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## About Burton Homestead: A Decade of Summer Camp

Burton Homestead is a 38-acre private parkland on Lake Vera Road in Nevada City, owned by Nevada County Land Trust. Several years ago the site was donated to the Land Trust by Francis Burton, a retired Nevada County librarian for the purpose of education and the love of nature. The site has a diversity of ecosystems including large, spreading oaks and soaring conifers, wetlands, ponds, plus a network of woodland trails, and the original Burton cottage and gardens. There is evidence that a Maidu settlement was located on the site, as well as subsequent mining activity typical of the area. The local Tsi Akim Maidu tribe has created an active cultural center for tribal activities on a three-acre section of the property.



## It's Time for Summer Nature Camp! June 14-July 2

This June, Burton Homestead just a couple of miles outside of Nevada City on Lake Vera Road, will again be home to the Nevada County Land Trust Summer Day Camp. We will offer our usual Native American Camp and Nature Camp, plus, a Kinder Camp specifically for children ages 4-6 years. Camp begins June 14th and runs for three weeks. On July 2nd we will conclude our camp season with a potluck dinner and campfire for all the camp participants and their families.

Our aim is to develop in each child an enthusiasm for learning about nature through emersion and exploration. Kids will experience heightened observation skills to more fully appreciate the beauty and diversity of the natural environment. Ultimately we seek to develop in each individual a feeling of personal responsibility to help preserve, conserve, and enhance our environment. It's all in good fun, because after all, it's camp!

### Native American Camp

The Native American Camp will kick off the season with an opening ceremony and talk by Don Ryberg, council chair of the local Maidu tribe, followed by drumming and circle dancing. Parents and other family

members are invited to join in the festivities. During the week, the children will participate in art, tracking, language, and other cultural activities, ending their week with storytelling and making fry bread. This cooperative endeavor with our local Native American Maidu tribe provides an authentic experience for the children. This session is open to kids from 7-12 years of age.

### Summer Nature Camp

Week two is Nature Camp, and will offer sessions for children ages 7-9 and 9-12. Guest presenters will inspire children's imaginations and creative talents with a wide variety of activities which include earth science and natural history of our Foothill community. Teachers are among some of the well-known experts in the area: John Olmstead, Alan Stahler, Diana Pasquini, Roger McGehee, Ann Westling, and Randy Oliver to name a few. Campers study birds, animal tracks, wildflowers, pond ecology, trees and local history. The last day is devoted to crafts, where campers reflect on their camp experiences in art.

### Kinder Camp

The third week will be devoted to Kinder Camp which will provide an opportunity for

*continued on page 4*

# Message from Dave Palley President

"Educating the local professional community on land conservation" was a consensus 2010 Board of Directors goal. To this end, we brought William T. Hutton, land conservation and tax expert, to the New Moon Café on March 17, 2010, to speak and answer questions. Some 50 attorneys, accountants, financial planners and landowners were pleased to attend his talk entitled "Conservation Easements—Strategies and Tax Benefits." MCLE credit was offered by Nevada County Bar Association. A copy of Bill Hutton's paper, "The Muncificent Conservation Easement" is available from NCLT's office.

Many landowners would love to preserve their lands for posterity but are reluctant to give up development rights without compensation. The public too has an interest in preserving special lands. So tax policy allows owners, without giving up ownership, privacy or all development potential, to receive income, estate, and sometimes property tax benefits by donating "conservation easements" to non-profit land trusts which protect the land's conservation values in perpetuity.

As Bill Hutton emphasized, conservation donors can be compensated rather completely for donating development rights in the public interest. Assuming a 40% combined income tax bracket and 45% estate taxes, savings equal 85% of gift value before considering a bonus federal provision or, if applicable, property tax reductions. Provisions co-sponsored by a majority of Republicans and Democrats in Congress, when enacted, will again allow conservation easement gifts to count against 50% or (for farmer/ranchers) 100% of adjusted gross income (not 30% as with most charitable gifts) and to be carried forward up to 15 not 5 years.

