



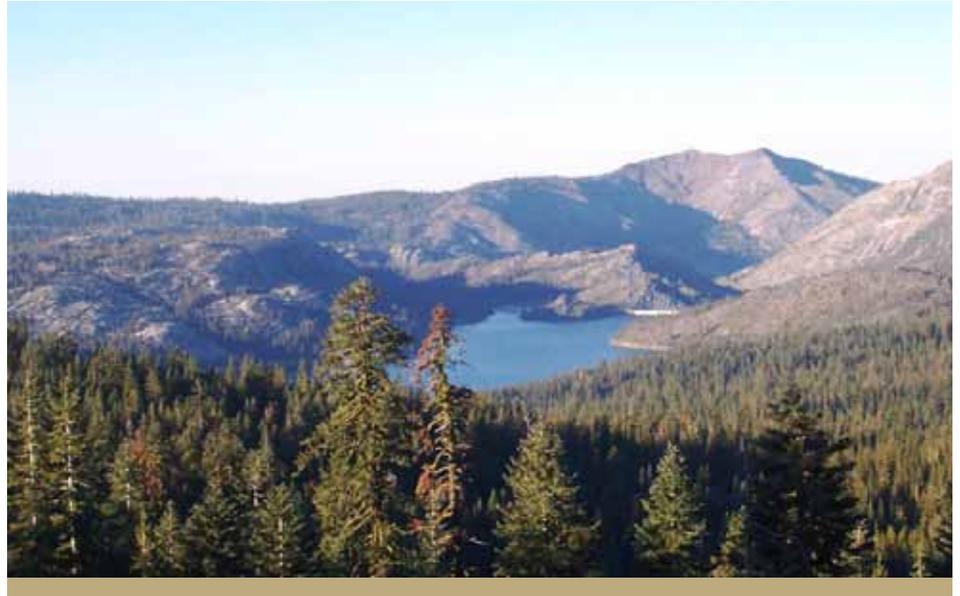
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Where the Wild Things Are... on Halloween

Looking for something WILD to do for Halloween? Join us for the First Annual Halloween Fundraiser benefiting Bear Yuba Land Trust at Moondance Ranch in Grass Valley. The theme is "Where the Wild Things Are" which can be interpreted in many ways so get creative! We'll have prizes for the best "Wild Thing" costumes: most ghoulish, best couple and most creative costumes. Plus there will be lip-smacking barbeque, potato and Caesar salads provided by Bada Bing along with lots of other delicious goodies, fine wines and beer, live music by SoLS, barn dancing, games and even a Fortune Teller! Don't miss the fun.

Date: Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011
Time: 7:30 - 11:00 pm
Location: Moondance Ranch
Address: 16904 McCourtney Rd
Grass Valley
Cost: \$45.00/person



Bear Yuba Land Trust to Hold the Conservation Easement on 2,021 Acres of PG&E Lands in the Fordyce Lakes Area

The Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council), a private nonprofit foundation established in 2004 as part of the PG&E bankruptcy settlement, was set up to ensure that its 140,000 acres of California's pristine watershed lands are conserved for the public good. This past year Bear Yuba Land Trust (formerly Nevada County Land Trust) has been working with the Stewardship Council to facilitate the permanent protection of more than 10,000 acres of land in the Bear River and Yuba River watersheds of Nevada and Yuba Counties. Another 7,000 acres is located in adjacent areas of Placer County.

BYLT has been working with PG&E and potential qualified donees for their lands including Tahoe National Forest, CalFire, University of California, the Tsi Akim Maidu Tribe, the United Auburn Indian Community, Placer County Water Agency, Placer Land Trust and other stakeholders to identify the best fee title and conservation easement holders in this watershed. Once completed, the Land Trust will work with stakeholders to identify conservation options for those lands. This is expected to begin in early 2012.

In a first step toward this resolution the Stewardship Council has recommended that BYLT hold a conservation easement permanently protecting 2,021 acres of high elevation land around four lakes: Fordyce, Meadow, White Rock and Sterling Lakes. PG&E will retain ownership of these lands. The Fordyce Lakes area provides outdoor recreation and important wildlife habitat in the remote, upper elevations of the northern Sierra Nevada. With an elevation range of 6,200 to 7,800 feet the reservoirs and surrounding lands form the headwaters region of the Drum-Spaulding Canal that is utilized by Nevada and Placer Counties as both a domestic and agricultural water resource.

The land is surrounded by a checkerboard mixture of private lands and Tahoe National Forest with open space represented in the forests and barren rock covered mountain slopes typical of the Sierra Nevada. The land is a diverse range of high elevation wildlife and plant habitats including special status species American marten, Pacific fisher, mountain yellow-legged frog, and California wolverine. In addition, willow flycatchers are

Message from Fran Cole President, Board of Directors

My family moved to Nevada County twelve years ago from the Bay Area. Like many other equestrian transplants, I was drawn here by the region's beauty and horse amenities, including the beautiful trails and open acreage available for riding throughout our county. Our region has a rich horse heritage that includes Loma Rica Ranch, the Mother Lode Show and the Draft Horse Classic, history that is worthy of preservation. The horse industry also contributes heavily to our local and national economy.

I became involved with the Land Trust several years ago in part because it sought to preserve the landscapes that I love to ride through. Bear Yuba Land Trust's diverse program offerings of treks, including horseback EquiTreks, and its trail building and maintenance services are unique and noteworthy, and many individuals and groups of equestrians, hikers and bikers are working together to support the Land Trust's trails and open space initiatives. This newsletter lists our current trails accomplishments. The range of projects we are currently working on is truly amazing.

Our equestrian way of life is facing threats from land development and a weakening economy. According to the most recent statistics by the USDA Natural Resource Inventory, 6,000 acres of open space is lost per day nationally. The cost of housekeeping rises as land is lost to development, and the message is that equestrians will need to become more involved in land use planning and farmland conservation to preserve our



way of life. As the price of hay rises and the unwanted horse problem explodes, we need to continue to build our horse community in conjunction with others who use trails and preserve working lands.

Once comprised of fragmented groups of different horse enthusiasts, I now see our local horse community coming together, communicating and having a voice in landscape preservation. This was in evidence recently when news emerged that the popular Euer Valley Ranch horse camp outside of Truckee was being sold to the Tahoe Donner Association. The ranch has been owned by the Euer family since the late 1800s but pieces have been sold to the Association over the last few years. At a recent meeting of the Association, the room was filled with equestrians who were dismayed at the prospect of losing this horse facility forever. While future equestrian access to the ranch has not been decided, those who attended the meeting did by their presence and comments make the Association aware of their concerns about the future of the ranch.

I urge all horse owners to support the Land Trust in our land conservation efforts.

Welcome Larry Gruver



The Land Trust is pleased to have Larry join our staff as Trails Coordinator working in conjunction with Bill Haire.

Welcome Erin Tarr



The Land Trust is delighted to have Erin join us as Stewardship Coordinator.

Bear Yuba Land Trust

Mission

Bear Yuba Land Trust exists to create a balance between nature and the needs of the people who make a life and a livelihood here. This is our home. Our mission is to enrich the deep community connection with our land – today, tomorrow, and forever.

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Bear Yuba Land Trust*

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GIVE A GIFT
of the Outdoors

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Nevada County Land Trust is Now Bear Yuba Land Trust



In recognition for the important northern Sierra foothills landscape in which we work, Nevada County Land Trust has changed its name to Bear Yuba Land Trust. Bear Yuba Land Trust's unique value comes from 20 years of working within the foothills landscapes from the Bear to the Yuba Rivers, and from the western crest of the Sierra peaks to the Sacramento Valley floor. Animal migration corridors, special habitat areas, watersheds and river canyons do not stop at the geopolitical county line, nor should conservation efforts.

The land area served by the Land Trust lies within the Bear and Yuba River watersheds. A watershed is the region or area drained by a river or stream. Too few people know that this watershed is one of the most significant natural and biologically diverse regions in the world. It comprises annual grasslands, blue oak woodlands, montane hardwoods, and conifer forests, plus riparian corridors, rivers and wetlands. In these landscapes we find working ranches and timber forests, privately-owned lands, small towns and very

few publicly held parks and open spaces. In growing recognition of the importance of watershed protection and all that it implies, the Land Trust chose to rename itself after the local watershed.

"When we passed our 20th anniversary in 2010 we reflected on the needs of the community in which we serve and how effectively we have met expectations," said Fran Cole, president of Bear Yuba Land Trust. "We've struggled over the years with the way our name has caused some misperceptions with certain people. First, there is a misperception that we are a part of the Nevada County government. We are not funded, directed or a functional part of the government. We are a non-profit, public benefit corporation, funded entirely by tax deductible donations, public and private grants, and fees for services we provide. Secondly, there is a misperception that we operate only in Nevada County. In fact, we have landowner partners, land conservation partners and projects in adjacent areas of Yuba and Sierra Counties."

BYLT is not changing its geographical reach, strategy, mission or charter. Eastern Nevada County is served by Truckee Donner Land Trust. Sierra County is served by Sierra County Land Trust. Placer County is served by Placer Land Trust. Trust for Public Land

has some large-scale projects in this region as well. Bear Yuba Land Trust partners with these land trusts, regional landowners and funding agencies to best meet goals and apply the right resources to any conservation project, no matter where it is located. At the same time, the name change will indicate to landowners outside Nevada County borders yet within the Bear and Yuba watersheds that BYLT not merely Nevada County bound.

The name change official date was August 5, 2011. However, it will take many months before the name change news will reach all constituents and community.

In addition to the name change, BYLT has moved its office from its longtime Brunswick Basin location on Joerschke Drive to the North Star Historic District in Grass Valley just a half mile from the Nevada County Fairgrounds. This is the site of the 1905 Julia Morgan-designed North Star House which was donated to the Land Trust in 2003. On the 14-acre grounds of this mansion is the historic Gardeners Cottage where BYLT now has its offices. The new address is 12183 Auburn Road, Grass Valley, CA 95949.

*Marty Coleman-Hunt
Executive Director*

Landowner Partner Interview: Bob and Diana Feld

How long have you lived in Nevada County? We moved here and built our house in 1981. The land hasn't changed much since then.

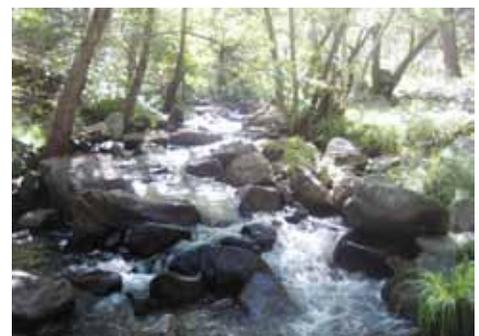
What drew you to this property? I think the open space and probably most importantly the creek along the eastern boundary. Having our own creek was hard to pass up. We have a total of 38 acres, and 28 of those are under a conservation easement.

How did you learn about Bear Yuba Land Trust? It was a contact by mail from a former director stating the Land Trust may be interested in our property and to contact them if we would like. Out of curiosity we responded. After we heard what a conservation easement was, we realized it worked well for our long term goals for the property.

What were your reasons for putting a conservation easement on your land? I thought the economic benefit was legitimate

and fair. I felt that an easement would not detract from the value of the property. We weren't attempting to build any area that we put into the easement so we felt it was a benefit to us and to the property.

What are some benefits you have seen from this process? If nothing else, I think it's important for people who aren't sure of how the process works to look into it more. I think there's a misconception of what a conservation easement is. It's not nearly as intrusive as some people believe. It seems that some associate the word "easement" with public access of some sort. Whenever you talk about granting an easement through conservation people think they are giving something up. They may believe this will lead to a public trail or the land is now public domain. This is not the case. There is a definite benefit to putting property in an easement. The downside risk is that you need to have a clear plan of how the property will be utilized.



Any final comments? I would suggest that people who have been approached or are curious about putting a conservation easement on their property give it legitimate review. Ask questions and let your concerns be known. I am more than willing to answer questions as well. Contact the Bear Yuba Land Trust office and they can give you my email if you're interested.

