

Norm Stewart and family are at Seacliff for seven days. No news came from anyone so he wrote a short history of the Coast Redwood. Information taken from the book "A Natural History of Western Trees" by Donald Culross Peattie.

COAST REDWOOD (*Sequoia Sempervirens*)

Other names: California Redwood, Coastal *Sequoia Sempervirens*.

Range: In the fog belt of the California coast though usually, at present not at the shore but 1 to 30 miles east of it, in the lower coast ranges and the intermountain valleys. From the Oregon boundary (and 8 miles North of it) South to Marin County, North of San Francisco Bay. Reappearing in the Santa Cruz and Santa Lucia mountains and down to sea level at Big Sur.

General Description

Bark - very thick 3 inches to 12 inches, coarse, fibrous, red to cinnamon in color

Leaves - $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, flat, needle-like or awl-shaped, dark green, shiny above, dull green underneath.

Flowers - male obtuse, green female terminal, green

Cones - $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch long, when unopened $\frac{1}{2}$ " broad

Seed - light brown $\frac{1}{16}$ " long, with a wing equally long

Wood - light 26 lbs to the cubic foot (dry weight) soft, weak, easily split, close grained, light red in color (heartwood) nearly white in color (sapwood)

The Coast Redwood has a normal life expectancy of 1000 to 1500 years, the oldest specimen whose rings have been counted is estimated to be 2,200 years old; a section of this log is preserved for the non-believers at Richardson Grove State Park, Humboldt County part of the State Park System, so as a matter of interest this tree began to grow when Hannibal was taking his elephants across the Alps, and the tree was over 200 years old at the birth of Jesus.

The city of Palo Alto is named from a redwood that is still standing and once was a council tree for local Indians so it is sacred in traditions of the Stanford University students, who used to guard it, the night before the football game with University of California, from being cut down (they said) by their rivals. It is also figured on the seal of the Stanford University.

#####

Genus - A group of species which resemble each other more than they differ.

Shoot - Any growing axis of a stem, or a new plant or branch growing from an old one

Terminal - at the end of a branch, shoot, style, etc.