The gift value of a conservation easement is the difference in the property's appraised value before and after development restriction. Typically, development rights given up are one third to two thirds of the "before" value. The IRS has sometimes challenged appraisals, less frequently "conservation values" but seldom the capability of land trusts. Because Nevada County Land Trust takes public interest seriously and is among the first land trusts to be accredited by the Land Trust Alliance, our ability to qualify and protect conservation easements in perpetuity should not be in doubt.

I know it sounds complicated, which is why we are pleased that so many local professionals are caring to learn this subject. Conservation easements are highly flexible and can be tailored to fit widely differing needs and situations. To learn more, please contact me, Joe Byrne, or Marty Coleman-Hunt, executive director, and we'd be happy to discuss this further.

## John Taylor, Recipient 2010 William Nickerl Award for Conservation Leadership

John Taylor is a long-time resident of Grass Valley. He has served in a number of agricultural and community-service committees and positions, including manager of the Nevada County Farm Bureau, past president of the Retired Public Employees Association, the Nevada City Rotary Club, and the Nevada County User Fee Committee. John is also a retired Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner and former president of the Nevada County Fair and Nevada County Land Trust Boards. He was on the Boards of the Nevada County Resource Conservation District, LAFCO, Economic Resource Council, and California Biological Control Committee. Currently he is on the Boards of the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council, Yuba Watershed Foundation, and the North Star Historic Conservancy. John is an avid

fishing and hiking enthusiast and mentor of many agricultural and environmental professionals in our community.



The award is given to individuals who demonstrate the six traits personified by its namesake, William (Bill) Nickerl.

### Specifically:

- A long time commitment to the cause of land conservation
- Dedication to Nevada County Land Trust's mission to enrich the community connection with our land
- Fostering or inventing a new effort which has demonstrated measurable success

## Nevada County Land Trust

### Mission

*The Nevada County 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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*Bill Haire*  
Trails Coordinator

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- Never gave up in the face of a challenge
- Inspires others
- Located in Western Nevada County

John's dedication to land conservation, especially to protect our agricultural and ranching heritage has been vital to the efforts by Nevada County Land Trust, several other watershed protection groups, and many farm assistance organizations. John has inspired countless professionals and volunteers to organize and address solutions that bring people together to achieve mutual success.

*Marty Coleman-Hunt,*  
Executive Director

# Spring Treks Offer Great Diversity in Hiking

The 2010 *Treks Through Time* program is off to a glorious start. We all had "Snow Shoe Smiles" with Cathy Anderson-Meyers for the first trek of the season. The day was beautiful and the snow was perfect!

The wildflowers of Table Mountain were dramatic this year and Sue Graf and Vicki MacDonald did an excellent job of helping everyone negotiate their way around the mesa for visit to the waterfalls.

Our annual Gala Ride with BONC was well attended with riders coming all way from Sacramento in spite of the muddy trails. As always, Darwin Leek made his famous chili and Stephanie made cornbread for a warm and welcoming after ride meal. The Land Trust is grateful to BONC for its support and encouragement towards its Trail Program.  
**Thanks Team BONC!**

*Stephanie Lorensen,  
Treks Coordinator*



## One Forest's History

*with Forest Ecologist Don Harkin*

The Long Ravine of the 'Inimim Forest - Fire, Mining and Logging

*A Trek in Partnership with The Yuba Watershed Institute*

Saturday May 15, 2010 10am – 1pm

Studying a forest through the clues of tree rings, size and ages of trees, composition of species and other details can tell the ecological history of that place. Yale-trained forest ecologist, Don Harkin, has been coring trees and making careful measurements of forest stands near North Columbia for 30 years. He will lead you on a walk that follows game trails and old skid roads for about 2 miles. This ravine is home to spotted owls and pileated woodpeckers plus many mammals.

Cost: \$12 members/\$15 nonmembers

Level: Easy

## 5,000 Years of Footprints

*with Hank Meals*

Saturday June 5, 2010 8am – 3pm

A slight variation of this hike was first offered 17 years ago, in 1993. We will be walking a 7-mile (roundtrip) trail along the south-facing slope of Fordyce Canyon where there are several sites used by the indigenous people thousands of years ago. Part of the hike is through mixed conifer/black oak forest and part is on open, glaciated slopes. Hank Meals is a respected local author whose intimate knowledge of the Sierra is well known to many and he offers a unique perspective of the many gifts of nature we all share.

Cost: \$12 members/\$15 nonmembers

Level: Moderately strenuous.



## HIKE OUR MOUNTAIN Banner Mountain Trails

Is it hard to imagine that over 2000 households are on Banner Mountain? Well, there are, nestled in the foothills forest, and served by the Banner Mountain Homeowners Assoc. We love the outdoors, but until recently there have been few opportunities for outdoor activities like hiking. The Cascade Canal Trail, with its easy access from Banner Lava Cap Rd. and Gracie Rd., is a resource we mountain people enjoy and share with hikers far and wide.

But now, thanks to the Land Trust, Holger Hahn, and the Homeowner's Assoc., there's a new trail on the Mountain. About a half mile in from Gracie Rd. on Cascade Canal trail, the gradual decent begins down the mountain, descending 350 Ft. in about .7 mi. Switching and winding through huge trees, sunny spots, deep ravines, and diggings from the gold mining days, the trail lands on the NID D-S canal. Although the trail is graded at a comfortable 8%, going back up is some darn good exercise! What a terrific way to use the

28 acre Woodpecker Preserve, a beautiful hillside woodland owned and cared for by the Land Trust.

We, the Homeowners, are delighted to have such a resource for our community to enjoy. We look forward to the official dedication of the trail on June 5 as part of the National Trails Day. Special appreciation goes to Bill Haire, Land Trust Trails Coordinator, who brought together volunteers, donors (mostly Holger Hahn and the Association), and contributed grading and clearing services to come in 60% under actual cost! Bill is already scouting a route back up to the Cascade Canal trail, forming a loop and providing some different views of this interesting landscape. See you at the dedication celebration!

*Jim Bair, VP  
Banner Mountain Homeowners Assoc.*



# It's Time for Summer Nature Camp!

June 14-July 2



younger children, ages 4-6, to have a guided, safe, hands-on experience with the natural world through music, art, crafts, puppetry, direct observation and exploration.

## Join the Junior Stewards Program

As in years past, there are openings for 10 teen counselors. This year counselors will be expected to attend a day long training prior to camp, to learn the nature curriculum and how to work with young children. This is a great experience for any teen who has a desire to learn about early childhood education or a career in recreation.

Camp concludes with a potluck picnic for campers and their families in the evening and weather permitting, star gazing.

Cost is \$85 plus \$15 for snacks (optional). Scholarships are available. Applications can

be found at [www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org/camps.html](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org/camps.html) or contact **Stephanie at 530-272-5994 ext 1.**

### Week 1: Native American Camp

June 14-18, 2010 8:30 – 12:30  
Ages 7-12

### Week 2: Summer Nature Camp

June 21-25, 2010 8:30 – 12:30  
Ages 7-12

### Week 3: Kinder Camp

June 28-July 2, 2010 9:00 – 12:00  
Ages 4-6

*Marty Coleman-Hunt,  
Executive Director*



**Camp  
Grandparents  
Needed!**

The Kid's Summer Nature Camp is in need of volunteer grandparents to help out with its program. If you have a warm heart and a willing spirit our children are waiting just for someone just like you to provide a friendly face and helping hands.

We need help preparing snacks, setting up for crafts, helping little ones who need a bit more one-on-one time and offering hugs when needed. If you have some free time June 14th through July 2nd and would like to spend some time outdoors with our campers, call **Stephanie at 530-272-5994 ext 1** for more information.

*Stephanie Lorensen,  
Treks and Camp Coordinator*

## Send a Child to Land Trust Nature Camp

*Just \$85 sends a child to Nevada County Land Trust Nature Camp for a week or sponsors a teen for the camp counselor program.*

For some of us, our summer camp experience left a lifelong impression. A positive camp experience can plant a seed of an idea about the wonder of nature and a feeling of personal responsibility to help preserve, conserve, and enhance our environment.

This June, nearly a hundred kids will attend

a week of Native American Camp or Nature Camp. But there will be those who need financial support to gain this inspiring outdoors experience. Won't you help? Please contribute to our Summer Camp Scholarship Fund and help create the next generation of conservation-minded individuals. Any donation amount you can make will be added to the Land Trust Summer Camp Fund. Sponsor forms can be found at [www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org/camps](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org/camps) or contact **Stephanie at 530-272-5994 ext 1** for more information.

*Thank you.*

Late winter and early spring have been very wet, delaying much of the trail work that we have under way. Between storms, volunteers have been working on the trails along Rattlesnake Road and at the Kenny Ranch property.

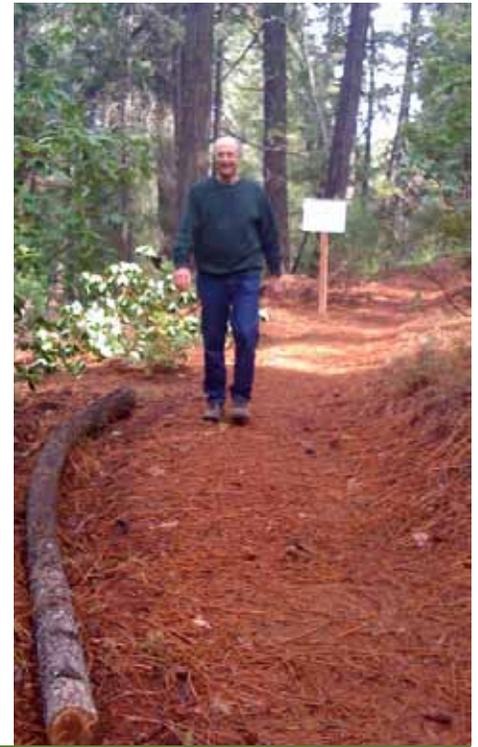
Contracts for the construction of the Hirschman Trail project are ready for bidding. The City of Nevada City will be issuing the contract soon, with the hope that the trail can be built this spring and ready for use this summer.

Work is under way on the Deer Creek Tribute Trail, a project NCLT is working on in cooperation with The Sierra Fund, Friends of Deer Creek, the City of Nevada City, the Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe, the Natural Heritage Institute, the Bureau of Land Management, American Rivers Foundation, Greater Champion Neighborhood Association, the Chinese Quarter Society and Save Our Historic Canals. The goal of the nine-mile Tribute Trail Project is to directly improve the quality of life for Nevada County citizens

and visitors by providing recreational, open space, wildlife, flood management, and water quality benefits in the Deer Creek Watershed. For more information about the Tribute Trail project, or to volunteer to help, please contact Kelly at Friends of Deer Creek 530-265-6090, or visit their website or me at Nevada County Land Trust.

The third annual National Trails Day: Nevada County Celebration of Trails is June 5 this year. Look for more information regarding various trail activities to choose from sponsored by NCLT and other local trail organizations. Events will include a series of hosted trail rides (mountain bike and equestrian), guided walks, the dedication of the new Banner Mountain trail on Woodpecker Preserve, and other activities throughout the day. Our objective is to inspire community awareness of the wealth of local trails, as well as honor the commitment of the many groups involved in creating great trail projects.

*Bill Haire,  
Trails Coordinator*



## Scotch Broom: BE GONE!



This spring the land trust had the opportunity to partner with the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County in the third annual Scotch Broom Pull Challenge. Scotch, Spanish and French broom are highly invasive, noxious and flammable weeds present within our county. Eradication is an improbable goal, hence instead to 'challenge' to remove as much as possible from our communities.

As Restoration and Stewardship Coordinator, I organized two of the seven sites targeted for broom removal for this year's challenge: our Adam Ryan Wildlife Preserve in Alta Sierra on April 3 and the North Star House on Old Auburn Road on March 27. Both events were

well-attended, with over 100 volunteers representing land trust members, the North Star Historic Conservancy, Alta Sierra Property Owners' Association and the Rattlesnake Neighborhood Association.

Scotch broom is a pernicious plant, and its successful removal is a boon to all. The plant is noxious and even toxic to most animals and displaces other vegetation used for food and habitat. During a fire, it can provide a very hot and flammable fuel source for the fire to travel from the ground and into the tree canopy. Each mature plant can produce up

to 60,000 seeds that remain viable for 5-6 years, so early removal and maintenance of the reclaimed area is important to prevent new plants from emerging.

*The plant is noxious and even toxic to most animals and displaces other vegetation used for food and habitat.*

With the help of our volunteers we were able to remove over 30 cubic yards of broom, clearing approximately 10 acres of broom. The removal was particularly impressive at the Adam Ryan Wildlife Preserve, where the broom had invaded the grassland and grown up to be over 6' tall, with trunks that

had to be cut with a saw. This site in particular will require future work to prevent the broom from recurring, while introducing native perennial bunch grasses.

Missed out on the fun? Come join us for future restoration work parties at Burton Homestead where the broom abounds!

*Luci Wilson,  
Americorp Member*



# STARS AT NORTH STAR HOUSE

Benefit Concert Event: August 28

## Let Mavis Staples

*"take you there"*

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Land Trust, this year's 9th annual concert event will premiere at its new home on the historic site of the North Star House, just a couple of miles from downtown Grass Valley. The legendary Mavis Staples will top the bill. Local vocalist extraordinaire, Lorraine Gervais, along with her band, the Burning Sensations, will open the evening's musical festivities under the stars.

Mavis Staples is the former lead singer of The Staple Singers and a major voice of the civil rights movement. She has spent her career navigating the worlds of blues, gospel, pop, soul and political folk, mapping where they overlap and drawing unexpected links where they diverge. Songs such as "I'll Take You There" and "Respect Yourself," are some of her more memorable contributions. Rolling Stone magazine says, "Mavis Staples is the most underrated diva of the century. She has an almost superhuman ability to implant the pure power of passion and emotion." Mavis is responsible for blazing a rhythm & blues trail while never relinquishing her gospel roots.

Appearances in The Band's The Last Waltz with The Staple Singers and collaborations with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King,

Jr. and Bill Cosby to Presidents Kennedy, Carter and Clinton to Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, Prince, Bob Dylan, Los Lobos, Aretha Franklin, Ry Cooder and many others barely scratch the surface of Mavis' accomplishments. She was 2010 GRAMMY Nominee for Best Contemporary Blues Album and featured on Best Traditional Gospel Album. Also she was Blues Music Award Winner: Soul/Blues Female Artist of the Year 2005 & 2006; Winner of 2005 Blues Album of the Year and Soul/Blues Album of the Year for her acclaimed release, Have A Little Faith; National Heritage Fellowship Award Winner (2006) by The National Endowment for the Arts; GRAMMY Lifetime Achievement Award Winner (2005); and Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame Inductee with The Staple Singers (1999).

The event site, just off McCourtney Road, surrounds the historic 1906 North Star House, designed by Julia Morgan, the architect famous for designing Hearst's Castle at San Simeon, the Asilomar Conference Center and many private estates across California. The North Star House, Morgan's first residential commission, was the home of mining engineer Arthur De Wint Foote and his wife, the author and illustrator Mary Hallock Foote. The house is currently under historic renovation with plans to become a community event facility and will be open for tours during the concert event celebration.



This will be the first large-scale event to take place on the spectacular rolling landscape. With the house as a backdrop, the grounds can accommodate up to 2,000 attendees in lawn seating.

Early-bird tickets starting at \$45 for NCLT members and \$55 for the general public will be available after April 15th. For purchases or additional information, go to [www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org) or call NCLT office event line – 530-272-5994 ext. 8. Tickets for the general public go on sale June 1st.

*Sandra Rockman,  
Concert Event Manager*

## A Volunteer Call-out

The celebration of the Stars event in our new home at North Star House will be a day to remember and another confirmation of why we are so lucky to live here. We are looking for some able-bodied volunteers to help with site preparation and event management. You can even earn your complimentary volunteer pass to the event by putting in your hours this spring while it is cool and beautiful. And besides, you'll be in great company and have the satisfaction of helping NCLT foster our mission.

*Thanks so much and see you on August 28.*

*Sandra Rockman,  
Concert Event Manager*

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# New Members

- Steven Barsky
- Jeff Berns
- Kate Brennan
- Joseph and Michelle Britton
- Mike Cena
- Howard and June Clunn
- Robert and Shari Coats
- Steve and Michelle DeCamp
- Jeffrey Foltz
- Marshall Goldberg
- Charlie Hale
- David and Carolee Heppe
- Terry and Courtney Hundemer
- Tracy Jones
- Val Kobbe
- Chamba Lane
- Jim and Carol Lee
- Donald Lewis
- Konrad Liegel
- Jeff Maxey
- Katrin Olafsson
- Christopher Ruedy
- Robert and Peggy Slyker
- Michaela Steber
- Bob and Aletha Stuart
- Lisa Swerdlow
- Butch and Virginia Thresh
- Stephen and Theresa Tilly
- Scott and Dayna Wheeler
- Joanne Wohlfeld
- Susan Woods

# Members Corner

We call them trails. In England, young Ray Bryars loved walking the “public footpaths” which had been in place for hundreds of years, mostly over private land. There are more than 140,000 miles of public right-of-way footpaths in England and Wales. When Ray arrived in Grass Valley many years later, he missed those public trails and watched with concern as more and more fences and “No Trespassing” signs appeared in the community. He sought out Nevada County Land Trust when he heard about our trails program.

“I support the Land Trust because it works to protect the environment and encourages people to get outside and enjoy nature,” Ray said. He loves community trails that allow him to walk from home without having to drive. One of his favorites is a 7-mile loop along Banner Mountain Trail to Cascade Canal Trail and back to Gracie Road. “When the Land Trust’s Woodpecker Trail is completed this summer,” he said, “it will add another level of connectivity.”

Ray and his fiancé Pam moved from England to Ontario, Canada in 1968 where he graduated from the University of Waterloo. He was lured here in 1984 to work for Grass Valley Group where he was a design engineer and project/engineering manager until 2006. He still does some part time contract work for the group. Ray also enjoys volunteering with the Live Healthy Nevada County Walkability Committee and Pam, a massage therapist, volunteers for Hospice.

Bill Haire, Trails Coordinator for the Land Trust, depends on volunteers to maintain the existing trails and to develop new trails in the community. “Ray is always willing to help, even when we have to work our way through

poison oak and blackberry thickets. He has worked on more trail projects than any other volunteer,” said Bill. “He has assisted me with everything from scouting trail locations to brushing, trail construction, signing and trail maintenance.” The Bryars have been Land Trust members since 1998.

“Community involvement really helps cities improve the environment for their residents,” Ray said, “particularly with parks and sidewalks.” He would love to see a regional park here similar to Hidden Falls Park in Auburn. “Trails are a legacy that we can leave to the community. I’d like to encourage



young volunteers to join us in developing more trails for their families to enjoy.”

For information on becoming a volunteer for the Land Trust, please visit our website at [www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org) or email [Jean@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](mailto:Jean@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org).

*Jean Gilbert  
Office Manager*

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## Save the Date

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- May 2: Trek: Lang's Crossing to Spaulding Lake with Kris Wakefield
- May 8: Oak Tree Ball Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner
- May 8: Trek: Doolittle Trail with Don Lewis and Leanne Werner
- May 9: Trek: Mother's Day Walk in Hell's Half Acre with Karen Callahan
- May 15: Trek: Birding at Burton Park with Don Rivenes
- June 5: National Trails Day
- June 5: Trek: 5,000 Years of Footprints with Hank Meals
- June 6: Trek: Rome Powerhouse with Dale Johnson
- June 14-July 2: Kid's Summer Nature Camp
- August 28: Stars at North Star House Presenting Mavis Staples