*Erin Tarr
Stewardship Coordinator*

The Food Love Project



Amanda Thibodeau, Food Love Project



If you've passed by the Burton Homestead recently, you've likely seen the giant sunflowers and large tee-pee frame covered with pea vines. You may have even seen the small farm stand offering fresh tomatoes, squash, and greens for sale to local residents. This is all the work of the Food Love Project, a new community resource offering farming and nutrition education to our local youth.

Through a partnership made with Living Lands Agrarian Network last fall, a three-quarter acre plot on the Bear Yuba Land Trust's Burton Homestead property has been transformed into a beautiful small-scale farm. The Food Love Project is intended to be a centralized resource for local youth to connect with the process of growing food, experience the value of fresh produce, and learn the nutritional benefits of tasty fruits, vegetables and grains.

Typical activities at the Food Love Project include sowing seeds, fertilizing soil with worm castings, and of course harvesting and tasting fresh fruits and vegetables. For some students, it's their first experience seeing how vegetables grow from the soil, and how delicious they taste when hand-picked from the garden. It is now well-established that this kind of experiential learning promotes healthier food choices among today's youth.

In its first year of development, the Food Love Project has served over 400 youth and more field trips will continue this fall. Farmer

Amanda Thibodeau, the Food Love Project coordinator, witnesses first-hand how this experiential education impacts our local youth. She sees their interest and enthusiasm for the farm, and often hears things like:

"Wow, these are the best tomatoes I ever had!"

"Hey, I planted this one.... can I eat it?"

"I never want to leave!"

The greater community has responded to the Food Love Project with much interest and support. The farm has benefited from thousands of dollars in donated time and materials to help develop the site and the educational programming. Living Lands Agrarian Network has also received grant funding from the Nevada County Community Initiative Fund, the Rose Foundation, the Flow Fund, the BriarPatch Co-op Community Market, and Live Healthy Nevada County to help develop the site.

On any given week, Farmer Amanda has several people stopping by the farm, drawn to the garden and wanting to know more about what's happening there. Living Lands looks forward to the continued development of the farm and the expansion of services to better serve our local community. To find out more about Living Lands Agrarian Network and the Food Love Project, please visit www.LivingLandsAgrarianNetwork.org.

What's Going on at Burton Homestead?



The heavy rains last winter really damaged the parking area at Burton Homestead causing serious erosion and ponding. The adjacent beautiful wildflower meadow was also affected. With the help of the Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe we have begun modifying and improving the parking area and driveway at Burton with better grading, resurfacing, new cedar fencing and proper drainage.

We have also improved the visibility of cars coming in and going out of the property by creating a one-way traffic flow utilizing the current driveway as the ENTRANCE and creating a new EXIT at the North end. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please contact the Land Trust office.

Restoration work continues. In the spring we began removing invasive Scotch broom and blackberry and opening the understory of Manzanitas to enable wildlife passage. The next project is to open up the dense willows and blackberry along the annual creeks. If you would like to come join us in this exciting work or would like more information about our restoration projects, please email Chris Gee at chris@bylt.org.

ABOUT BURTON:

Located off Lake Vera Purdon Road in Nevada City, the 40 acre Burton Homestead was donated to the Land Trust by Frances Burton in 1997 with the goal of making it accessible to the community as a center for environmental education. It is the site where the Land Trust summer camp is held every June with about 150 kids in attendance. Already the property is being used by several groups regularly – the Food Love Project educational farm, Rick Berry's Foxwalkers, the Tsi-Akim Maidu tribe (who have their Cultural Center on the property), and several others. Check our website at www.BearYubaLandTrust.org and click on Burton Calendar of Events for more information.

A Personal Perspective: Why I Give to the Land Trust

For me at bottom, land conservation is about the soul of our human species in a world of population growth and accelerating technological change. Humans through history have grown up and lived in nature. The forces of change threaten this. I say, let's preserve some nature for our children's grandchildren to grow up in and wonder about!

Our wonderful natural environment matters to each person living in these Sierra foothills. It is why people move here, why people live here. It is why the Land Trust's trails, treks, camp and educational programs are so



successful. We have our disagreements in this community, but no one wants to see our natural environment paved over.

