



Mendocino Woodlands  
Camp Association

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## Mendocino Woodlands to Celebrate 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Deal, the Mendocino Woodlands is hosting a dinner, with musical entertainment and a silent auction, on October 29, 2008, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley. Sponsored by California State Parks, the California State Parks Foundation, Nossaman LLP, and the California Conservation Corps, this special evening will celebrate the living spirit of the New Deal as embodied by the Mendocino Woodlands. Wesley Chesbro, former State Senator whose district included the Woodlands, will offer the keynote address.

The event will also kick off a campaign to raise more than \$10 million for much-needed repairs to the historic structures of the Woodlands, located in the redwood forest north of the village of Mendocino.

The Mendocino Woodlands is a National Historic Landmark, representing one of the country's best examples of New Deal craftsmanship. It was built in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on the site of a redwood forest that had been completely logged over. Now, the redwoods have grown back around the rustic stone and timber buildings that form this hidden gem of the California State Park System.

The Mendocino Woodlands Camp Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has operated the Woodlands on behalf of California State Parks since 1949. The Woodlands offers a spectacular outdoor setting to groups ranging from inner city youth to Balkan Dancers. For generations, families and groups have gathered at the Woodlands for music and dance, environmental education programs, conferences, and celebrations in this spectacular setting.

The Event's Honorary Committee includes Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, State Senator Patricia Wiggins, former State Senator Wesley Chesbro, Assemblymember Loni Hancock, and Assemblymember Patty Berg.

**For Tickets and more event information  
go to [www.TheWoodlands75.org](http://www.TheWoodlands75.org) or call  
(408) 455-8800**

Built in the midst of the Great Depression, the Woodlands embodies the spirit of the New Deal. Its redwood and stone buildings were designed by the architects of the Works Progress Administration (WPA), whose signature "Park Rustic" style characterizes many of California's state parks. It represents a time when the federal government created programs such as the WPA and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to put people back to work, build needed roads and bridges, and create the state and national park systems.

The Woodlands also has a special relationship to the California Conservation Corps. In 1976, Governor Jerry Brown called for the establishment of a California Conservation Corps in his State of the State address in January. One of the models for his proposal was the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. In April of 1976, while the CCC legislation was pending, a four-day "encampment" was held at the Woodlands to explore the various aspects of the

proposed program. It was an opportunity to obtain a wide variety of views on the direction of the new program -- including the type of centers and projects; center management; and leadership training and education for the corpsmembers.

One of the keys to the success of the encampment was its physical setting. Not only had the Woodlands been built by the enrollees of the original CCC, but it was a beautiful and remote location. Everyone participated in housekeeping chores; there were no phones, radios, newspapers or television sets. The result was a self-contained atmosphere in which the group relied on their own resources, and was able to focus on their task of developing the new program.

Governor Brown signed the legislation creating the California Conservation Corps later that year, and often referred to the new program as "a combination Jesuit seminary, Israeli kibbutz and Marine Corps boot camp."

This event would not be possible without the generous support of:

