The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

Save the date: Humboldt Trails Summit Sept 24th.

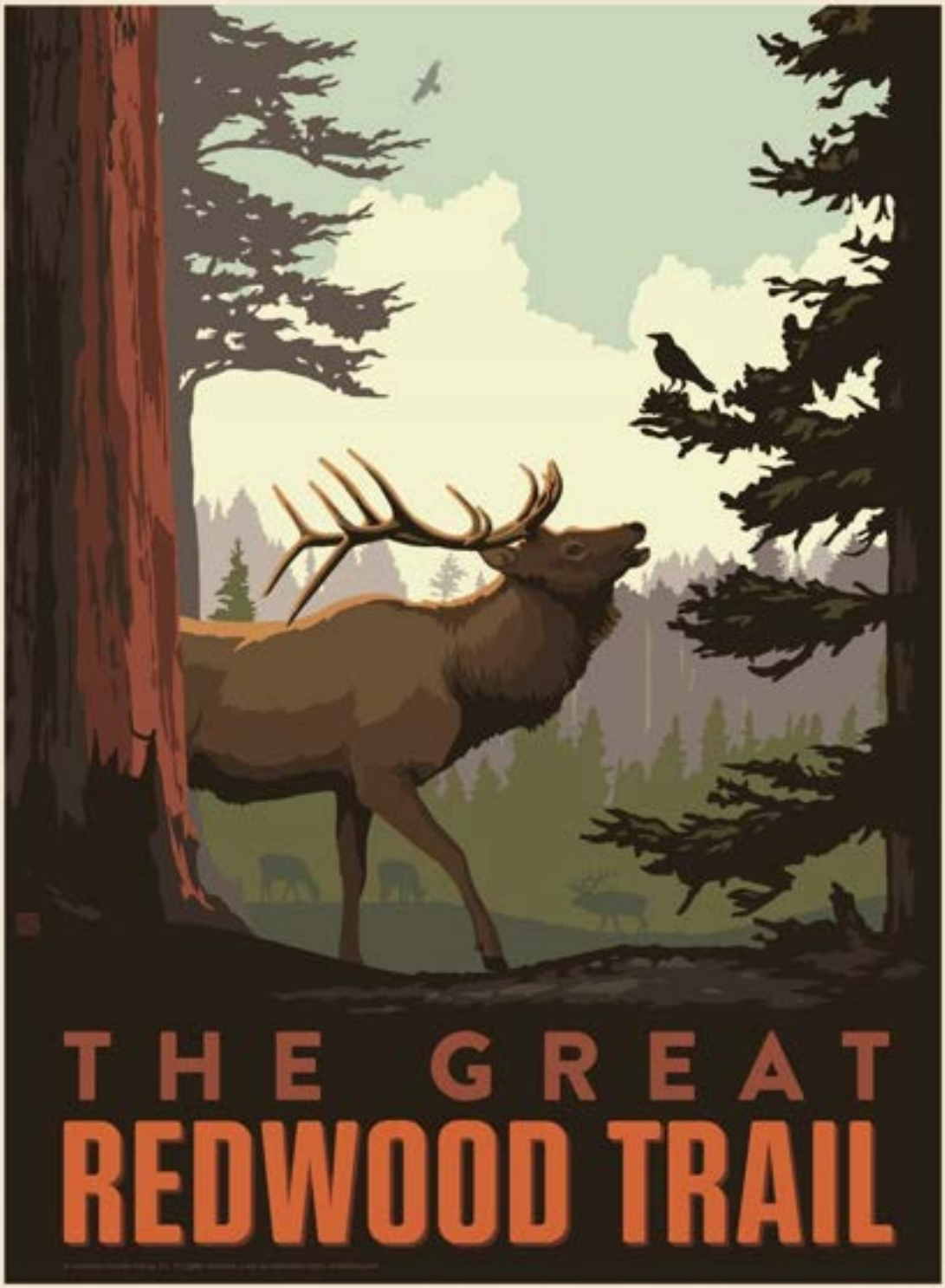
Saturday, September 24th, 9 a.m. to 11:45 p.m. at the Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka

Please come to the 2022 Trails Summit on Saturday, September 24th, from 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. at the Sequoia Conference Center in Eureka. This year's focus is on future trails in Humboldt County, including trail initiatives currently underway, those planned, funded, and under construction. Doors open at 9 a.m. with a resource fair of trail partner organizations where participants can have one-on-one conversations about trail progress and development. Presentations begin at 10 a.m. with Hank Seeman, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, sharing updates on the work underway to complete the Humboldt Bay Trail connection between Arcata and Eureka, the McKay Community Forest Trails, and Humboldt County trail initiatives. State Senator Mike McGuire, Karen Gear from the State Coastal Conservancy, and the new Executive Director for the Great Redwood Trail Agency will provide a progress update on the Great Redwood Trail, a 320-mile, world-class, multi-use rail to trail project connecting California's San Francisco and Humboldt Bays.

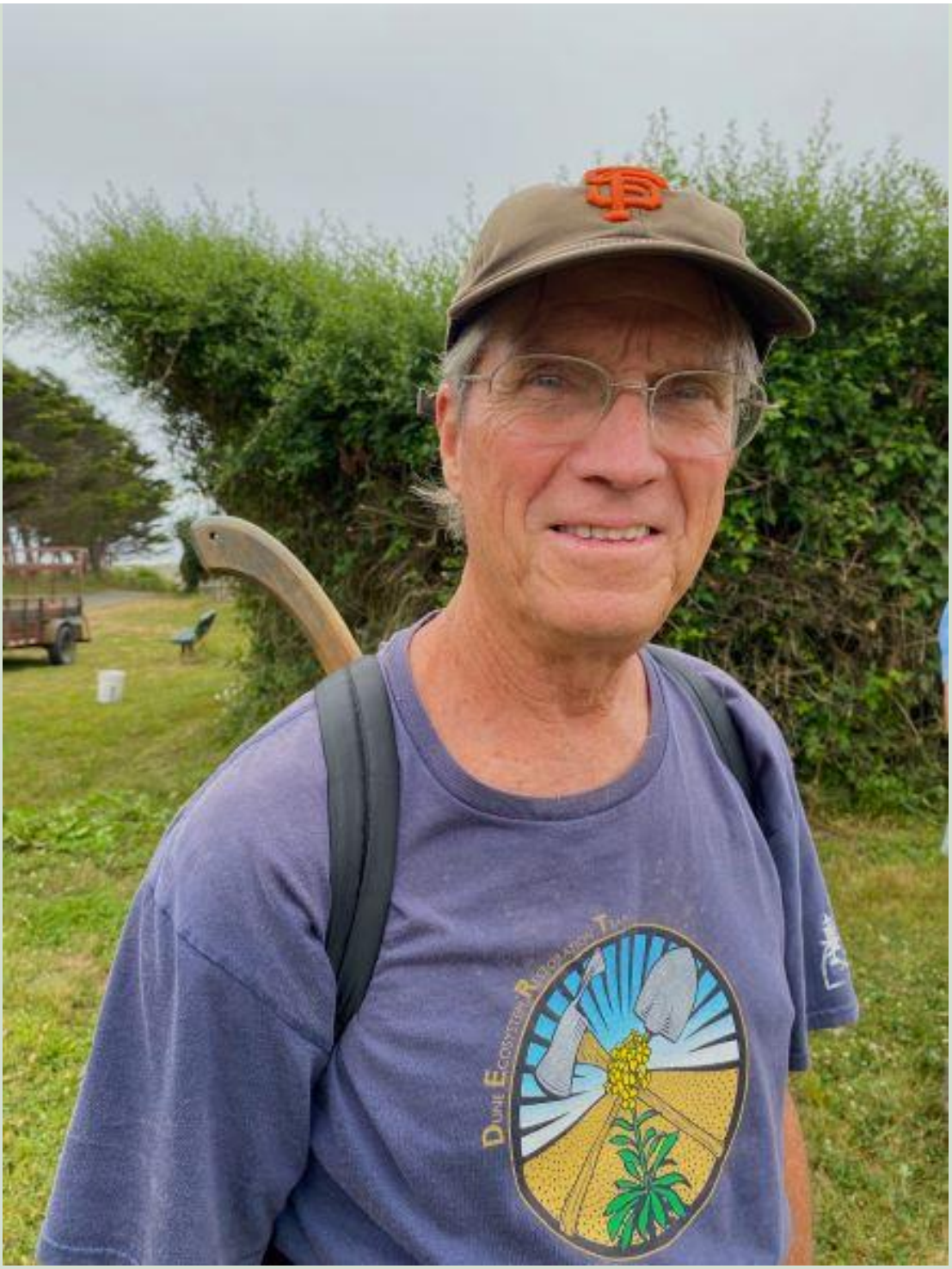
Once again, this year's presentation will be available live on Access Humboldt TV and YouTube on the HTC Facebook page. The public is encouraged to send their questions about trails in advance to trailssummit@humtrail.org.

