

Big Basin marks 95th year with Founder's Day events

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BIG BASIN — Big Basin Redwoods State Park, the oldest state park in California, turns 95 this year.

The natural beauty and rich history of Big Basin will be celebrated Saturday at its first Founder's Day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The purpose is to recognize founders and others who had significant impact on Big Basin over the years," said Adelaide Lewis, a park docent.

Special events are planned for people interested in photography, hiking, history or just enjoying music and other leisurely activities at the park.

The events are free, but the usual \$6 parking fee will be charged at the park, located on Highway 236 near Boulder Creek.

Photography

The important role of photographers in Big Basin's history will be shown in a display at the Old Lodge near the nature museum and gift shop. A docent will be there to tell visitors about photographer Andrew P. Hill and his part in the founding of the park. His photographs were used to rally others to preserve some of the redwood forests, according to park officials.

Photographs by Hill and nature photographer Howard King can be viewed.

The Boulder Creek Historical Society will also display old photographs of people and places around Big Basin at the turn of the century.

A collection of old cameras and equipment will also be on exhibit.

For people interested in taking their own shots, Founder's Day will feature a photo hike and a ses-

sion on photography tips.

Boulder Creek photographer Astrid C. Bieber will lead a photo hike from 2 to 4 p.m. Interested photographers should meet at park headquarters with their cameras, light-weight tripods and water.

Barry T. Arnold will present a one-hour workshop on black-and-white photography that will combine psychology and basic skills to create dramatic images. Participants should meet at park headquarters at 11 a.m. and bring a blanket to sit on.

Living history

A living history program will be presented throughout the day.

Costumed volunteers, most of them park docents, will enact six scenes along the half-mile trail through the Redwood Grove at Big Basin. Each scene depicts part of the park's history.

The scenes will begin with early woodsmen in the 19th century and continue through the late 1940s. Several local residents with family ties to Big Basin will participate.

One scene will depict the family of Tom Maddock, an early tan-oak stripper and woodsman. He and his wife, Alice, and their children homesteaded in Big Basin from 1877 to 1890.

Their granddaughter, Lois Browne of Santa Cruz, will portray Alice.

"We're interested in family history, and we're a close family" she said.

One family story goes that the Maddocks heard their dogs barking outside. When they opened the door, the dogs came running in with their hair standing up. The next morning, bear tracks were found around the house, said Browne.

Music, tales and a hike

A variety of music will be performed throughout the day.

Irish, Scottish, English, European and American acoustic music can be enjoyed in the campfire area. Featured musicians include Dance Around Molly, Worldtree, Green Winter, Ravensfire, Santa Cruz Shape Note Singers, California Saw Players, Scott Peden, Tom Clunie and others.

People who are known to tell some "whoppers" are invited to take part in the tall tales campfire program at 7 p.m.

Stories must be rated "G," be appropriate for families and shorter than six minutes. Prizes will be awarded.

To sign up or for more information, call Big Basin at 338-8861.

A 25-mile, 10-hour hike around the park with an experienced guide.

Hikers will see how the park has grown from its original 3,800 acres to about 20,000 acres today.

The hike will go through redwood and mixed evergreen forests and chaparral and will explore streams, waterfalls and scenic overlooks. The hike is designed to cover some of the lesser known trails in the park and for those hikers who enjoy a challenge.

It begins at 9 a.m. Sunday, following the Founder's Day celebration, at the park headquarters.

Space is limited. Adults who are fit, eager and interested in participating should call 338-8860 to pre-register for the walk. Participants should bring food and lots of water.