

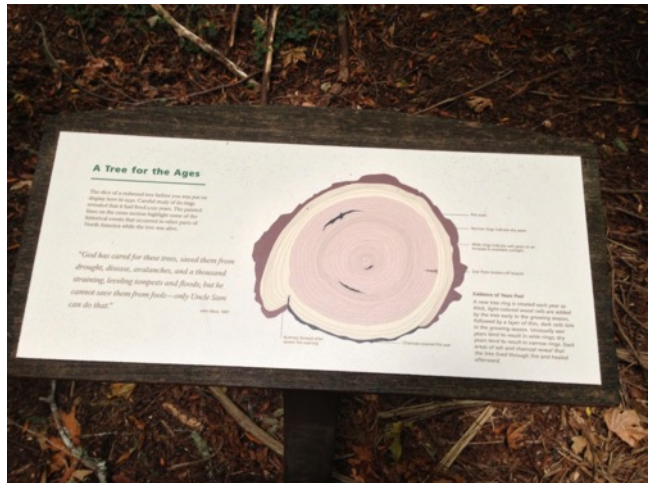
## MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT (MAIN TRAIL)

Muir Woods is a great place to take HDR photos, especially on a foggy day with early morning sun just barely penetrating through the fog and the trees.

Map of the Muir Woods area; we followed the main trail out and the Hillside Trail back:



Part of a redwood tree which lived for 1,021 years. The sign near the tree also has a 1897 quote from John Muir: "God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods; but he cannot save them from fools—only Uncle Sam can do that."



These four photos are of the beginning of our walk out the main trail through Muir Woods. Even in the summer, if you arrive early enough you can get photos of the trail without any people in them:







Young redwoods may sprout out of the still-living root system of a no-longer living redwood tree in a "fairy ring":



Two more photos of this very photogenic path through these incredible trees:

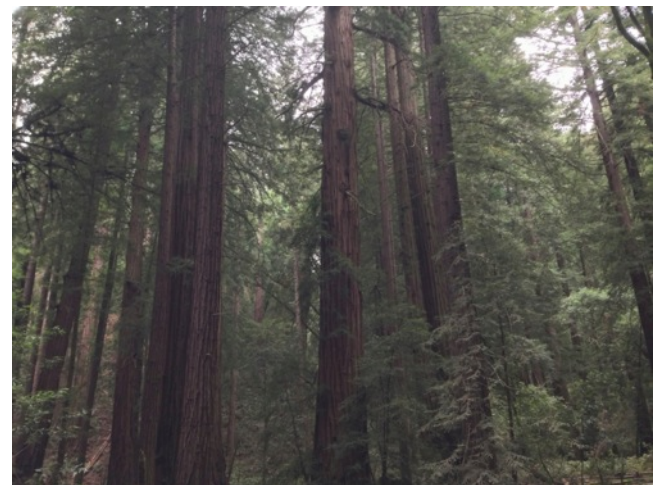
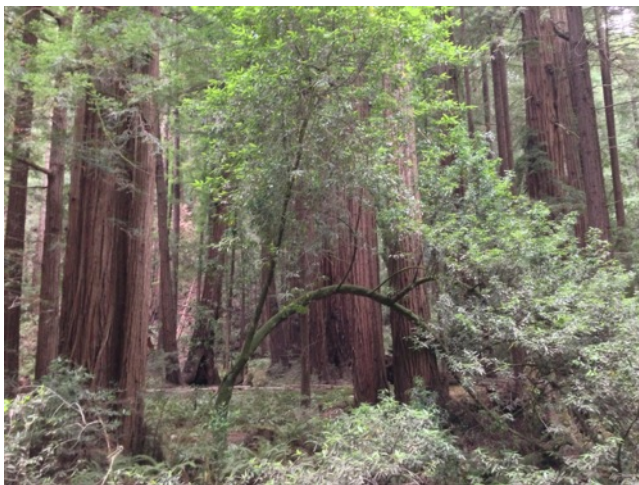
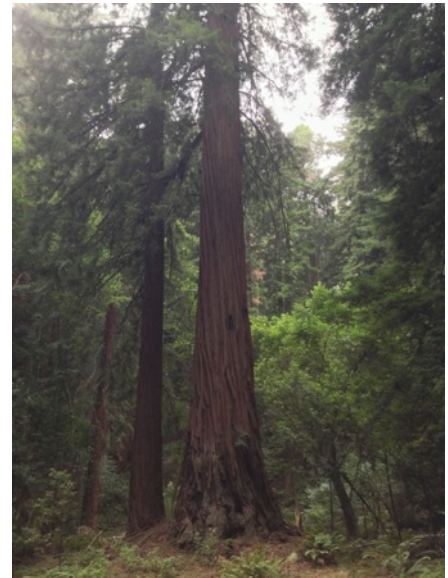
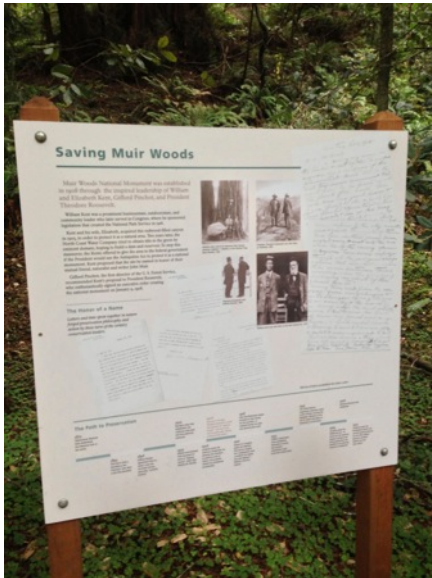