For more information on this event, please visit humtrails.org

The Humboldt Trails Summit is sponsored by the Humboldt Trails Council in collaboration with the Humboldt Bay Trail Working Group, the County of Humboldt, and the many organizations, jurisdictions, and agencies working on behalf of expanding non-motorized trail access.



Trail Steward Profile - Bob Earl



Since moving to McKinleyville in 2016, Bob Earl has been a regular at workdays on the Hammond Trail, in the Arcata Community Forest, at the Friends of the Dunes, in Trinidad, and at Sue-Meg State Park. “I enjoy doing this so much,” he told me recently, then listing some reasons. “It is therapeutic. It is important to care about something other than yourself. I love the beauty of nature, and this has been a great way to see places I wouldn’t have otherwise discovered. And, the people you work

with are great." It is a rare weekend when Bob isn't attending two volunteer events.

I knew from our earlier conversations that Bob had been a very successful racecar driver. On my visit to his home, he showed me photos from his 50 years in the racing business and tried, in vain, to explain the type of cars he drove. Classifications like GTU, GTP, Formula Ford, and Formula Atlantic. They were all very fast cars. He drove from 1971 – 1993 and has coached ever since.

As a car racer, a sport with a pretty immense carbon footprint, Bob advocated for environmental changes. Things like recycling tires and minimizing the escape of Freon. He has since traded in his Mercedes 320CLK for a Chevrolet Volt and the racetrack for trails.

I appreciate Bob's easy-going style, his compatibility with everyone on the volunteer crew, and ability to work independently. Whatever needs to be done! We would welcome more Bob Earl's to join any of our Volunteer Trail Steward (VTS) crews. Check out all of the VTS opportunities at humtrails.org

Rees Hughes walked his way through some of the most stunning regions on Earth — from the top of Kilimanjaro to the arid interior of Australia, from the pilgrimage route up Sri Pada in Sri Lanka to the picturesque Cornish coast, from the Himalayas to the Andes — but has found little that compares with the magic of the Klamath Knot. Co-editor of the Pacific Crest Trailside Readers and author of a guide to Humboldt County walks, Rees serves as a volunteer trail steward coordinator and an advocate for the Humboldt Bay Trail. Rees retired from a career in higher education after more than three decades at Humboldt State University, Seattle University, and the University of Kansas.

Fun on National Trails Day-June 4, 2022

by Karen Underwood

It was a windy, rainy day on June 4th, and yet the trail users were out enjoying our trails. Humboldt Trails Council encouraged folks to get out on this Saturday to celebrate National Trails Day. Three activity stations were set up along the trails to learn more about the important role community plays in protecting and promoting trails. One station was at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center, another on the Eureka Waterfront Trail North near Blue Ox Mill, and the third on the Hikshari' Trail on Hilfiker Road. There were treasure hunts, tickets for a drawing for a $50 gift certificate from Pacific Outfitters, refreshments, information on local trails, bike maps to share, and other ways to access and get involved with supporting our local trails. Some community members chose to participate in a Volunteer Trail Stewards work day on the Hammond Trail. For more information about local trails, visit: https://humtrails.org/

Karen Underwood is an HTC Board Member. Her bio is found here.