Bear Yuba Land Trust is non-governmental. It helps motivated landowners on a voluntary basis to protect unspoiled for future generations their ranches, farms, forests and habitat. We all benefit now in our own quality of life and also by knowing that our posterity will inherit a world which is natural and agrarian enough to nurture their spirits as were nurtured our own and those of our forebears.

The Land Trust is effective, with over 5,000 acres protected, a figure expected soon to triple. It is properly run, among the first of the nation's 1800 Land Trusts to be nationally accredited. It takes seriously its duty to serve the public interest.

Oh, and the land trust is fun! These are some reasons why I give to our local Land Trust, participate in its activities, and have included it in my will. I encourage you to do likewise!

Dave Palley

Treks Leaders Are Volunteers



*David Lawler,
Trek Leader for BYLT*

Did you know... that all Trek Leaders and Assistants are volunteers? Those folks that generously share their knowledge and expertise, or participate to insure your safety, do so on their own time and expense. We just wanted you to know.

Many, many THANKS and much appreciation to all of you, our wonderful volunteers (in whatever capacity you give of yourselves). Our programs and projects wouldn't be possible without you.

Fordyce Lakes

continued from cover

breed in the region as well as California spotted owl. There is potential for late successional forests within and adjacent to the parcels, and special status plant species found in the area include fellfields claytonia, starved daisy, and Donner Pass buckwheat.

Recreation opportunities include backcountry camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, OHV use, and boating. A few formal recreation facilities will be available including campgrounds, day use areas, and boat ramps. The remote White Rock Lake at an elevation of 7,800 feet is located near the Pacific Crest Trail and the Mt.Lola Trail.

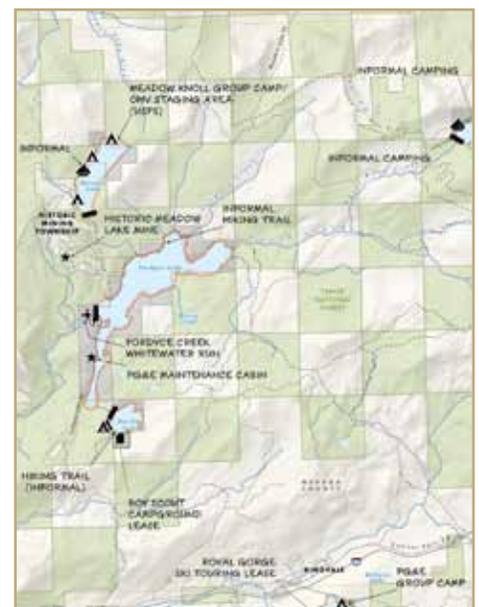
The Washoe are historic inhabitants of the area, and evidence of older Native American settlements is present in the Fordyce Lake area. Five archeological sites (four historic and one prehistoric) have been found, and

several petroglyphs. The historic mining town of Meadow Lake Township is located nearby; while no structures from the township have survived, some remnant mining equipment and features may remain in the area.

The Fordyce Lake unit will be preserved and enhanced by focusing on biological and cultural resource values in this scenic location in the Sierra Nevada. This includes protecting the legacy of Native Americans and early pioneers as well as important plant and wildlife resources. In addition, low-intensity recreation opportunities will be enhanced in this primitive, remote location.

For more information on the Stewardship Council and the lands available for donation and protection, or to provide public comment, visit www.stewardshipcouncil.org

What better way to explore our rich history!



New ADA Accessible Trail in Nevada City



Hirschman's Pond

On October 2nd, Bill Haire – trail builder extraordinaire – introduced a group of trekkers to the newest trail in Nevada County – the Hirschman Trail. Though most of the trail was opened last fall, the new trailhead at Cement Hill leading to the pond is ADA accessible. Bill explained that the trail was built by the Land Trust on property owned by Nevada City - a partnership that proved that different entities can work together and make great things happen!

The project began in 2006 with a grant written by Haire. Nevada City stepped up to the plate to grease the wheels, work with property owners, vet the contractors, find funds, and smooth the way overall. The Land Trust offered expertise, volunteers, and additional funding to actualize the plan. It took a lot of hard work and cooperation on everyone's part for this trail to become a reality. The ADA accessible trail ends at Hirschman's Pond, which was created by hydraulic mining. Along the trail there will be interpretive signs showing how mining impacted the terrain and describing the wildlife that now make the pond and environs their home.

The first sections of the trail create an approximate five-mile loop beginning on Indian Flat Road. Adding this new piece (about a quarter of a mile) creates a "lasso" configuration. The trail is close in to town and is multi-use – hikers, cyclists, and dogs are all welcome. Come out and experience nature – right in your own backyard.

Thank you to the City of Nevada City and all of the volunteers who helped to make this trail system possible!

*Melony Vance
Trek's Coordinator*

Treks Update

Autumn means winding down the trekking season – though we're not done yet!

More fun outings are still to come. Nothing represents fall more than a harvest so we've planned a Grape Harvest event to celebrate the changing season. Come spend a Sunday picking grapes with us at Montoliva Vineyards in Chicago Park.

We'll start at daybreak, in the cool of the day, and pick for a couple of hours. While we're hard at work, Juliette, our hostess, will be whipping us up a bountiful brunch. After lavishly dining, we will continue on with the harvesting until all of the grapes have been brought in. Then there will be a Blessing of the Harvest, followed by a little rest, relaxation, and camaraderie with our host, Mark, before we head home – sated, tired, and with wine in hand. Don't miss this fun event (think "I Love Lucy"). The grapes will determine the exact date, but we think it will be either October 23rd or 30th. Stay tuned.



Rock Creek Nature Trail

Following that fun and fabulous event, join us for the rescheduled outing with Grayson Coney, Cultural Director for the Tsi-Akim Maidu, to Rock Creek Nature Trail on Saturday, November 5th. Grayson's got some fun things planned for us while we explore this lovely spot filled with history and mystery. You'll learn how to look at things through different eyes, in different ways. Grayson's events always fill up fast, so register now.

On the drawing board but not nailed down yet: a walking tour of historic Dutch Flat, a tour of some of the cemeteries of Nevada County, and a birding outing with ornithologist Ted Beedy. Keep checking our Treks Calendar for the latest updates online at www.bylt.org.

As soon as it starts to get cold and wet and we're driven indoors, it's time for... Armchair Treks! Join us for informational evening presentations by fascinating experts on all sorts of topics. We're always having just too much fun! Come be part of it.

*Melony Vance
Trek's Coordinator*

Turkey Trek

On the Friday after Thanksgiving (November 25) we will once again be hosting the annual community Turkey Trek. This is our second Turkey Trek event. Last year we featured the Hirschman Trail; this year we'll walk the new Deer Creek Tribute Trail. Many local non-profit organizations, individuals and government agencies worked together to create this multi-use trail that begins at Pioneer Park, winds through Nevada City, and continues on down to cross Deer Creek.

Everyone is invited so call your friends, grab the kids, and walk off that Thanksgiving dinner. The trail is ADA accessible and lined with interpretive signs that identify plants, explore the rich history of the Chinese immigrants, and pay tribute to the original inhabitants of the area – the Nisenan. This is a FREE Community event – mark your calendars and plan to participate!



Deer Creek Tribute Trail

*Melony Vance
Trek's Coordinator*

Members Corner

Lianne Werner



Lianne Werner

Lianne grew up amongst the orange groves of Pomona in Southern California. She left in 1961 to attend UC Berkeley where she worked her way through four years of college and graduated with a pre-law degree. Two weeks later, she married and moved to Mt. Shasta where her husband worked in forest services. Lianne has four children – all boys. They lived in Downieville next until making the move to Grass Valley in 1972 where she has lived ever since. In addition to her four sons, Lianne raised more than 200 foster children over a twenty year period.

"It's more important than ever to save open space before it all gets gobbled up!" she said. "I'm thrilled to hear about all of the land that's going to be preserved over the next couple of years by Bear Yuba Land Trust. This is a very exciting time to be involved with conservation."

An enthusiast of the outdoors, Lianne enjoys hiking, snowshoeing and gardening.

