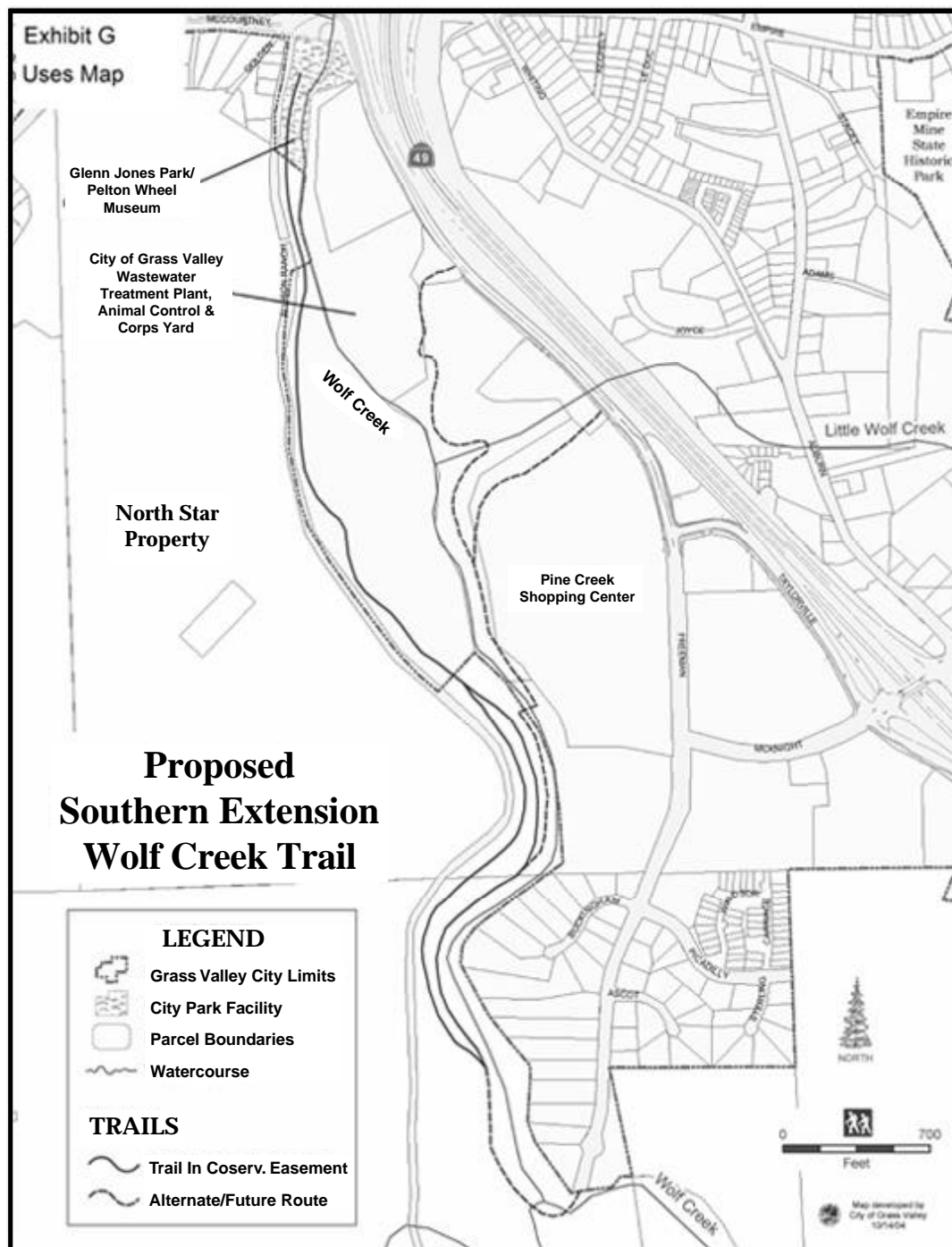


## Wolf Creek Trail Construction to Begin

In December 2004, Sandy Sanderson granted a trail easement on the North Star Property, and now we are ready to begin trail construction. A portion of the trails will follow old logging roads and require little work to make them ready to use. Other trails will follow old ditch grades, and will require brush removal, pruning of trees, and creating the trail tread on and along the old ditch bank.

The trail easement will allow the Land Trust to construct a trail between Allison Ranch Road and Wolf Creek, from Glenn Jones Park south for approximately one mile. We are currently working with the City of Grass Valley to secure a permit to build the trail through the City property connecting with the trail easements on the North Star property.

Volunteers are needed to clear brush from the trail route and to construct the trail. If you are interested in helping, please call the NCLT office at 530-272-5994. Work days will be scheduled on weekdays as well as weekends, when volunteers are available to help with the project. -





## President's Message

### Welcome Dan Macon

As most of you know, beginning January 1, 2006, Dan Macon becomes just the second Executive Director in the history of the Nevada County Land Trust. Dan brings a wealth of experience and accomplishment to the Land Trust. He has earned the respect and trust of

those with whom he has worked. Dan understands the importance of cooperative conservation, and he definitely knows firsthand the hard work that it takes to conserve and manage resources and land in our area.

