeting

Please join the RBDA on Wednesday, September 21st at 7:30 for a redwood-themed public meeting. For the first half hour please join us for an “Ask a Forester” feature with foresters Steve Auten and Joe Culver. The foresters will answer your questions and address community concerns about redwood health in the face of fire, drought and climate change. Stay for the second hour when Santa Cruz County Land Trust Access Managers Carie Thompson and Brian Homberger will present details about the opening of San Vicente Redwoods. Their presentation will cover opening dates, staffing, emergency response plans, impacts of the fire on the process, reduction in phase one trail mileage, changes to the management plan and the process for opening additional trails. The meeting will be on Zoom. We hope to see you there.

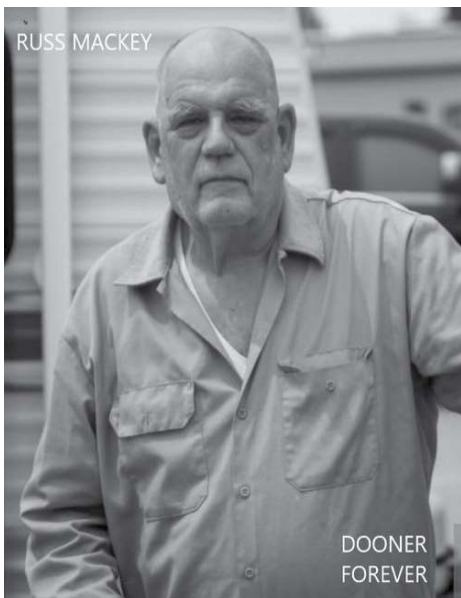


Virtual Meeting Participation

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Zoom (zoom.us) is a video conference platform that is free to use through either a web browser or application, and audio participation is possible through a dial-up connection on your phone. For this meeting, we will be utilizing all the available security features, including password-protection and waiting rooms managed by the host. Please send your e-mail address to meetings@rbda.us to receive the meeting credentials and password. Your email will not be used for any other communication and will not be shared.

In Memoriam, Russ Mackey: Bonny Doon Loses One of its MVPs



Bonny Doon lost one of its beloved citizens this summer. Russ Mackey passed away after a seven-year battle with cancer.

As his wife, Dawn, wrote on “Slice”, Russ “was known to a lot of people in Bonny Doon but not a lot of people ever met him in person.”

Mr. Mackey lived the last 40 years of his life on crutches as the result of a workplace injury, but he kept abreast of community issues and was an advocate for Bonny Doon always, especially on issues of emergency readiness, fire safety and the Bonny Doon Volunteer Fire Department, of which he was a member until his injury.

An avid ham radio user, Russ Mackey made a point of studying any issue that was of concern to Bonny Doon, learning critical details and informing the community of vital information.

When the “Slice” group on Facebook became popular, Russ used the venue to post informative and accurate information. As a moderator of the group, he worked to keep discussions civil and focused on facts. If Russ wrote a post, the community counted on its reliability.

“When I was chair of the RBDA, there were many times I turned to Russ to explain the history of an issue that affected Bonny Doon and the pros cons of solutions,” said Ted Benhari who was a former chair of the RBDA for 9 years. “Russ’ point of view guided many of the opinions the RBDA took and helped us stand up for the community in government hearings. He was an invaluable resource.”

Courageous, generous, selfless and passionate about helping the community thrive and be safe, Russ Mackey will be missed.

RBDA Virtual Public Meeting : Meet the Foresters

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Steve Auten is a Registered Professional Forester who earned his master's degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in Forestry with a focus on wildfire tree mortality. He has managed forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains for 21 years with stints as forester for Big Creek Lumber and operations manager for Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch before founding his own forestry concern, ARC, which consults large forest owners about stewardship and forestry activities



Joe Culver grew up in the Santa Cruz Mountains and went to college at UC Davis where he earned a B.S. in Geology. He worked for a couple of consulting foresters before ending up at Big Creek on their forestry staff for five years. In the last 15 years, he has operated his own consulting business. His work is primarily focused on management of private timberlands related to the growing and harvesting of redwood and Douglas Fir. Since the CZU fire, much of his work has been salvage harvesting in the burn area. He also teaches a cooking class at Branciforte Middle School and coaches the golf team. He is an avid hiker and gardener, and preserves the fruits of his labor.

New Developments in Cotoni-Coast Dairies Public Access

The slow-moving process to provide the public with access to the Cotoni-Coast Dairies National Monument property took an unfortunate turn when the Bureau of Land Management broke ground on a parking lot with an entrance on Cement Plant Road. This act demonstrates the BLM willingness to ignore public input, to mislead residents and Coastal Commission staff and to flout its own rules. Under pressure to open the Monument, the BLM had already ignored the requirements in its own governing statutes that called for biotic inventories to protect the "objects of the Monument", those plants, animals, and insects called out in President Obama's Monument proclamation. Instead, it allowed Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewards (the rebranded Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz County) to commence trail construction, without first gathering the baseline biological data. This data will be vital for answering basic questions and making informed decisions about recreational carrying capacity in the future. Questions such as:

- Has the introduction of recreational users caused unacceptable degradation of natural resources such as increased erosion and stormwater runoff, degrading streams to the detriment of aquatic species?
- Is wildlife being driven from habitat by the intrusion of visitors?

At an RBDA meeting in March 2022, on the Cotoni Coast Dairies, our community members overwhelmingly favored the collection of baseline data, which is necessary to evaluate the impacts of recreational use.

The RBDA board looked at the process that the BLM followed and, mindful of the RBDA's founding principles (advocating for appropriate land use decisions and protecting natural resources), voted to join the Davenport North Coast Association (DNCA) and the Friends of the North Coast (FONC) in their appeal of the BLM's "Implementation Actions". The appeal was submitted to the Board of Land Appeals, the arm of the

Department of the Interior whose mission it is to provide an impartial forum within the Department for the fair resolution of disputes involving public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction. The attorney for the BLM filed several time extensions thus delaying a decision on the appeal. Yet, now, without waiting for a decision, the local BLM office has begun construction of a parking lot and trailhead at a carelessly modified site all the while ignoring objections and the proposals for a superior location long advocated by the DNCA. The size of the lot under construction was reduced to only 42 spaces with its entrance very near the gate to Warrenella Road, the private road that is used by salvage logging trucks at San Vicente Redwoods and other industrial operations thereby creating potentially dangerous traffic conditions for visitors arriving on the narrow road. The location needlessly increases visitor impact on Davenport New Town residents. There is no overflow parking on Cement Plant Road, which will be posted with No Parking signs by the County. Yet, this parking lot and trailhead will be the only access points to the northern portion of Cotoni-Coast Dairies for the foreseeable future until a proposed visitor interpretive center a few hundred feet north on Cement Plant Road is built at the site of the old Mocettini cheese barn.

The BLM's disregard for its own rules and process is an alarming and disappointing turn of events for many local residents who recall being told that the Monument designation represented a higher level of resource protection and increased management funding. Instead, BLM, citing lack of funds, skipped the baseline collection, refused to participate in the Interior Department's Alternative Dispute Resolution process, (essentially, a mediated solution) and deprived residents (represented by the RBDA, DNCA and FONC) of their right to a fair appeal process before unilaterally proceeding with its parking lot.

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New Developments in Cotoni-Coast Dairies Public Access

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On August 31, the judges at the Board of Land Appeals finally ruled in favor of the RBDA and other Appellants, finding that the BLM must go back and redo its Implementation of its Resource Management Plan, because it never considered the environmental effects of building the Warrenella Road Gate Parking Area without also building the Marina Ranch Gate Parking Area. The National Environmental Policy Act requires the BLM to go back and take a "hard look" at other options to provide a southern entrance to the Monument property since BLM knew its Marina Ranch Gate proposal was infeasible. They failed to do this and started construction at Warrenella in violation of the Resource Management Plan goal which was to avoid concentrating visitor access at a single location.

You can learn much more about the process at the Friends of the North Coast website: <https://friendsofthenorthcoast.weebly.com>

North Coast Multi-Agency Working Group Begins Work

The North Coast Facilities and Management Plan creation process highlighted in the January 2022 issue of the Highlander has begun. The project is being funded with \$100,000 from the Coastal Conservancy and \$100,000 from California State Parks, both in the form of grants to Santa Cruz County and administered by Santa Cruz County Parks. County Parks has hired the consulting firm Placeworks to manage the process, but the County and consultants have so far been running it as a closed process, with stakeholders requested not to share information outside of the stakeholder group. Two Davenport North Coast Association (DNCA) representatives have been allowed to attend, because the need for a plan was initially suggested to the Coastal Conservancy by the DNCA. A second stakeholder meeting took place in the week of August 22, and County Parks has indicated that a public phase of the project, with opportunity for comment, will commence in October.

The closed nature of the process is of some concern to North Coast residents. Placeworks had originally promised to put out monthly informational emails to interested parties, while the consultant had proposed to interview select residents to identify issues and concerns related to long-term management. To date, none of this has happened.

Home Ignition Zone Consultations in Bonny Doon by the Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council

If you live in Bonny Doon and want reliable guidance in making your home more resistant to wildfire, go to BDFSC.org and sign up by clicking "HIZ Consultations". We will arrange a convenient time for one of our trained teams to help analyze potential risks around your property and suggest possible ways to address them.

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Felton, CA 95018

RBDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Yearly dues are \$20/pp or \$15/pp for multiple members at same address.

Memberships expire on Jan. 31 of the next year. *

Number of Members _____ Number of years you are joining or renewing for _____

Multiply years times number of memberships. Checks only, please, made out to RBDA.

Amount enclosed for dues: \$ _____

I also wish to support the RBDA with an additional contribution of \$ _____

Total amount of enclosed check \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail Address(es) _____

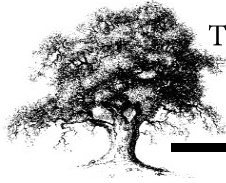
I certify that I (we) live or own property in the Bonny Doon Planning District.

Clip out and mail to RBDA, P.O. Box 551, Felton, CA 95018.

Dues mostly go for
printing and mailing
The Highlander,
your voice for keeping
Bonny Doon rural
and natural.

Additional contributions
are gladly accepted and
greatly appreciated!

*Dues paid after Nov. 30
count toward the next year.



THE Highlander

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Bonny Doon's voice in preserving our special quality of life, The Highlander, is mailed free 6 times a year. RBDA Public Meetings are usually held the second Wednesdays of January, March, May, September and November. We encourage you to participate. Send correspondence to The Highlander at the above address.

Access the RBDA on the Internet at:

www.rbda.us

E-mail us at:

board@rbda.us

Facebook (RBDA Members Only):

RBDA, Rural Bonny Doon Association

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**Bonny Doon Resident
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

September 21st RBDA Public Meeting: Meet the Foresters & SV Redwoods Update

REMINDER: *Be sure to VOTE on November 8, 2022!*

***Residents of Bonny Doon will help elect
the new 3rd District County Supervisor to replace Ryan Coonerty***



Justin Cummings
cummingsforsupervisor.com

Residents will choose between candidates Justin Cummings and Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson. Candidates' bios can be found in the May 2022 Highlander and recorded video of the candidates forum held by the RBDA on May 11, 2022 can be found at the RBDA website, www.RBDA.us.



Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson shebreh.org