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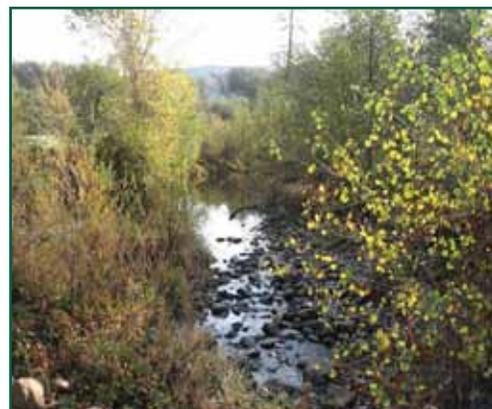
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## Landowners Conserve Deer Creek Watershed

Thanks to the vision of two rural Nevada City families, Nevada County Land Trust closed 2007 by conserving more than 240 acres within the Deer Creek watershed, above Lake Wildwood. Al and Lynne Dover, who previously donated a conservation easement on 15 acres of their Peaceful Valley Ranch, added 83 acres to their easement. Just downstream, Holger and Tacy Hahn permanently conserved 158 acres on both sides of Deer Creek.

Both conservation easements protect blue oak woodlands, foothill grasslands and mixed conifer forests. In total, the two projects permanently protect nearly one mile of Deer Creek, putting these lands off-limits for future development. "We are so pleased that both the Dovers and the Hahns have translated their love of the land into the protection of these two outstanding properties," said Marty Coleman-Hunt, executive director of NCLT, adding, "Their generous donations will help ensure the integrity of this critical watershed in our community for generations to come."



*Deer Creek on Hahn Easement.*

The 240 new acres brings the total to 6,200 acres of land permanently conserved through the use of easements in Western Nevada County, and parts of Sierra and Yuba Counties. A conservation easement is a legal means for restricting development on land in perpetuity. Under the terms of such an agreement landowners retain title to their land and define how that land shall be used forever. The Land Trust would then likewise be obligated to hold and restrict the development rights on the land. Conservation easements preserve land as open space, agricultural use or timber preserve.

Changes in federal tax treatment of conservation easements, which may be made permanent by the 2007 Farm Bill, provided additional incentive for landowners. The new tax rules allow landowners to deduct up to 50 percent of their adjusted gross income, as a charitable donation, in the tax year a conservation easement is donated. Any unused donated value can be carried forward for an additional 15 years. The tax rules are even more generous for agricultural and working forest landowners who derive all or most of their income from farming, ranching or timber harvesting.

For more information on these tax rules, please contact the NCLT office or visit [www.nevadacountylandtrust.org](http://www.nevadacountylandtrust.org). *By Dan Macon*



# President's Message

## 2008: A Look Ahead

As the incoming president of Nevada County Land Trust, I am fortunate to be able to build upon the hard work and contributions of many members, volunteers, staff and Board members during the past 18 years. I truly

understand what it means to be “standing on the shoulders of giants.” Our many accomplishments are detailed in the 2007 Annual Report, the center feature of this newsletter.

I would like to thank John Taylor, the past president of the Board, for his inspired vision in creating a closer relationship with farmers and ranchers in our community, helping to comprehend their unique challenges and collaborating on solutions. I would also like to thank Shari Barley, who stepped down from the Board last year, for her enthusiastic support in fundraising. We have several new Board members to welcome, including Fran Cole and Keith Babcock. Each brings a range of new skills to the team, which we have already tapped for work-in-progress.

Among our ambitions this year:

- The building of the Loma Rica Trail, Larimer Mine Trail (along the southern portion of Wolf Creek) and the Nevada City Trail (along Hirshman's Pond).
- Continued work, in partnership with landowners, toward our goal of conserving 10,000 acres as open space or for agricultural use – in perpetuity in our community.
- The expansion of Burton Homestead for nature education and outdoor recreation for kids, families and adults.
- The distribution of funds from the Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals.
- The expansion of our *Treks* program to serve new demographic groups.
- The expansion of our land stewardship workshops.

While these are significant contributions to the quality of life in Western Nevada County, we want to do more – and we need your help. If you visit our new website you will see our motto is “Connecting Land and Community.” We all belong to a variety of communities including geographic areas as narrow as one street, or as large as a neighborhood or district. Community can be groups with common interests such as churches or fitness groups, or demographic groups such as seniors or teens. We want to reach out to the many different communities that make up Western Nevada County and create ways for them to connect with the land.

*Continued on page 9*

## 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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### Board of Directors

Joe Byrne  
*President*

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*Vice-President*

Ron Mathis  
*Treasurer*

Jason Muir  
*Secretary*

Peter Arnold

Keith Babcock

Jim Bair

Ted Beedy

Geri Bergen

Susan Chalpin-Fleitas

Paul Carlson

Fran Cole

Bill Drown

Greg Fenner

Tracy Gidel

Rich Johansen

Larry MacMillen

William Nicklerl

Jack Stillens

John Taylor

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### Staff

Marty Coleman-Hunt  
*Executive Director*

Dan Macon  
*Director of Conservation Programs*

Stephanie Lorenson  
*Volunteer Programs Coordinator*

Jean Gilbert  
*Office Manager*

Françoise Bunnell  
*Community Outreach Coordinator*

Bill Haire  
*Trails Coordinator*

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[info@nevadacountylandtrust.org](mailto:info@nevadacountylandtrust.org)



## 2008 Expanded Treks Program: Something for Everyone

Our enormously popular *Treks Through Time* guided hiking series is in its 17th year. Each year nearly a thousand trekkers, with a wide range of hiking experience, explore our beautiful community landscapes. Several *Treks* explore areas off-limits to the general public. All are led by knowledgeable experts in specialized fields, from geology to ornithology, paleontology to local mining history.

Many of our most popular *Treks* will be offered again this year. The very popular “Snowshoeing with Cathy Anderson-Meyers” will kick-off the season on March 15th, and then on May 10th, “North Star House: A Walk in Mr. Foote’s Gardens with Carole Miller.” We will continue our *Treks for Health* and *Treks for People with Limited Mobility* (including wheelchair users) programs. *Armchair Treks* will kick off next month with “Take a Walk on the Wild Side” presented by the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release program, “Map and Compass” with Gerry Moon, “Why I Love the Yuba,” a SYRCL film with producer and director Russ Andris, and “Cowboy Poetry and Other Tales” with Dan Macon of Flying Mule Farm and NCLT staffer, and Jim Gates of Grass Fed Beef.

### New Land Trust Family Treks

Alan Haight and Jo McProud of Riverhill Organic Farm, and Paul and Linda Carlson, Nursery Manager

for Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, invite you and your family to truly experience a garden. Learn about organic gardening first hand through planting, harvesting and eating your own organically grown vegetables. At the Land Trust we believe, when you help a child plant a garden you help cultivate a healthy community. *Family Treks* will begin in August and September.

### New Equestrian Program

Equestrians and land trusts share a common interest in preserving lands and trails, which is increasingly being recognized throughout the country. Relationships are being forged among these groups, and new alliances are being

made for the preservation of land and trails. The Land Trust is going to introduce a new program (*Equi-treks*) for equestrians, modeled after the successful



*Equestrian enthusiast and new Board member, Fran Cole*

NCLT *Treks* program. Several guided equestrian trail rides are planned for 2008, including rides on public lands as well as other properties.

### Off the Beaten Path with Albert Earl:

#### A New Series of “Power” Treks for the Tough

We are excited to announce the expansion of our *Treks Through Time* program to include a series designed for experienced hikers. If you are physically fit, and desire to get off the beaten path, to see new vistas, and get a great workout, this is for you. Each outing will have a significant portion of the route off of any existing trails. No trails means flexibility to modify the route. Steep ascents and descents may be included, but nothing approaching technical. There will be rocks to scale, brush to wade through, streams to cross, hills to climb, pictures to take, wildflowers to enjoy and steps to be taken where few others have ever stepped before. Participants are expected to be in good shape, properly outfitted, and most importantly enthusiastic.

*By Stephanie Lorensen*



Finished portion of trail along Brunswick Road bridge site.

# Winter Trails Report

Fall and winter are the best time to plan future trail construction projects, and to secure funding and permits to do the work. This fall we completed the application for a recreation trails grant to build the Hirschman Trail in partnership with the City of Nevada City. We also completed agreements with the County and City of Grass Valley, for Proposition 40 funding of the Larimer Mine Trail, south of the North Star Mining Museum along Wolf Creek.

