



*NEWS RELEASE*

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## **Green Diamond's Korbel Tree Nursery Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

(KORBEL – Sept. 13, 2024) For 50 years, Green Diamond Resource Company's Korbel Tree Nursery has pioneered advanced methods to propagate and cultivate trees, with a special focus on redwoods, producing millions of high-quality trees for the North Coast. This week, the nursery celebrated its golden anniversary, reflecting on the story behind its creation and honoring the many trees and careers it has grown since 1974.

The idea to build a nursery specializing in redwoods was born from an early vision of long-term forest management. Green Diamond, then Simpson Timber Company, began its reforestation efforts in the early 1960s, before it was common or required by law to restock harvested forests.

“At that time, little was known about the science of redwood regeneration, especially about its natural ability to resprout from stumps,” recalled retired forest scientist and nursery founder Jim Rydelius. “The company invested in new science and a new facility to solve the mystery.”

In 1974, Green Diamond constructed the Korbel Tree Nursery, and by the following year, its team of scientists became some of the first in the world to successfully propagate redwoods vegetatively, using locally-sourced, rooted cuttings instead of seed. As these methods were refined in the early 1980s, the team launched its Tree Improvement Program, which aimed to identify the healthiest, most vigorous trees on the landscape and use their cuttings to establish an orchard of high-quality parent trees.

The Tissue Culture Laboratory was added to the nursery in 1984, allowing for large-scale propagation of redwood “plantlets”—the beginnings of new trees sourced from parent tree material—in a controlled environment. Transfer of plantlets to greenhouse containers has since been a viable solution for meeting redwood reforestation needs in the absence of an available supply of seed. Green Diamond's Korbel tree nursery has helped many landowners meet their reforestation needs in the redwood region through the advancement of this technology.

Nursery scientists still employ similar propagation methods today with a range of performance goals including improved rates of survival and tolerance for climatic extremes. As forest climates change, Green Diamond is committed to ensuring healthy and resilient trees are part of its future plantings and planning.

To commemorate this milestone, Green Diamond hosted a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, dubbed the “nursi-versary,” on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at the nursery. Current and former employees, and community leaders gathered to share stories and tour the facilities, including the greenhouses, redwood orchard, and tissue culture lab.

“Green Diamond is thrilled to celebrate a half-century of innovation at our tree nursery and investment in the sustainability of our timberlands,” said Pete Jackson, Vice President and General Manager of Green Diamond’s California Operations, when he welcomed event guests. “We’ve produced over 100 million seedlings and employed hundreds of professionals here over the course of its fifty-year history, and that’s something to be proud of.”

Speeches included memories from past employees, many of whom spent much of their careers in the greenhouses or lab. “One of the best parts about working for this company is its commitment to the land and its employees,” said retiree and forester Kim Rodrigues. “Coming back now, it seems like this commitment has grown even stronger, and that is so energizing.”

The event also hosted multiple business owners and community leaders, including 5<sup>th</sup> District Humboldt County Supervisor Steve Madrone. “Green Diamond’s scientists and foresters continuously work to improve their methods and their work on the lands that they steward,” he said. “They’ve really shown that standards and ethics matter in forest management.”

The event concluded with the premiere of a micro-documentary created by San Francisco videographer Adam Wells, illustrating the story of the nursery, its current work, and goals for the future. The video is available to the public [here](#).

Perhaps nursery founder Jim Rydelius best summed up the sentiments of the event. “Look at the impact we have had over fifty years of hard work at this nursery, growing the next generation of trees,” he said. “Just imagine what our impact will look like in another fifty years.”

*Green Diamond Resource Company is a privately held forest products company with roots dating back to 1890. Today, the company owns working forest lands in Washington, Oregon, Montana, and California. A subsidiary, Green Diamond Management Company, provides forest management services in the U.S. South and West. All lands owned and managed by Green Diamond are independently audited and certified for sustainable forest management. More information about Green Diamond’s environmental leadership may be found at [www.greendiamond.com](http://www.greendiamond.com).*

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