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of the original document -SBG)



Sages Newsletter

December 2008

At our November meeting, we had a packed house to listen to Ralph Osterling discuss forestry management at the Grove.

Ralph, who is licensed by the State of California as a Registered Professional Forester, explained that the early Native Americans managed the land by periodic burnings which resulted in open forests dominated by large redwoods and with little brushy understory.

When Bohemians acquired the Grove, they put a stop to the clear-cutting and burning that was in progress in order to save the remaining old-growth trees for the enjoyment of the membership. Unfortunately, since that time, there has been little or no forestry management which has enabled the forest to become heavily overgrown and in dire need of thinning to reduce the fire hazards and to improve the growth of the residual trees.

Ralph concluded his fine presentation by stating: "The goal now is, over time, to recreate the old forest that existed prior to clean cutting and passive management. The resulting forest will be fire-safe and provide a legacy for current and future Bohemians."

We were so grateful for Ralph's enlightening talk that we immediately inducted him as a Sage. While we were at it, and since we were on a roll, we also inducted, Robert Trent Jones, Robert Spence and Carl Zachrisson. It was a very satisfying day!!

Our December 15th meeting will again feature a Christmas program, by which we will be entertained by some of our more gifted Bohemian friends: Fred Clarke, John Landgraf, Jack Bickel, Dave Hagerman and Chip Mollari.

Please note that the affair will commence at 11:30, at which time we will meet in the Library for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Freddy has graciously agreed to provide soothing background music with his guitar.

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday, December 15th, at 11:30 in the Library.

THE COMMITTEE