Now that grant funds have been secured, we are ready to start construction of the Hirschman and Larimer Mine Trails. In addition, we will be building an extension of the trail through Loma Rica Ranch from Idaho-Maryland Road to the Glenbrook Shopping Center. A bridge over Wolf Creek will complete this portion of the trail, which we hope to complete this summer. Last summer \$6,000 in grant funding was secured from the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District to be used to fund much of the cost of the bridge.

In addition to completing these trails, we will continue maintaining our existing trails, primarily through the *Adopt-A-Trail* program and volunteer work days. If you have not already signed up as a volunteer, and wish to help out on any upcoming trail projects, please let us know.

*By Bill Haire*



Bridge site at Wolf Creek along Brunswick Road. Bill Haire and Ray Bryars review plans.

## Adopt-A-Trail

Would you like to “adopt” a trail?  
We need your help.

Nevada County Land Trust welcomes individuals or groups to make a commitment to help maintain a trail or a section of trail on an ongoing basis.

Individuals are asked for a commitment of at least one adopted trail visit every two or three weeks, to monitor trail conditions. Minor maintenance, such as pruning brush, branches and berry vines, or removal of down limbs, loose rock and litter may be required. Volunteers are responsible for reporting major problems, including large obstructions such as fallen trees, as well as damage to signs or benches.

After completing six months of trail care, the volunteer is recognized with a posted sign, honoring them as caretaker of that trail.

Want to learn more about the *Adopt-A-Trail* program? Visit [www.nevadacountylandtrust.org/adopt](http://www.nevadacountylandtrust.org/adopt).

# Land Trust Accreditation Begins for NCLT

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is the national organization that provides accreditation for the more than 1,600 land trusts across America. LTA has established a set of *Land Trust Standards and Practices*, including 37 indicator practices, or guidelines, for the responsible operation of a land trust. These guidelines help insure each organization is run legally, ethically, and in the public interest, and that it conducts a sound program of land transactions and stewardship. The Land Trust Alliance originally developed the *Standards* in 1989, at the urging of land trusts wanting to promote credibility and effectiveness within the land trust community.

The newly formed Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an LTA committee, provides independent verification of a land trust's ability to operate within the guidelines. Independent accreditation provides assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation, and publicly recognizes a land trust's ability to protect important natural landscapes & working lands forever.

Preparing for accreditation and the application process affords land trusts the opportunity to review and implement policies that will help streamline their operations, and lead to more effective land conservation.

Although this is a voluntary effort, Nevada County Land Trust has begun preparing for accreditation by adopting the LTA standards and refining our implementation of the practices. NCLT is proud to have been among the first dozen or so land trusts selected

for participation in the accreditation process. During the process, we will submit to an external, independent review of our practices.

As a result, accreditation will provide members, donors, landowners, and the community at large, with the assurance that we have met established, nationally held standards for organizational quality and permanent land conservation.

*By Marty Coleman-Hunt*

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## In Memoriam

We would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who have given donations in memory of Betty Taylor:

Joe and Jeryn Byrne

In memory of Roger Walsh:

Donald and Lynne Woodward

Ruth Walsh

Robert and Mary Clifton

Kathleen Walsh

James and Elizabeth Oakham

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## Welcome New Members

|                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. Bengough             | Alice MacAllister         |
| Theresa Daly            | Mark Marvel               |
| Chris Feucht            | Roger Morrison            |
| Dawson Fitzpatrick      | Ron Nugent                |
| Carol Glad              | Norman and Jane Punneo    |
| Stephen Haas            | Mary Kay Rose             |
| Hank Harrison           | Jim and Jan Schroeder     |
| Nancy Herrick           | Robin Selden              |
| Sheila Hill             | Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. |
| Larry & Joyce Hoffman   | Peter and Bess Woodworth  |
| Jeff & Mary Jane Ingram | Thomas Ziv & Family       |

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# 2007 Annual Report

## President's Report

As the new president of Nevada County Land Trust, I am pleased with what was accomplished during 2007, and am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities facing us in the new year. Our 2007 accomplishments are impressive, especially in a year that became economically challenging for all.

*Conservation:* The Land Trust has affected conservation on 6,200 acres of land in our region. These 28 individual projects include conservation easements, fee title acquisitions and cooperative management agreements.

*Trails:* The Land Trust has worked with landowners, Nevada County, and the municipalities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, to create 10 miles of local trails. The continued commitment of NCLT *Trails* Coordinator, Bill Haire, resulted in secured agreements, which will add over 3 miles of trails once they are built.

*Outdoor Programs:* The Land Trust offers a number of programs to the community. Most prominent among these is our *Treks* program, which includes a variety of guided hikes, outings, and lectures. Other program offerings include our Summer Camp for kids, at Burton Homestead; stewardship workshops, acquainting landowners with the benefits of conservation and best lands practices; as well as many other ways we engage with the agricultural community to support local farms and ranches.

Last year was focused on planning and building a foundation for the future of the Land Trust. With the help of many experts in our community, we completed a new five-year strategic plan. One conclusion made during this process was the importance of expanding our service within the Western Nevada County community. As a result, we restructured Land Trust staff, brought in a new Executive Director, and grew the Board of Directors from 14 to 20 members, bringing on specialized expertise in land stewardship issues. Our working committees delved into all aspects of operations, creating detailed tactical plans and identifying the appropriate resources to achieve objectives, including administration and human resources, lands, trails and recreation, fundraising and community outreach.

It is a fact of economic life that continual evolution and growth is essential for an organization to thrive. Over the last few years, Land Trust membership has fallen, as has participation on our guided *Treks*. Along with other factors related to a difficult economy, this has resulted in Nevada County Land Trust operating at a deficit in its operations budget for the last three years, though our lands stewardship fund is strong. This indicates that we need to expand our outreach to all of Western Nevada County and review our role within it.

In addressing our needs as an organization, we will be looking at ways to increase our revenues, including the timely renewal of memberships and solicitation of contributions and participation, from both existing and new sources. With all the excellent charitable organizations in Nevada County, there is a great deal of competition for the limited resources available. In consideration of the work the Land Trust does, I hope you will renew your membership and consider the many ways you can help us accomplish our mission during this coming year.

Your participation is critical. Nevada County Land Trust is poised to do great things in our community during 2008. Thank you. *Joe Byrne*

## Accomplishments of 2007

### Membership

700 total members  
16 Major Business Members

### Volunteer Involvement

41 *Treks* volunteers  
125 concert volunteers  
120 *Trails* volunteers  
20 office volunteers

### Treks Program

30 *Treks* offered  
1,000 participants  
10 new *Treks*  
1 new program -  
*Treks for People with Limited Mobility*

### Children's Nature Camps

32 participants  
10 counselors

### Tsi-Akim Maidu

#### Active Cultural Site

Agreement completed for Burton site use  
Two bark houses and one outdoor kitchen

### Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals

Property sale completed  
\$600,000 grant fund established

### North Star Historic Conservancy

\$300,000 grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment  
Capital campaign initiated

### Workshops & Agricultural Programs

Sustainability Workshop  
Small Farms Progress Days

### Silver Springs Special Edition Cabernet Franc

50 cases bottled for member sales  
Private label Nevada County Land Trust

### Stars at the Ridgetop

#### Benefit Concert

Dr. John and Richie Havens performed  
Sell-out crowd of 1,125 attendees

### Land Conservation

4,785 acres in conservation easements  
575 acres in fee title  
880 acres through MOU with  
Bureau of Land Management

### Trails Program

10 miles of trails  
3 miles of new trails in 2007 under design

# Treasurer's Report

The year 2007 was another very challenging and rewarding year for Nevada County Land Trust. Although the Net Income on the Statement shows a Net Profit of \$190,101, transfers from restricted funds equaled \$179,639. The Net Income should more accurately be viewed as \$10,462. The following are some highlights that are reflected in the above summary report.