Volunteer Trail Stewards at the McKay Community Forest

The long-anticipated launch of volunteer workdays has kicked off at the McKay Community Forest! Saturday, August 13 th marked the first official workday in the McKay for the Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS), with 18 community members geared up to prepare trails for public access. The workday opened with a welcoming from Robert Voght (County Public Works) and the McKay's Trail Coordinator Dennis Houghton, whose expertise extends through the City of Arcata's Environmental Service Department as prior Natural Resources Supervisor and accompanies several years coordinating VTS projects at the Eureka Waterfront North trail. The Trail Stewards set to work removing white flagging from a section of forest stand and sweeping leaf litter in preparation for what is to be known as the new Huckleberry Trail, which leads into the forest from the North Ridge parking area that is expected to reopen to the public around Labor Day weekend. What's really exciting about this trail (aside from the well-appropriated name, as scrumptious huckleberries are ripening all along its edges) is that its ADA-compliancy will increase accessibility for recreationalists of all abilities. Volunteers completed rocking 170 lineal feet of trail and scraping 200 lineal feet of road to establish a firm and stable trail surface.

The revamped Huckleberry Trail is the first of many to be built in the McKay, as the County's Trail Plan lays out a diversified network of multi-use and single-purpose trails designed for hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and more. The Humboldt

Trails Council is excited to support the ongoing efforts through continued advocacy, sponsorship, and stewardship through regularly occurring Volunteer Trail Stewards workdays. We'd like to thank Humboldt County, the California Conservation Corps, and Redwood Coast Mountain Bike Association for their partnership in supporting the development of trails throughout the McKay Community Forest. We'd also like to thank local businesses Los Bagels, Ramone's Bakery & Cafe, and Eureka Natural Foods for providing meals to Volunteer Trail Stewards. We'd also like to thank Maureen McGarry and Liz Houghton for providing tasty breakfast treats and a phenomenal burrito lunch for all of the volunteers this weekend.

VTS workdays will continue at the McKay on the 1 st Saturday of every month, the next workday is set for Saturday, September 3 rd from 9am – 12pm. Meeting location TBA.

More intensive trail-building opportunities will commence through McKay "Delta Force" workdays, which will occur weekly, every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am-2pm, with a midday lunch provided. The first Delta Force workday is Tuesday, August 16th.

Volunteers may attend one or all of the weekly workdays and are encouraged to participate regularly. Some trail building experience is helpful but not required. All tools, gloves, trail, and safe working techniques training will be provided by Humboldt County and VTS. Volunteers should wear appropriate work clothing, and boots, and bring a small day pack for carrying food and water as the varying project locations will require some hiking to access (generally 0.5-2 miles). Volunteers are encouraged to arrive at least 15 mins. early so that enough tools and food can be made available to all.

Those interested in joining the Volunteer Trail Stewards at the McKay Community Forest can contact VTS Coordinator Rachael Garcia at vtscoordinator@humtrails.org, or Trail Coordinator Dennis Houghton at dbhedm@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Rachael Garcia serves as the Volunteer Trail Steward (VTS) Coordinator. Since late last summer, Rachael has been a regular presence at volunteer workdays as well as working behind the scenes in her office at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center. She is a graduate of Humboldt State University's class of 2019 with a B.S. in Environmental Science Management and emphasis in Environmental Education & Interpretation. She is passionate about working within the community to complete trail projects and educating youth about local ecology.

