



Laura Perrott Mahan, a member of the Eureka Women's Club knew that bringing the California Federation of Women's Clubs' yearly conference to Eureka may be just what was needed to protect a marvelous, threatened grove alongside the Eel River and the mouth of Bull Creek.

Laura led the charge to bring the Federation yearly meeting to the Eureka Inn in 1923 and won the bid. Part of the conference included taking participants on a trip to the Eel River, where Eureka club women announced their plans to save the very grove they were standing in. A dollar from each member in the state would raise enough to be matched by the state and save the grove. The campaign worked, \$45,000 was raised, the grove was saved, and Julia Morgan was chosen to design the Hearthstone monument commemorating the women's work, located within the new grove, widely known nowadays as Women's Fed.

Only a year later, the *Save the Redwoods League* (SRL) was working with legislators in Sacramento to save a grove of trees across Eel River from Dyerville. The League made an agreement with Pacific Lumber to temporarily pause logging on the land until a deal was made. Laura later caught word that logging had resumed in the Dyerville forest, and she and her husband raced to the woods.

Pacific Lumber Company had started cutting trees through the forest to put in a railroad spur to access the Bull Creek forest. Laura, a wealthy woman and relatively well known, stood in front of the logging equipment, stopping the loggers in their tracks, while her husband took the news back to Eureka and filed a formal injunction against further logging. The community rallied against the logging; the grove was saved and named after the founders of SRL. About a half mile into the woods from the Founder's Grove plaque, there is another plaque commemorating Laura's protest – it sits near a few stumps of redwood trees that were felled before Laura arrived.