- **Sale of Assets:** The proceeds from the Salter property sale were put into a new Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals. Assets in this fund are approximately \$600,000.
- **Grants:** The Yuba Watershed Grant work was completed, resulting in a release of funds to NCLT of \$85,000 for distribution to other agencies who participated in program delivery. The Land Trust carried out a small parcel forestry project, performed overall grant administration, and received a portion of funds to cover expenses.
- **Fundraising:**
  - Revenue from memberships was mixed. While the total number of member renewals was down by 15%, the average member contribution grew. Contributions grew at the Benefactor level (\$1,000 and above), exceeding the plan by 20%. The lower levels of contributions (Individual: \$35 and Family: \$50) did not meet expectations, at 65% below plan.
  - Donations from special appeals were up significantly, at \$66,556 on a plan of \$10,000.

– Fundraising from events and other activities fell short of expectations by 56%. This was mainly due to the higher cost of fundraising this year than planned.

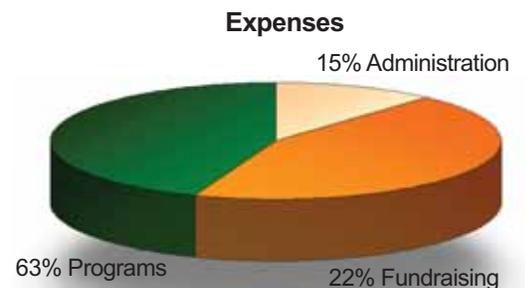
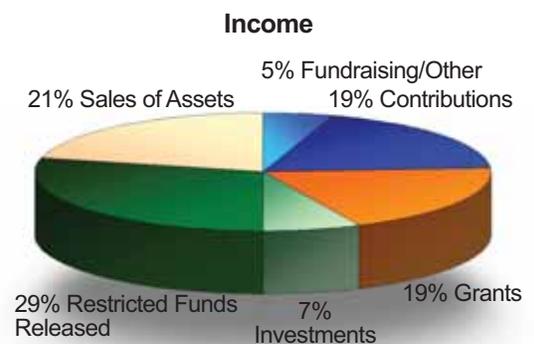
- **Investment Income:** Due to the high value of endowments and trust funds from planned giving programs, a significant contributor to Land Trust operations is investment income. Investments felt the impact of disappointing overall stock market performance. Though the income from investments was up at \$99,606, there was a loss of unrealized gains in the fund portfolio by \$54,228.
- **Transfers:** Fund transfers in the income category are from trusts and endowments restricted to Operations expenses until certain projects have been completed. These funds cover expenses associated with the respective projects for which the funds were donated.
- The cost of the Linden Lea Ranch legal defense did not significantly impact the budget, but is represented in the higher than normal professional fees expense. Legal defense expenses in 2007 were \$20,109. Total legal expenses from the beginning of litigation (Feb. 2006) were \$34,400.
- **Stewardship Funds:** The closing of two new conservation easements on 240 acres, and the receipt of stewardship funds in the amount of \$30,000, was positive for the overall Stewardship fund.

*Ron Mathis, Treasurer, January 31, 2008*

## SUMMARY REPORT OF 2007 FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

| INCOME  |                     | EXPENSES              |                     |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Member Contributions/Donations                  | \$119,595.00        | Payroll               | \$154,801.00        |
| Fundraisers (Net of Expenses)                   | 25,197.00           | Occupancy             | 31,577.00           |
| Grants and Bequests                             | 122,658.00          | Programs              | 190,500.00          |
| Investment Income and Unrealized Gains/(Losses) | 46,206.00           | Equipment & Materials | 37,706.00           |
| Gain on Sales of Assets                         | 129,798.00          | Professional Fees     | 101,404.00          |
| Income Transfers f/Endowments                   | 45,378.00           | Other Expenses        | 24,097.00           |
| Restricted Funds Transferred                    | 134,261.00          | Expense Transfers     | (99,944.00)         |
| Other Income                                    | 7,148.00            |                       |                     |
| <b>Total Income</b>                             | <b>\$630,241.00</b> | <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$440,140.00</b> |

| ASSETS   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Cash and Other Current Assets                  | \$ 89,649.00          |
| Pooled Restricted Projects & Stewardship Funds | 806,807.00            |
| Restricted Endowment and Trust Funds           | 995,984.00            |
| Fixed Assets: Equipment                        | 1,209.00              |
| Buildings Improvements in Progress             | 336,950.00            |
| Buildings                                      | 245,000.00            |
| Land   | 866,926.00            |
| Other Assets                                   | 25,707.00             |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                            | <b>\$3,368,221.00</b> |





*A male wood duck like this one was spotted during the Grass Valley Christmas Bird Count.*

## Christmas Bird Counts— A 107-Year Tradition!

It seems hard for us to understand nowadays, but up until the beginning of the twentieth century, many people commonly took part in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt.” Imagine teams of participants heading out into the fields, guns in hand, and the side that came back with the biggest pile of dead birds at the end of the day was declared the winner. Naturally, this did not sit well with the early pioneers of the modern conservation movement. They proposed an alternative to this indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife—counting them instead of shooting them! The first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was organized in 1900 by the legendary ornithologist, Frank Chapman, an early officer of the Audubon Society. Twenty-seven birders held twenty-five counts that day, mostly in the northeastern US; they tallied a combined total of 90 species.

Well, look at baby now! In 2006, 57,851 counters took part in 2,052 CBC’s including 1,624 count circles in the US, and the remainder in Canada, Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands. All told, they tallied 69,354,406 birds of 1,894 species, including 643 species in the US alone! Six counts in California and four in Texas counted over 200 species each, the highest total (238) coming from Corpus Christi, TX. Our three local counts, all sponsored by the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, usually tally over 100 species each.

Why do people give up the warmth of a holiday fire to tromp around in the rain, snow, or cold to count birds? The primary objective of the CBC is to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere. The CBC is the longest running

“citizen science” project on record. The data is used, along with data from other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, to give us a good picture of how the hemisphere’s bird populations have shifted over the last 107 years.

## 2007 Grass Valley CBC

We were a bunch of wet puppies who showed up for the compilation dinner after a day of counting birds in the day-long rain and drizzle; but, our tails were still wagging (well, at least our tongues were). Thirty-three intrepid souls set out in the pre-dawn hours of December 29 to count all the birds we could find in the 15-mile diameter circle centered on the Rough & Ready Post Office, including some Nevada County Land Trust properties such as Burton Homestead. It was a challenging day of fogged-up optics, glasses, and car windows. In spite of it all we still managed to find 15,869 birds of 99 species. This was not much below the 14-year averages of 16,184 birds and 101 species. Another three “count week” species were recorded as well—Green-winged Teal, Common Moorhen, and Pileated Woodpecker.

Even after the previous 13 years of counting, we still managed to find a new species—the White-throated Sparrow. Actually, Ted Beedy found two of them together (an adult and an immature) at the Western Gateway Park tennis courts. Several other rare birds (for Nevada County) were also found. Deren Ross and Dennis Cavallo discovered a flock of Tricolored Blackbirds in Penn Valley, and Ted spotted one (an adult male) south of there along Spenceville Road. Diane Marten and Jimm Edgar scoped out a Horned Grebe floating on Lake Wildwood, only the fourth GV CBC record. A flock of 50 Tundra Swans was observed flying over Wolf Mountain by Brian O’Connor and Barney Kroeger. A Snow Goose was seen near the fairgrounds by Rudy Darling, Don Flint, Bill LeDain, Claire Thibault, and Drew Howard. Ted also located a Lewis’s Woodpecker on Indian Springs Road. Several species were noteworthy due to their absence. For the first time in 14 years we found no Ruddy Ducks or Sharp-shinned Hawks. Varied Thrushes were undetected for the first time since 1997, and no Green Heron was spotted for only the third time.

Anyone can take part in a CBC in 2008, and there are important jobs for all levels of experience. In our area there contact Rudy Darling, 272-6504, [rdarling@sbbmail.com](mailto:rdarling@sbbmail.com). *By Rudy Darling, Grass Valley CBC Compiler*



## President's Message *from page 2*

Good examples of this outreach are the *Treks for Health* program, spearheaded by Board member Bill Nickerl, which is aimed at active seniors and others seeking healthy outdoor hiking. In 2007 he expanded this program to include people with limited mobility, including wheelchairs. Our new *Equi-treks* program will provide guided equestrian trail rides on both public land and other properties.

We will continue working with youth groups including Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, as well as local schools seeking service projects. In the coming year we intend to expand these partnerships substantially.

I would like to hear from you as to how we might be able to serve your community. If you have an idea for an activity, program or a conservation project, please call the Land Trust office at 530-272-5994. I look forward to your ideas.