Jean Gilbert,
Operations Manager

For the last several years, Lianne Werner has been on the volunteer "A-Team" for the Land Trust. She is called upon to help with trail building, treks, mailings and all kinds of events. Lianne has been very active as a Treks Assistant for six years, going along on Land Trust treks to keep track of the hikers, get the paperwork completed, collect donations, etc. And she hasn't lost a single trek participant in all that time. She also volunteers for the Empire Mine as a docent blacksmith and trails coordinator.

"I love to keep active," she said. "The Land Trust offers a variety of opportunities to get out into nature and really make a difference for our community."

Interested in Dedicating a Bench or a Trail to a Loved One or an Organization?

From time to time the Land Trust has been approached by people who inquire about honoring a loved one or an organization with a memorial bench on a trail or about naming a trail after an individual. Great news! Bear Yuba Land Trust is in the process of implementing a program just for this purpose.

In case you didn't know, we have trails in the Woodpecker Preserve, the Adam Ryan Preserve, in Burton Homestead, the North Star property and the Litton Trail. Most of these trails could have benches or even plaques placed on concrete pads adjacent to the trail.

With a contribution of \$1,000, a brass plaque will be engraved to your specifications and placed on a rustic wooden bench. With a contribution of \$1,500, a brass plaque will be engraved to your specifications and placed on a HDPE bench. With a contribution of \$5,000 or more, a trail or portion of a trail can be named after an individual or organization.

We are very excited about this program and hope that you will think of us when

looking for a way to honor your loved ones or organization while helping the Land Trust raise funds for other projects. For more information please call (530) 272-5994 ext. 207.

Kaye Wedel
Outreach Coordinator



Memorial Bench on Deer Creek Tribute Trail

New Members

Alta Sierra Property Owners Assn

Ken and Kay Baker

Andy Berg

Lisa Bloom

Regina Brunic

Randy Clawson

Pat Cobler

Anne Christy

Roxanna Cohen

Jeff and Justine Corbett

Ralph and Lisa Cutter

Valerie Dembrowsky

Dr. Patrick and Sheila Donaghey

Mark and Leatrice Erickson

Krista Ericson

Kathleen Fenton

Larry Hartshorn

Steve and Julie Herrlinger

Gary Hoover

S.R. Jones

Karin Kaplan

Christy Klim

Warren Knox

David Kyle

Gigi Lawton

Valerie Logsdon

Dave and Teresa Mann

Lynn Maas

Ralph and Theresa Merz

Steve Nicholson

Paul Paterson

Trent Pridemore

John Seivert

Dick and Deleaua Shannon

Steve and Colette Sobel

Charles Svoboda

Lucetta Swift

Carrie Smith

Kalita Todd

Jim Vaughan

Mimi Vishoot

Greg and Joyce Vixie

Todd Wells

Chuck Zavitz

How Do We Build a Trail?



Hirschman Trail Trestle

Bear Yuba Land Trust has been successful in building a number of trails in recent years in an area where prior to that the only trails were those on public lands managed by the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the State Parks. How did we do it? We did it with partners in each and every case. Trail building is a complex and often difficult task requiring securing trail easements, permits, completing environmental studies, and lining up funds and resources for trail construction. This is where the partners come into the picture with various degrees of involvement.

The Hirschman Trail is a joint venture with the City of Nevada City, the property owner. A Memorandum of Understanding set out the responsibilities of each party. The Land Trust prepared the grant application, designed the trail, prepared specifications and provided oversight during construction while the City was the grant applicant,

completed environmental studies, secured permits, assumed accountability for all expenses, contracting, signing, and completion of the grant stipulations. Working together as partners, the trail was completed.

Another recent trail project is the Rattlesnake Ridge Trails which were constructed by volunteers from the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Association and the Land Trust on trail easements donated by the developer of Rattlesnake Ridge and on County Road Right-of-Way. The Neighbors came to the Land Trust for assistance in designing and construction of the trails, providing additional volunteer assistance and securing a County encroachment permit to build the trail. Without this cooperative effort, it's not likely that the trail system would have been completed.

The Deer Creek Tribute Trail on the north side of Deer Creek was built with the involvement of a very large number of groups including Friends of Deer Creek (Sierra Streams Institute), American Rivers, Champion Road Homeowners Association, City of Nevada City, Bureau of Land Management, Nevada Irrigation District, Sierra Fund, and the Land Trust. Each had a role in the building of the trail which provides a route through Nevada City and downstream paralleling Deer Creek on a combination of sidewalks, roads, trails, and canal banks to a bridge crossing Deer Creek at the lower end of the project. This 8 mile long trail system will soon be complimented

by a trail on the south side of Deer Creek from Jordan Street to Providence Mine Road following the abandoned Rough and Ready Ditch. Partners for this project are the City of Nevada City and Sierra Streams Institute.

Other trails and partners include the Loma Rica Trail (Loma Rica Ranch, County of Nevada, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District), the Cascade Canal and Orene Wetherall Trails (Save Our Historic Canals, Banner Mountain Homeowners, Rotary, Bureau of Land Management and Nevada Irrigation District). The Alan Thiesen Trail was built by Alta Sierra Property Owners Association (ASPOA) and the Land Trust. ASPOA provided funding for the brush clearing and volunteers to assist Land Trust volunteers with the construction and on-going maintenance.

We would be remiss if we didn't mention the "Adopt-A-Trail" program where routine trail maintenance is accomplished by volunteers who have agreed to take care of the trail. Our volunteer with the longest stint, Deane Dvorcek, has been caring for a portion of the Litton Trail since 2004. We currently need Adopt-A-Trail volunteers for Litton, Cascade Canal Access, Orene Wetherall and Hirschman Trails. If you are interested in adopting a trail segment, contact Bill Haire at bbillhaire.aol.com.

Bill Haire
Trails Coordinator

Western Pond Turtles



Courtesy of WDFW

Western Pond Turtles (*Clemmys marmorata*) have been in serious decline throughout their native habitat for many years. The main cause of their waning numbers is destruction of habitat. These reptiles prefer

ponds, pooled areas in streams, rivers, lakes, and wetland areas. Dam construction has a large impact on many historic habitats due to the change of flow rates and channel morphology.

The Western Pond Turtle is also being out-competed by a common pet turtle, the Red Eared Slider which is commonly released into these areas.

Bear Yuba Land Trust would like to begin restoring ponds in Nevada County to bring back this native turtle. They are very resilient and can survive in a variety of habitats. Their range has been documented from sea level to 6700 feet, although they are uncommon above 5000 feet. They prefer aquatic emergent basking sites, emergent vegetation and proper shelter for protection.

In order to restore ponds into suitable Western Pond Turtle habitat would require removing invasive plant and animal species from the surrounding area. Himalayan blackberries (*Rubus discolor*), Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*), Bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), Red-Eared Sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) and Painted Turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) are some of the main invaders we would focus on. Projects should begin in the spring and we would love your helping hands.

Sources: Lovich, J. Western Pond Turtle. USGS, Western Ecological Research Center, Department of Biology, UC Riverside. 1998. http://www.blm.gov/ca/pdfs/cdd_pdfs/clemmys1.PDF

Erin Tarr
Stewardship Coordinator



Bear Yuba LAND TRUST

Formerly Nevada County Land Trust

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 "Where the Wild
Things Are"

a benefit for Bear Yuba Land Trust

Sat., October 29, 2011
7:30pm -11:00pm

\$45 per person

Moondance Ranch, Grass Valley

*Dinner, Fine Wines and Beer, Barn
Dancing, Fortune Teller, Games,
Costume Awards*

Live Music by SoLS

*For more information
or to sign up on our website
CLICK HERE*

or contact Jean Gilbert at:

Jean@BearYubaLandTrust.org

Upcoming Treks

- Sunday, October 23: Grape Harvest at Montoliva Vineyards
- Sat., November 5: Rock Creek Nature Trail with Grayson Coney
- Sat., November 12: Birding with Ted Beedy – Colusa National Wildlife Refuge and Sutter Buttes
- Friday, November 25: 2nd Annual Turkey Trek - Deer Creek Tribute Trail, Nevada City
Grab the family and come walk off that big holiday dinner!

Don't forget to join us for our popular winter armchair treks in the Helling Library Community Room in Nevada City
Watch our website for dates and times.

For more information or to make a reservation go to
www.bearyubalandtrust.org/treks

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