



# REDWOOD FOREST FOUNDATION INC.

NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2018

How can you get involved?

Do you want to be a part of RFFI's trailblazing, innovative, consequential work? There are several ways to join the cause today.

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Kathy Moxon,  
Redwood Forest Foundation  
Board Chair

## Revisiting Our Mission & Vision Statements

**Our Mission:** To acquire, protect, restore, and manage forestlands and other related resources in the Redwood Region for the long-term benefit of the communities located there.

**Our Vision:** To establish community based forests that provide both critical habitat for increased biodiversity & improved regional economic vitality.

According to BoardSource, a mission statement is the reason an organization exists, the need it is meeting. Whereas, a vision statement is what you see in the future if your organization succeeds at its mission. At our strategic planning retreat in April we revisited both statements wrestling with whether, after 10 years owning and operating our first forest, changes were needed. Our desire is to make more evident

our commitment to community engagement and involvement and to better reflect the

role that RFFI's forest management plays in improving forest resiliency and mitigating climate change.

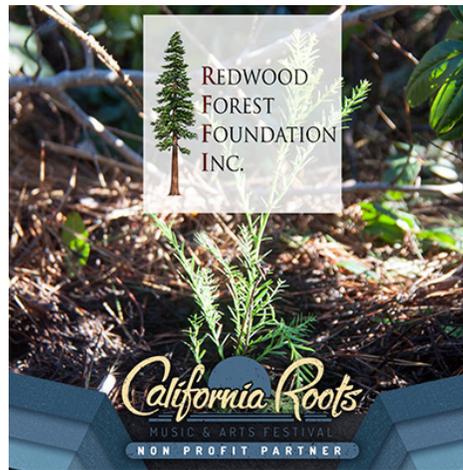
We are only starting the conversation, and have assigned the drafting to a smaller committee for presentation and feedback at the 2019 RFFI annual meeting. In the meantime, we are interested in input from passionate community members like you. What do you like about RFFI's current mission and vision and what, if anything, do you think could benefit from revision? Please email comments, along with your name, to [rffi@rffi.org](mailto:rffi@rffi.org).



**The Usal Hopper**  
**Mountain Bike the Lost Coast**  
Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> - Learn more at:  
[grasshopperadventureseries.com](http://grasshopperadventureseries.com)  
to volunteer: email [elias@rffi.org](mailto:elias@rffi.org)



## Team Up With RFFI To Honor Your Customers Or Employees



Join the growing number of companies around the nation who have redwoods trees planted in honor of valued customers and employees. Honorees receive a tailor-made certificate commemorating the occasion. Our partner California Roots features RFFI in numerous media releases and at their Memorial Day Music and Arts Festival, planting 1800 redwood trees in honor of VIP Redwood Passholders. Benziger

Winery had a redwood planted for each case of wine sold in Bay Area stores. Tree Media has a redwood planted for each client. Partners tell us, "The response is amazing!" RFFI benefits from the support and expanded visibility. Partners benefit from the publicity and positive customer reaction.

Want to team up? Contact Lin Barrett at [morgan@rffi.org](mailto:morgan@rffi.org).

**Stay In Touch!**  
**Visit [rffi.org](http://rffi.org) & Join Us**

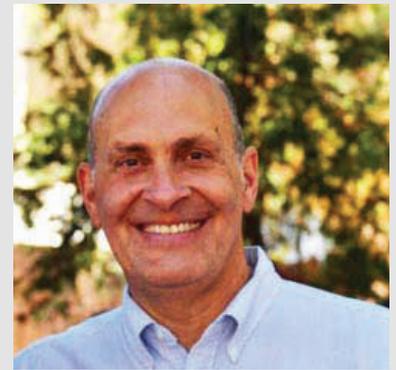


## What is a Working Community Forest?

With RFFI maturing as an organization, we are exploring more deeply what it means to own a “working community forest.”

By “working,” we mean that Usal is managed to generate income and jobs. RFFI has a responsibility and intention to pay for the property and its restoration through ongoing sustainable harvesting, the sale of carbon credits and income from other forest services, including recreation.