Thanks so much to all those who supported our mission to connect people with the land during this last year. I look forward to engaging with you personally in the new year.

*By Joe Byrne*

## Secure the Long-Term Future of the Land Trust

A well thought-out estate plan can minimize income, capital gains and estate taxes, and ensure that assets are distributed according to your wishes. It can also help preserve Nevada County open space and farmlands forever. When you name NCLT in your planned giving program, you are making a permanent gift to your community. With the right gift donors can:

- Increase income
- Decrease taxes
- Bypass capital gains tax
- Reduce or eliminate estate tax
- Avoid probate and unnecessary transfer costs

Many Nevada County residents have included Nevada County Land Trust in their planned giving programs. Our current gifted endowment is valued at more than \$1.5 million and is invested responsibly in securities that provide long term income. Investments are managed by an investment committee made up of experts in financial planning and investing, under the direction of the Land Trust Board of Directors and Treasurer.

In recent months we received two substantial gifts from individuals who remembered Nevada County Land Trust in their estates. We are grateful to the families of both individuals and sincerely thank them for their gracious gifts.

If you would like to consider a bequest to Nevada County Land Trust or would like further information, contact Marty Coleman-Hunt at (530) 272-5994 or [marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org](mailto:marty@nevadacountylandtrust.org).

*Building a sustainable community in the tradition of the Sierra Nevada*



Now with a newly **CERTIFIED Organic Farm** on Brunswick Road in Grass Valley.  
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# Team Land Trust 2008

Nevada County Land Trust is primarily a volunteer driven organization. People volunteer their time for several reasons: they have a desire to “give back” to the community; they believe in the Land Trust mission; and they want to meet new people and have some fun. Whatever the reason, volunteers know they are helping to protect beautiful landscapes, local agriculture and open space in our community.



Volunteers can help with several programs throughout the year including:

*General Office:* This can include help with bulk mailings, filing, phone calling, vacation coverage and more.

*Photography and Graphic Design:* We could use help with designing flyers, programs and other marketing collateral. We also need photography at every event we hold, including people and beautiful landscapes.

*IT Support:* If you have any experience with desktop publishing, website support, databases, networking or financial applications, please give us a call.

*Special Events:* Help is needed with planning, coordinating supplies, food, setup and cleanup. Our events include stewardship workshops, neighborhood collaborations, member and volunteer picnics, etc.

*Event Outreach Booth:* Please consider donating a few hours of your time at street fairs, the County Fair and other events, to hand out brochures and sell T-shirts.

*Treks and Camp Programs:* We need help with our guided Treks program, *Armchair Treks*, *Treks for Health*, as well

as our family outings and Children’s Camp at Burton Homestead.

*Stars Benefit Concert:* We need support in a wide range of activities, from marketing to event staging to VIP management.

*Fundraising and Member Outreach:* We need help with grant writing and fundraising programs. We also need help with our newsletter, special appeals and member communications.

*Trails Building and Maintenance:* Join our *Trails* Coordinator, Bill Haire, and others, as they create new and maintain existing trails in our community. We need everything from bush-whacking, to raking and bridge-building.

*Lands Stewardship:* Do you like to spend time outdoors working on land projects? We need help from time-to-time doing repairs, cutting weeds and tree removal.

Volunteers enjoy many perks of service including: T-shirts, *Trek* vouchers, concert tickets, canvas bags, and recognition at appreciation events, such as our volunteer picnic at Burton Homestead. We invite you to join us in connecting our community with the land.

To get involved, contact Stephanie at the Land Trust. 530-272-5994 or email [info@nevadacountylandtrust.org](mailto:info@nevadacountylandtrust.org)

*By Stephanie Lorensen*

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# Kid's Nature Camp Sign-Ups Announced

Imagine the warm barefoot days of summer. Signs of spring are even now beginning to show as Mother Nature readies herself for her annual display of breathtaking color and exuberant spurts of new growth. It is with great joy, and enthusiasm, that Nevada County Land Trust offers another year of children's outdoor education programs and summer camp. Burton Homestead will again host this year's camps, which will be expanded to include a wider range of ages. Kids, ages 7-12, will experience the natural world with hands-on activities, observation & investigation.