This trail leading off of the main trail is closed to hikers:



We soon enter what I believe to be one of the nicest groves in this area:







We saw two owls, the first of which seemed to be posing for the camera, while the other was less interested in being photographed. The first owl can just barely be seen in the first two photos below; the third is a close-up photo of the owl (unfortunately I only had my iPhone for a camera on this walk, so the close-up photo did not turn out particularly sharp):





This tree had an interesting twisted pattern in its bark and branch arrangement:



Two more photos continuing along the trail through these spectacular trees:

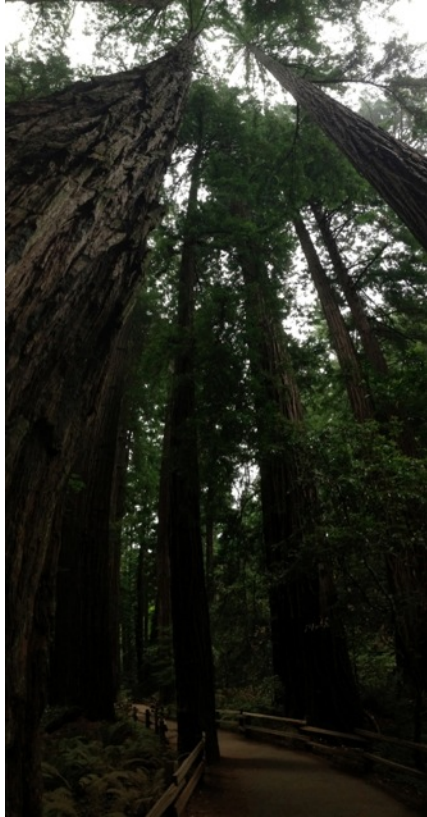
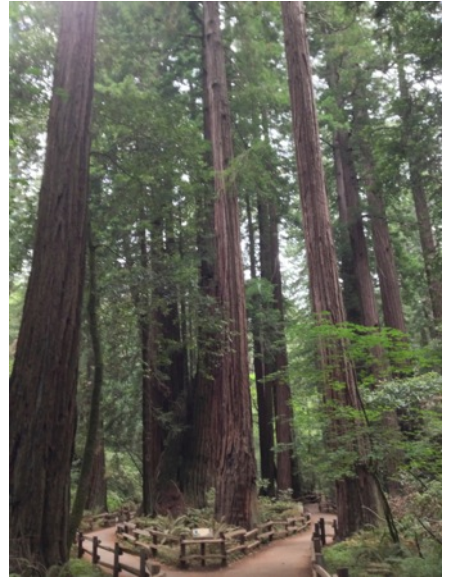


This is the second owl we encountered, which kept turning its face away from the camera:





We next entered the Cathedral Grove:







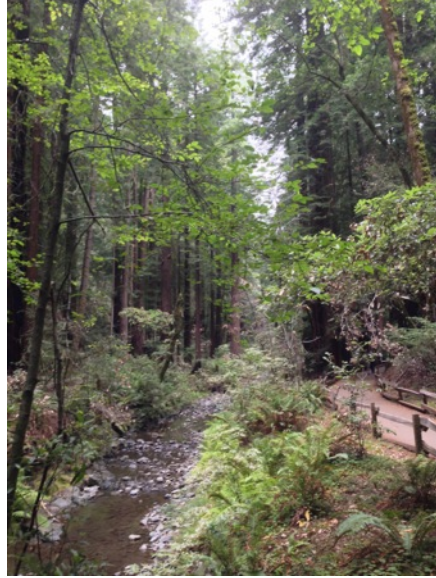
Two panoramas from the Cathedral Grove:



The redwoods in Muir Woods are absolutely spectacular:









This nurse log fell across the creek which runs alongside the main trail through Muir Woods:



From here, we headed back along the Hillside Trail; the final six photos in this report show our trip back to the parking area:





