Our natural resources in Nevada County are the source of our wealth. This is as true today as it was 150 years ago. And natural resources are abundant here: gold and other valuable minerals; snowpack, water and the rivers that convey it; trees for a sustainable timber industry or for carbon sequestration and improved air quality; dedicated open space for a diversity of wildlife and recreational amenities; and agriculture for local food safety. The well-being of our community is tightly linked with the health of our natural environment.

The recent National Land Trust Census from the Land Trust Alliance shows that conservation by land trusts in America increased by 27% from 2005 to 2010. An area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States—47 million acres—are now protected by land trusts. In the same time period, the federal conservation program added 500,000 acres and a tragic 38% cut in funding.

Land trusts in California reported an increase of 34% in acres conserved over this period, representing 2.3 million acres. In the Sierra Nevada and California Cascades, 13 land trusts have successfully protected wildlife habitat, agricultural lands, working timber forests, historic sites, recreational areas, watersheds, rivers and streams, and iconic landscapes. Occupying only a third of California’s landmass, the Sierra Cascade region of the state provides over 65 percent of the state’s clean drinking water. Half of California’s plant and animal species are found in the Sierra Cascade region, and more than 50 million visitors come each year to enjoy the spectacular scenery and abundant recreational opportunities found here.

Over the past year land conservation in our community paralleled this national trend. Bear Yuba Land Trust has been working with the Stewardship Council on the permanent protection of more than 18,000 acres of PG&E-owned land here. This is truly a windfall for conservation for us. So far, BYLT has been recommended to hold conservation easements on 2,029 of high elevation land around four lakes: Fordyce, Meadow, White Rock and Sterling Lakes. This area provides outdoor recreation and important wildlife habitat in the upper elevations of the Sierra Nevada. Also BYLT will hold conservation easements over 60 acres along The Narrows of the Yuba River, just below Englebright Dam. More PG&E news is forthcoming about lands on both sides of the upper Bear River – stretching from Lake Spaulding to Rollins

continued on page 3
As you read this newsletter, I am sure that you are struck as I am with the thought, “You guys really have a lot going on.” That is true. We are certainly at a point where our methods and means have to adjust to accommodate these changes. I want to discuss three examples of how we are viewing our role somewhat differently.

**Land Conservation.** We have a number of transactions where the Land Trust is the primary agent in preserving the land but where the ultimate land owner will be a land conservation partner. In Black Swan, Phases I and II, the ultimate holder will be the Department of Fish and Game. On the Independence Trail, the ultimate holder will be the State Parks. Other opportunities exist to put land in the hands of other governmental organizations such as the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Nevada City. We will continue to be involved on all of these lands with stewardship responsibility, restoration and rehabilitation and public recreation. As our organization grows, we have come to realize that every conservation project is unique. Our expertise is in finding the best strategy to move land into protection, working with willing landowners, agencies, conservation groups and other community efforts.

**Trails.** The Land Trust is in the planning stage of numerous trails covering significant mileage throughout our region. To accomplish the planning, design, construction and maintenance of this addition to our system we are cooperating with other trails groups representing the biking and equestrian communities. We are hopeful that this collaboration will result in a greater public awareness of the beautiful trails in our community and the role that everyone who uses them can play in their creation and preservation.

**Special Projects.** We have opportunities to work on unique projects which will substantially benefit segments of our community. Our “Camp 19” project will be preservation of a timber camp on property along Grouse Ridge. The land is presently owned by PG & E and is scheduled for donation to the University of California Center of Forestry as part of a larger gift. We hope to develop an educational/training facility on the historic site which would provide a location for job training for the industry with an emphasis on conservation and alternative forestry methods as well as create a site memorializing the history of the timber industry in the Sierras. Another opportunity is to preserve and restore a large historic dairy farm as a natural park and equestrian center in South County on publicly-owned land.

One common thread running through all of these projects is collaboration. As we expand rapidly it is clear that cooperative ventures with other conservation groups and community organizations is the only way to keep up with the rapid growth while responsibly executing our increased obligations. By collaboration, all organizations can stretch limited financial and personnel resources to the maximum benefit of our community. If you would like to be a part of this, if you have any ideas which you would like us to consider or if you are part of a group that we can help or which can help us, let us know. We would love to hear from you.