Arcata Ridge Trail Update

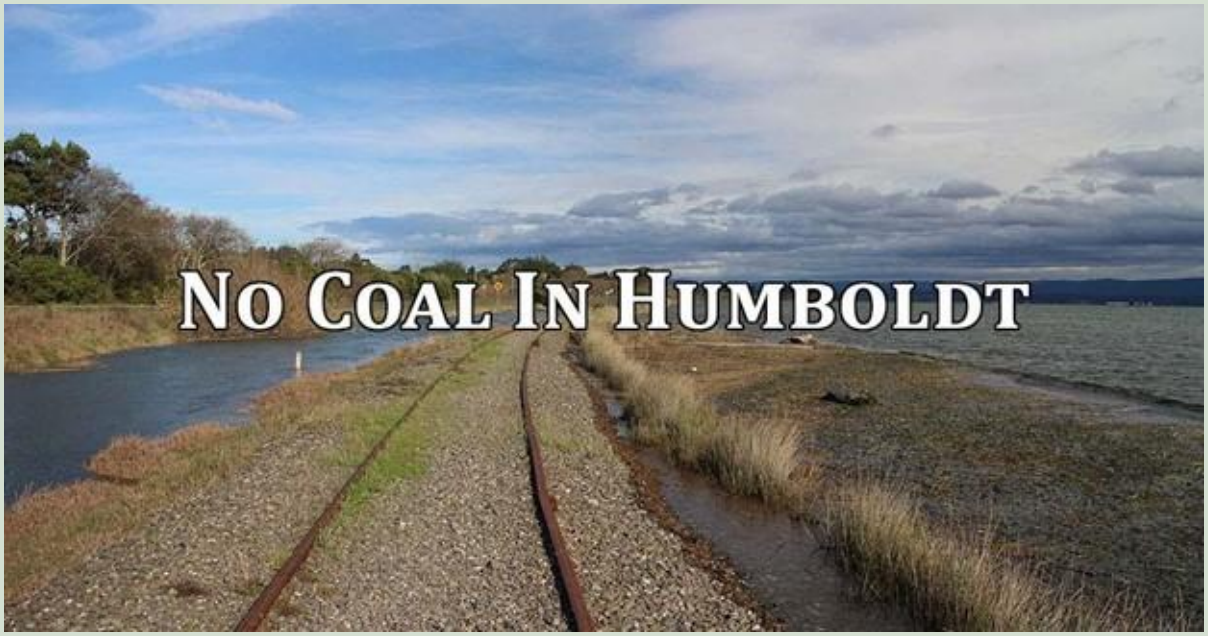
The City of Arcata continues to focus on the completion of the final segment of the Arcata Ridge Trail funded through the City's Open Space, Parks and Trails Special Tax passed by Arcata voters in 2020. The completion of the Arcata Ridge Trail between West End Road and Sunny Brae has been a City and community priority for many years. The final segment will complete a safe crossing of Fickle Hill Road between the main Arcata Community Forest tract and the Sunny Brae Forest. The City has obtained all necessary permits, completed final designs for the project and secured a contractor for the crossing of Fickle Hill Road. A judge ruled this week to lift an injunction preventing construction of the project. While the ruling could be appealed the City is hopeful that construction can commence in August and be completed by late summer.

Coalition in Transition

The Humboldt Trails Council is a founding member of the No Coal In Humboldt Coalition that actively countered the threat of coal trains to our region. The coalition helped pass 15 resolutions and ordinances, collectively submitted 21 filings with the Surface Transportation Board (STB), and rallied a strong show of community support to keep our air and water clean. There were many partner organizations. Visit the site at: https://www.nocoalhumboldt.org/

The coal train threat has passed, but we still have another threat to railbanking from Mendocino Railway, the parent company of the Skunk Train. The coalition is in the process of changing its name to the "Great Redwood Trail Friends – Humboldt," or something similar. This organization will then work against all threats to the Great Redwood Trail.

If you would like to help us protect the vision of the Great Redwood Trail and have not signed up on our list please do so. This list will be used for future updates and actions. https://nocoalhumboldt.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9aff483d9bd9544b5b989c441&id=4fb865afbb



Ted Humphry's Trail Notes From Redwood National and State Parks; Pure and Unfiltered Observations From the Trail

With Dave Van de Mark, I parked at TT parking and we walked down Emerald Ridge Trail, then down Redwood Creek to TT Grove, Then returned to TT parking area via the TT Trail.

The **TT access road** remains passable in any car or truck.

Emerald Ridge trail has been cleared and is passable with a single, easy to step over tree across the trail, between Dolason Prairie Trail and Redwood Creek.

TT Trail is easily passable and obstruction free.

We spoke with two backpacking parties, both had permits.