Hiking, storytelling, structured instruction, games and nature inspired art projects – children will experience the great outdoors firsthand. They will build on their knowledge of the many plants, animals and native peoples who share our community, while developing confidence, self-reliance and leadership capabilities.



The expanded program will offer, in addition to the regular two one-week sessions in late June,

two three-day sessions during Spring and Fall school breaks. The first week, June 16th-20th, will be our Nature Camp. Native American Camp will follow from June 23rd-27th. The children will be placed in groups according to age, so as to provide age appropriate activities during each session. We have an upward limit of 40 kids in each camp session.

We look forward to working together for a healthier environment, seeing new faces, making new friends, and just plain having fun. What better way than through camp?

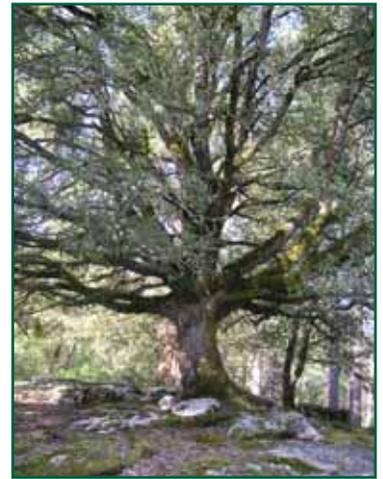
For early registration or more information, contact Stephanie at the Land Trust office: 530-272-5994 or [Stephanie@nevadacountylandtrust.org](mailto:Stephanie@nevadacountylandtrust.org).

*By Sandy Simmonds*

# Burton Homestead Community Input Requested

Burton Homestead is located a couple miles north of Nevada City on Lake Vera Road.

Burton is a beautiful 43 acre site, left to Nevada County Land Trust in the estate of Francis Burton, a retired Nevada County librarian. Mrs. Burton's expressed wishes were to use the land for "nature education, hiking, organic farming and trails for dog walking."



For the past eight years the Land Trust has held a popular, high quality children's nature camp for two weeks each summer. We'd like to expand this program. We would also like to expand our use of this site to support a variety of educational opportunities related to nature and stewardship of the land.

The Land Trust has recently completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tsi Akim Maidu tribe to develop a cultural interpretive site at the Burton location. The site is being constructed as an active cultural center where tribal members can gather to practice ceremonial activities that bind their culture together and educate the local community on tribal heritage.

In the meantime, other groups have approached the Land Trust with ideas on how to further develop programs at Burton Homestead, in keeping with the intent of Francis Burton's will and the Land Trust mission.

We would like to share these ideas with the Lake Vera Road neighborhood, as well as other organizations with similar missions to the Land Trust, and gain more input from the community as we plan further development of Burton Homestead.

Please let us know if you would like to participate in a community input session to discuss the use and development of Burton Homestead. Watch e-mail or the NCLT web site for an announced date.

*By Marty Coleman-Hunt*



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## Land Trust Web Site Update

*Connecting Land and Community*

We are pleased to announce a fresh new look for our Nevada County Land Trust web site. We welcome you to visit us online today. At [www.nevadacountylandtrust.org](http://www.nevadacountylandtrust.org) you will find current news items, *Treks* and events calendars, and printable *Trails* maps. You will also find information on conservation easements and working lands issues, as well many volunteer opportunities. Please continue to check back with us for increasingly expanded online services including event registration, membership renewals and e-newsletters.

## Save the Date

### Spring Treks Through Time

- March 15** Snowshoe with Cathy Anderson-Meyers  
**April 3** Table Mountain Wildflowers with Clarence Motter and Sue Graf  
**April 5** Chalk Bluffs Paleontological Preserve with Geologist David Lawler  
**April 16** Illinois Crossing with Russ Andris  
**May 10** The North Star: A Walk in Mr. Foote's Garden with Carole Miller  
*Mother's Day Lunch... Bring your special lady!*

### Armchair Treks

- March 4** "*Why I Love The Yuba*" a SYRCL Film with producer and director Russ Andris  
**March 28** "*Cowboy Poetry and Other Tales*" with Dan Macon of Flying Mule Farm and Jim Gates of Nevada County Grass Fed Beef