**Welcome New Staff!**

Left to right: Stacey, Alyse and Allison
Big Gains in Voluntary Land Conservation Both Nationwide and in Our Own Backyard

continued from cover

well. Alta Brewer generously donated 40 beautiful oak-studded acres in Alta Sierra to BYLT as open space for wildlife habitat, public recreation and permanent protection. The 207 acres of land encompassing the Independence Trail, plus the trail itself will be turned over to BYLT for ownership and management by Sequoya Challenge. We entered into a sales agreement for a portion of the Black Swan Ranch in Smartsville. And we helped Nevada City save Sugarloaf Mountain through a bridge loan.

Finally, we have entered into an option to purchase 2,700 acres of land at Rice's Crossing stretching for 7 miles on both sides of the Middle Yuba River between New Bullards Bar and the State Park at Bridgeport. This will result in the permanent protection and new recreation opportunities on a connected landscape of more than 12 miles of the Yuba River in both Yuba and Nevada Counties.

We can only do this with the support of the local community with memberships, donations, volunteerism and the offering of property by willing landowners who want to protect their lands forever. As you can see, the conservation ethic in our community is strong.

Marty Coleman-Hunt
Executive Director

In 2011 private landowners committed to donate land and trail easements here as well. Alta Brewer generously donated 40 beautiful oak-studded acres in Alta Sierra to BYLT as open space for wildlife habitat, public recreation and permanent protection.

BONC Day at Hirschman Trail

I am always impressed with the skill that BONC volunteers bring to local trail projects. We have some serious talent within our ranks and it was on display Saturday at Hirschman Trail.

About 15 of us rebuilt the first three switchbacks on the northwest end of the trail. We increased the radius of these turns so that they are more navigable and enjoyable to cyclists. Be sure to check it out. We built berms by excavating the uphill side and installing rock cribbing on the downhill side. The soil was almost perfect, though the rocks were just as heavy as always. :-) Additionally, Bill Haire and Terry Hundemer laid gravel at both approaches to a bridge where the soil had settled.

A big thank you to Bill Haire and the Land Trust for supporting this effort!

John Gardiner
Bicyclists of Nevada County

The big news this winter is that the Hirschman Trail has been completed; all signs installed and crushed rock placed on the muddy sections near the pond. Construction of the Hirschman Trail was a joint effort by the Land Trust and the City of Nevada City. An official opening for the trail is being scheduled for the end of March with the City, weather permitting.

Adopt-A-Trail volunteers are needed to adopt and maintain sections of the Hirschman Trail as well as sections of the Deer Creek, Litton, and Narrow Gauge Trails. Adoptees are responsible for light maintenance of the trail, such as trimming back brush, as well as reporting serious conditions, such as down trees, that need attention.

This winter we have been working on the lay-out of the extension of the Wetherall on the Woodpecker Property on Banner Mountain. The extension to the Wetherall Trail will consist of a loop route near the bottom of the property that will take trail users back up through the property to about mid-way up the slope, rejoining the existing trail. Finding a location where the trail can be constructed has been a real challenge, since the entire area was disturbed extensively by hydraulic mining in the 1800’s, and extremely steep slopes abound throughout the area.

We hope to soon resume construction on the Deer Creek Trail on the south side of Deer Creek. Work has been delayed due to problems with a trail easement requiring modification of the trail plan and relocating a portion of the trail.

Bill Haire
Trails Coordinator

THANKS to our Awesome Trail Volunteers and Supporters

Dave Brennan
Ray Bryars
Orval Choate
Ron Cook
Deane Dvoracek
Jon Fisher
Brent Fraser
Sara Frietas
Mike Haire
Jerry Henderson
Gene Haroldsen
Larry Ilg
Dave Mann
Jane Ragan
Alta Sierra Property Owners Assn
Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC)
Ridge Rock Quarry
Save Our Historic Canals
And many, many more!

Visit us online for more information at www.BearYubaLandTrust.org or call our office 530-272-5994
As I begin my second year as President of Bear Yuba Land Trust, I am so proud of what we have accomplished. We made significant progress toward the conservation of large landscapes of PG&E lands in high elevation watersheds. There is much more work to do, so look for news soon.

Our work on John Olmstead’s legacy lands and the 12-mile protected landscape at Rice’s Crossing will lead to the protection of land encompassing the North, Middle and South forks of the Yuba River. Not only will this ensure the middle-elevation river canyons will be managed with the latest best practices in habitat stewardship, it also opens year-round recreation opportunities.