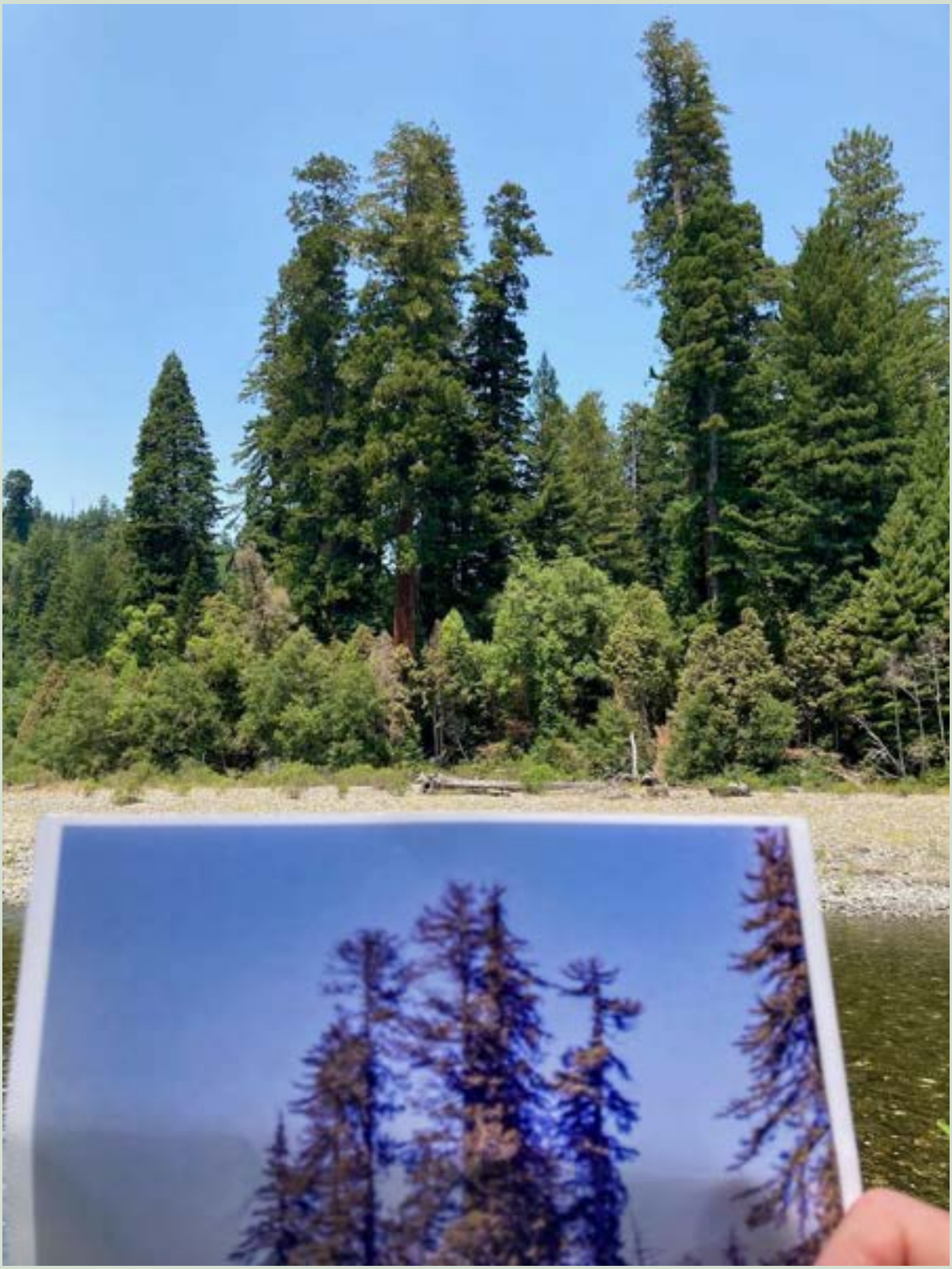
In anticipation of Dave's 50 Years Later Photographic Trip in upper Redwood Creek in mid August, where we anticipate deep pools with no easy way around, we wanted to check out new waterproof dry bags today..

Dave has two dry bags, the big backpack bag, and a smaller dry bag for camera equipment.

Here we are in Redwood Creek. The dry bags floated high in the water only a couple or three inches off the cobblestones on the bottom.

I didn't have anything new. These are plastic trash can liners. They kept towels dry, but I had to take care not to drag them when walking on gravel bars.

Dave also tried out new, detachable crampons, which gave him better footing on slippery rocks on the creek bed.



Dave's goal is to duplicate photographs he took about 50 years ago. Here is a shot in the TT Grove.

I'm looking forward to the trip in August.

Ted is a retired pediatrician who volunteers at Redwood National and State Parks.

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OUR MISSION

The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

OUR VISION

The Humboldt Trails Council envisions a well-maintained network of accessible community pathways traveled by walkers and riders of all abilities, ages and means in the pursuit of unfettered kinetic joy. We are advocates, educators, and coordinators working to enhance the county's active transportation and recreation options, community wellbeing, economic vitality, visitor captivation and appreciation of open spaces.

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