By “community,” we all agree that it means local ownership and control of the land and resources, with the profits from the forest coming directly back to the community – this is what makes RFFI unique. We are a non-profit owner, and forest management decisions are made by our grass-roots stakeholders, i.e., our Board of Directors guided by our Redwood Forest Council (RFC) community advisors and public comment. And, perhaps most importantly, community ownership means that our actions are focused on what is best for regional families: good, secure jobs, forest health and habitat for wildlife, social equity, and offsetting the effects of climate change.



Mark Welther,  
Redwood Forest Foundation  
President & CEO

Here’s our progression over eleven years of Usal ownership:

- › Protection with a conservation easement in 2011
- › First income from harvesting in 2012
- › Registering one of the nation’s largest forest carbon offsets programs in 2016 and increasing financial stability
- › Preservation and public access to 1,000 acres of old-growth and coastal land
- › Transition to “RFFI-style” forest management in 2015
- › Our first commercial biochar production in 2017

Now, in 2018, RFFI is expanding our community engagement through open monthly RFC meetings, pre-Timber Harvest Plan tours, partnerships with Fort Bragg High School’s Anchor Academy and the Krenov School of Fine Woodworking, the McCoy Creek trail project, a fall mountain biking event, and a proposed tribal gathering at the Chinquapin Springs Acorn Grove.

This discovery process takes time and care. A working forest is not parkland, and we must carefully manage access to keep people and resources safe while fulfilling our financial agreements. Some say that community involvement is messy and will lead to anarchy, while others say we are not changing fast enough. To me, these are the important debates involved with managing a “community forest.”

Please stay tuned - you are part of our community. Take part and support RFFI today!



## How Can You Get Involved Today?

Do you want to be a part of RFFI’s trailblazing, innovative, consequential work? There are several ways to join the fight today.

- › Become a Volunteer: Our volunteers are involved with everything from education and tree planting to representing RFFI at music festivals. Join our community of enthusiastic volunteers today by visiting [rffi.org](http://rffi.org) and pressing volunteer.
- › Plant a Redwood: Honor a friend or loved one by having a redwood tree planted in their name.
- › Donate: Donations are the backbone of RFFI’s conservation work. You may also consider a bequest as a way to leave an enduring legacy in the redwood region.





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## Monitoring Sudden Oak Death with Help of Citizen Scientists

Linwood Gill, URFC Chief Forester

One of the greatest challenges facing the management team on the Usal Redwood Forest is the imbalance of tanoak to conifers. While we debate how to best reduce the tanoak component, we are in agreement that tanoaks play an important role in the forest and we do not want to see them disappear.

That is why we are concerned about sudden oak death (SOD), caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, infecting our forest. In most cases, by the time you start to see the symptoms, it is too late. Therefore, it is important to detect the pathogen as early as possible. We have recently implemented two new programs to help in early detection. With the help of the Redwood Forest Council, we conducted our first Sudden Oak Death blitz on the forest.

After a brief training session on SOD, "citizen scientists" traveled out to the forest to collect tanoak and California Bay leaves that showed possible symptoms: dying tips, darken lesions, and discoloration on the stems.



With suspect trees flagged and locations recorded, samples were gathered and sent down to the UC Berkeley lab.



We have also begun working with Carla Thomas, a retired forest pathologist, to detect watersheds where the SOD pathogen is located. Three SOD "traps", consisting of individual leaves inserted into mesh bags, were installed in the Usal Creek watershed. As the pathogen moves down the creek, it attaches to a potential host leaf. If the pathogen is detected, we will then move up the suspect tributary until we can identify where the pathogen is coming from.

To date, we have not had a positive detection in the creek bating and we are still waiting the results from the SOD Blitz. Regardless, we will continue to work with volunteers to look for SOD, in hopes of locating the pathogen before it can get too established. If you have an interest in becoming an SOD citizen scientist, please contact Elias Henderson, [elias@rffi.org](mailto:elias@rffi.org).