On a smaller scale, our Alta Sierra preserve and Black Swan Ranch projects will restore sensitive aquatic areas for water fowl and western pond turtles. The Nevada City acquisition of Sugarloaf Mountain ended a decades-long struggle to protect this iconic mountain overlook. Finally we partnered with Living Lands Agrarian Network to create a working farm at Burton Homestead.

Our work to oppose the Garden Bar Dam on the Bear River gained support from local agencies. This project would bisect a connected north-south landscape of sensitive blue oak woodland, and it would rob our community of our most precious natural resource: our water.

It was a great year for trails. Ten miles of new trails opened: Hirshman Trail and Deer Creek Tribute Trail. We also helped get people outdoors through our expert guided outdoor Treks and our new EquiTreks on horseback. Plus we had a record 150 kids at summer camp.

We changed the organization’s name from Nevada County Land Trust to Bear Yuba Land Trust to bring more awareness to our important river watersheds. In response to our recent growth, we moved our offices to the Gardener’s Cottage on the North Star House property.

The Board met in a strategic planning session to develop goals for the future:

- Ensure that our land conservation efforts deliver the greatest public and environmental benefits in our community
- Manage the lands we are responsible for with a goal of long term sustainability of conservation values
- Ensure organizational longevity and the capacity to deliver our mission
- Connect our local community with the land and build a culture of conservation
- Build a strong Board and ensure sound governance, oversight and legal practices

I am sorry to say goodbye to our Interim-Treasurer Jim Ward who was instrumental in helping us implement new financial procedures. I welcome Meredith Struthers, President of Sequoya Challenge, to our Board and I very much look forward to having her join us.

Thank you, all, for helping in our 2011 successes. I expect 2012 to be even bigger. See you on the trails.

Fran Cole
President
2011 remained a year of transition for the economy which picked up some positive momentum as the year ended. The challenge to Bear Yuba Land Trust financial management continued to be uncertainty; however, year end fundraising and the delivery of contractual services helped with a surplus that carried us into 2012 Q1 with good cash flow. In 2011 the demand for trail building services was high and we completed two significant trail projects: Deer Creek Tribute Trail and Hirshman Trail. We began working with PG&E on moving their lands in our area into conservation easements, and we received start-up funding for this work. In 2011 we outsourced the Stars Benefit concert to the Center for the Arts which simplified our reporting and yielded better results. We value our relationship with Center for the Arts and appreciate their expertise. Public giving in the form of memberships and contributions was stronger in 2011.

Jason Muir
Secretary

The following are some highlights to consider:

- The total number of memberships grew slightly over 2010, and total membership dues increased notably from $47,895 to $55,377.
- For several years grant funding has not been a significant portion of our revenue. In 2011 we received public funds from grants where partner organizations were the applicants.
- Unrestricted donor contributions increased by $5,182 over 2010, to $124,945 in 2011.
- A 40-acre parcel known as Adam Ryan Preserve was donated in fee to BYLT. The approximate value of this parcel was $394,000.
- Income from investments was $38,540 in 2011 vs. $28,750 in 2010.
- Realized and unrealized loss/gains on investments were ($32,465) compared with $67,000 in 2010.
- Program fees significantly grew to $115,125 in 2011 from $54,532 in 2010.
- In 2011 operating expenses increased to $375,843 from $306,148 due primarily to increased contractual services work that occurred.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Year End December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
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<th>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total public support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donation of Land</td>
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<td>Total Fee for Service</td>
<td>115,125</td>
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<td>Income</td>
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<td>Salter fund distributions</td>
<td>(120,143)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$653,014</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>38,703</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>78,528</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$375,843</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Ordinary Income | 277,171 |
| Gain/Loss on Investments | (32,465) |
| **Increase in Net Assets** | **$244,706** |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | $2,523,918 |
| **Net Assets End of Year** | **$2,768,624** |

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total Current Assets</td>
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<td>Total Other Assets</td>
<td>1,831,331</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,801,390</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Equity</td>
<td>2,768,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Equity</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,801,390</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit us online for more information at www.BearYubaLandTrust.org or call our office 530-272-5994
Treks Update

Wow! What a different hiking year this has been compared to last. We’ve already had some fabulous outings and it’s not even spring yet. 2012 kicked off with two EquiTrekks and a hike at Blue Point Mine – everyone had a great time, whether on foot or horseback. We followed up with two treks (very popular!) to the Spenceville Wildlife Area where we visited ten WWII Bunker sites. It’s amazing the things we can find in our own backyard. Our annual Snowshoe trek with Snowshoe Diva Cathy Anderson-Meyers was a big hit, as always.

We have some exciting treks coming up, with more in the queue (some dates not yet confirmed): Our first trek on March 7th is a repeat of last fall’s popular Moon Walk. Join us for a full moon stroll through the open meadows and oak woodlands of Spenceville Wildlife Area – sans lights. If we’re lucky we might even hear the call of the Western Screech Owl. Next on the agenda we have the final winter’s Armchair Trek on Monday, March 19th for an evening with Jay Sheets and his raptors, as well as folks from Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release with some of their wild “friends.” On March 24th we’ll celebrate the official opening of the Hirschman Trail with the city of Nevada City.

Around the end of March or first of April, we’ll be scheduling our ever-popular Table Mountain Wildflower trek. Following that up will be a trip to the Sutter Buttes on April 21st, always a fascinating place to visit. On April 22nd we are celebrating Earth Day and Bear Yuba Land Trust’s birthday! Join us for this very special day at Garden Bar Preserve on the Bear River. Mark your calendar May 19th for an event at Linden Lea Ranch with local artist LeeAnn Brook. Stay tuned for more information on that one!

The weekend of June 23rd-24th will be an interesting one, as we have Bobbie Foster providing a Wilderness First Aid Training. She’s offering us a special discount so if this is something you’re interested in, register now (space is limited!)

We have many more treks coming up with some of your favorite trek leaders in some of your favorite locations: Table Mountain Wildflowers, Burton Homestead, Grouse Ridge and many more. We offer treks that are fun and informative!

Check our website for the latest schedule, details, and registration: www.BearYubaLandTrust.org.

Melony Vance
Treks Coordinator

Blue Point Mine EquiTrek & Hike

As hikers and riders gathered in the early morning, we couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day. After riders tacked up their horses and hikers warmed up their limbs, we set out in two different groups to explore the private Blue Point Mine/Black Swan Diggins area.

The Blue Point Mine was once one of the richest hydraulic mines in the state, though the only evidence that remains is looming escarpments, lush wildlife-rich ponds, and wetlands. Horseback riders traced old stagecoach routes, seeing foundations of the once-booming Gold Rush town of Sucker Flat. They passed by the Yuba Narrows ranch, which contains a portion of the Yuba River’s most valuable salmon spawning habitat, continuing on to the Black Swan Diggins where they met up with the hikers for a tasty catered lunch. After lunch they proceeded to the Excelsior Ranch for spectacular ridge-top views.

The hikers took a different route, starting out their trek at the Blue Point ponds then heading up to the top of the ridge. Walking along the Excelsior Ridge they discovered evidence of volcanic activity and admired outstanding vistas from the Sierra Buttes to the Sutter Buttes. A bit of bushwhacking led them down to the Black Swan Ponds for lunch – timed perfectly to arrive at the same time as the riders! After lunch the hikers proceeded down the road to a once-bustling stagecoach stop and views down Deer Creek towards the Yuba River.

All in all, it was a fabulous day – and a great time was had by all! Check out our website for upcoming EquiTrekks and Treks Through Time at www.BearYubaLandTrust.org.

Melony Vance
Treks Coordinator

Big Thank You to Our Treks Volunteers

Unlike most land trusts, Bear Yuba Land Trust has stepped into the role of offering community outings through our treks program. This would not be possible if it weren’t for the many volunteer leaders who help by donating their time and expertise to create quality outings and events. These folks are our heroes!

Many thanks to Joe Medeiros for the Armchair event on Winter Ecology; Snowshoe Diva Cathy Anderson-Meyers; Alan Stahler for the Stars; Julie Carville, Sue Graf, Clarence Motter, and Vicki MacDonald for the oh-so-popular wildflower treks (as well as many other outings); Dana Bruce for a new way to look at photography; Dave Lawler for his geological knowledge; Brian Bisnett for opening up Blue Point Mine to us; Grayson Coney - always fascinating; Hank Meals and his vast knowledge of the area; Dale Johnson’s water/power histories; Don Harkin for being so patient with the kids; Randy Oliver’s bee expertise; Nevada County Fairgrounds for their generosity with the Draft Horse Classic event; forester Carrie Smith; Sue Hoek for the Robinson Ranch ride and hike; Ted Beedy for birding wisdom; Larry Hillberg and Chris Hall for sharing their PCT stories; and EquiTrek leaders extraordinaire Fran Cole, Jeryn Byrne, and your great team of equestrians!

Besides a trek leader, each outing also has an assistant - someone available to help keep you safe. Special thanks go to Lianne Werner for always stepping up when needed, and Greg Koert for showing up and pitching in at the last minute.

If you have some experience and knowledge that you would be willing to share with us, or would like to assist during a trek, please contact me at melony@bylt.org. Your participation is always appreciated!
**New Members**

Breanne Craig  
Janelle Dalton  
Darleane and Jess Dominguez  
Debra Duffer  
Antoinette Filanowska  
Frank Fish  
Nancy Fleming  
Mike and Erni Gaynor  
Sharon Haennelt  
Anna Haynes  
Gail Headstrom  
Stephanie Hensey  
Rebecca Herron  
Liza Hestbeck  
Larry and Helen Hillberg  
Dave Lawler  
Susan and Jeffrey Mason  
Rose Massara  
Marni MacDonneil  
Terri Pencovic  
Sandy and Jeffrey Philpott  
Steve Russell  
Mike Smiley  
Doug and Karen Sowell  
Tam Reeves-Sullivan  
Linda Sutter  
Holley Taylor  
Telestream Inc  
Art Thielen  
Tributary Whitewater Tours  
Cindy Upton  
Kris and Bill Van Roo  
Rob Wonderlich

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**Trail Cards**

Ever wake up in the morning with the urge to go for a hike, only to realize you don’t know where to go? Problem solved - pick up a set of Trail Cards from the Land Trust.

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of Greg Archbald, Tam Reeves-Sullivan and many others, detailed trail information is available on our website, including downloadable maps. Now you can take it along on your hike with our new pocket-sized Trail Cards, each of which has a color map on one side and information about the trail on the back, including distance, location and a detailed description of the trail. The laminated Trail Cards are clipped together with a carabiner so you can grab a single card or take the whole set with you in your pocket, purse or backpack or clip it right onto your belt loop.

Call the Land Trust at 530-272-5994 for more information.  

Jean Gilbert  
Operations Manager

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**Thanks to Donors Who Made Major Gifts in 2011**

Dave and Susie Bavo  
Sheryl Bartolucci  
Robert Berman and Jane Ginsburg  
William Budge  
Joe and Jeryn Byrne  
Citizens Bank  
Julie Enzor-Wilson  
The Ghidotti Foundation  
Hills Flat Lumber  
Susan and Tom Hopkins  
Glenn Hovemann and Muffy Weaver  
Steve and Lisa Kirshbaum  
Ken and Chris Krugler  
Robert Miller  
Nevada Irrigation District  
Dave and Linda Palley  
SPD  
Jack and Marie Stillens  
Linda Sutter and Rob Wonderlich  
Loren Swift  
Telestream Inc  
Bill and Anna Trabucco  
Harry and Karen Wyeth

**Special Thanks:**

Greg Archbald  
Alta Brewer and Alan Thiesen  
Caseywood  
Andy Cassano  
The Center for the Arts  
Rebecca Coffman  
Grayson Coney  
Haley & Bilheimer  
Nevada City Engineering  
North Star Historic Conservancy  
Placer Title  
Tamara Reeves-Sullivan  
Sierra Mountain Coffee Roasters  
Szabo Winery  
Jim Ward

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**They graciously provide:**

- Complimentary coffee and drinks for BYLT Treks/Events  
- Use of community space for BYLT Meetings

**SIERRA MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS**

671 Maltman Dr # 3 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
(530) 477-5282

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Visit us online for more information at [www.BearYubaLandTrust.org](http://www.BearYubaLandTrust.org) or call our office 530-272-5994
Upcoming Treks

Wednesday, March 7th: Spenceville Full Moon Walk
Monday, March 19th: Armchair Trek: Raptors with Jay Sheets & Friends
Saturday, March 24th: Hirschman Trail Official Opening
Saturday, April 21st: Sutter Buttes
Sunday, April 22nd: Walk on the Wild Side/Earth Day/Happy Birthday BYLT!
Saturday, May 19th: LeeAnn Brook at Linden Lea Ranch
Weekend, June 23rd-24th: Wilderness First Aid Training

For the latest update, more information, or to make reservations go to our website at www.BearYubaLandTrust.org or call 530-272-5994.

Join us in our commitment to the land. Please recycle this newsletter.