What we all started to realize is something that Dan has been articulating for some time. That it is not good enough to just conserve the land, but we must also help the people that own the land and their businesses that manage the land. While an expert in conservation easements, Dan also brings to Nevada County unique talents and capabilities that can help farmers, ranchers, and foresters. He writes: "I am excited about working for



Dan Macon assumes directorship on 1 January 2006.

the Nevada County Land Trust. The organization has a long record of locally based land conservation. I am looking forward to build on that record and to help the Land Trust expand its work. Conserving agricultural and natural resources, be it forest, farm, and/or ranch land, requires that we also help the people and businesses that own and manage these lands. The Land Trust can play an important role in helping maintain the economic viability of Nevada County working lands."

Why is it important to help maintain the economic viability of Nevada County's working ranches and family farms? They produce our local food, provide our pristine open viewsheds, and maintain community sized firebreaks. These are the people that sustain the Nevada County quality of life that we all love.

Sincerely,  
Rich Johansen

## Nevada County Land Trust

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[www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org](http://www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org)

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### Mission:

The Nevada County Land Trust promotes voluntary conservation of our natural, historical and agricultural resources to provide a lasting community heritage.

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### LandNews

Published quarterly for Nevada County Land Trust members.

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Frank Schmidt

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## North Star Celebration A Success

The 100-year anniversary celebration of Julia Morgan's North Star House was a great success. More than 250 people attended the celebration on what turned out to be a perfect late summer afternoon.

John Olmsted shared his collection of photos and serigraphs from the turn of the century. Attendees enjoyed the Empire Mine History Players costumed depiction of Julia Morgan, Mary Hallock Foote, A. D. Foote, and Mr. and Mrs. George Starr, who were friends of the Foote family. Everyone was entranced and entertained by a reading from Sands Hall's play, *Fair Use*, done by members of the Foothill Theatre Company.

A special thank-you to Susan Hopkins for making this event possible.

### North Star Update

We are currently pursuing a planning grant through the California Cultural & Historic Endowment Fund. This funding would go towards a historic site assessment which would guide restoration work on the house and grounds.

Volunteers continue to work on cleaning up the house and grounds. A major project being undertaken is the removal of a nonhistoric room off the kitchen. -



The *Fair Use* cast from left: Vince Seck (as Mr. George Starr), Barbara Landgon (as Mrs. George Starr), Dave McKeen (as A.D. Foote), Pat Green (as Julia Morgan), Jean McKeen (as Mary Hallock Foote).

## Land Trust Accreditation Program

A team of land trust representatives has made a set of recommendations on accreditation to the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). The LTA Board of Directors has adopted those recommendations and approved the creation of a voluntary accreditation and training program for land trusts. The following information is from LTA's web site.

The Program Highlights include:

- Accreditation will provide independent verification of 42 practices from Land Trust Standards and Practices that indicate a land trust's ability to operate in an ethical, legal, and technically sound manner, and ensure the long-term protection of land in the public interest.
- *Independent Commission* — The accreditation commission will have independent, decision-making authority, and will be separately incorporated as a subsidiary of LTA. The commission will include land trust leaders who will be initially appointed by LTA. Once the program is operational, the majority of commissioners will be elected by accredited land trusts and the

balance appointed by LTA.

- *Keep Fees Affordable* — LTA, with the help of its funders, will provide the financial support to develop the accreditation program and subsidize some of the program's costs in initial years. Applicant fees will be made as affordable as possible, while creating a program that can be financially self-supporting over time.
- *Time Line* — The commission will establish procedures for accreditation in 2006, test these procedures with an initial round of applications in 2007, and begin full operations by 2008.
- *Commitment to Land Trust Success* — LTA is committed to helping land trusts achieve success in accreditation. We are developing a new, affordable curriculum related to Land Trust Standards and Practices, with special focus on the accreditation indicator practices.

The Nevada County Land Trust supports LTA's Standards and Practices guidelines, and will begin the first steps towards accreditation in 2006. For more information, please refer to [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org). -

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As of November 2005

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Nevada County Land Trust gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions made by members, businesses, and organizations.

As we approach the end of 2005, it is especially gratifying to look back at all that you have accomplished. Your continued financial support will allow the Land Trust's conservation, education and stewardship efforts to expand, bringing opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy Nevada County's trails, parks, and natural areas.

If your name, company or organization has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincere apologies, and notify us so we can correct our records.

## Reflections On the Forest Sustainability Conference

by Don Rivenes

**T**he first day of the Forest Sustainability Conference featured excellent presentations, including a proposal to stem the loss of forestlands, the study of streams to judge the health of the forest, a global perspective on threats to sustainability, and how the careful use of fire and thinning can rejuvenate the soils and vegetation.

It was strongly expressed how important it is to use science to inform the public's values that would support adaptive management policies to deal with population impacts, climate changes, invasive species, and globalization of wood product markets.

The second day began with another discussion stressing that there are different categories of forests that require different management (reserves, etc.) and that our northwest forests are extremely productive and can compete in the global marketplace.

One speaker related the current forest service goals and policies, and how they were reflected in the modified framework for managing Sierran forests.

A panel of speakers gave their perspectives on managing local forests: the Quincy Library Group on the Plumas and Sierra Forests, Yuba Watershed Institute on the Inimum Forest on the San Juan Ridge, and the Blodgett Experimental Station on the forest near Georgetown.

The audience was given insights into the importance of reaching a common and better understanding of words such as watersheds, sustained or sustainable, managing, and stewardship, if we are to protect our ecosystems.

The organizers are to be commended for their selection of expert speakers who only began to touch on all of the issues involved with sustainability.

The human species is the only species that has the capability for realizing the impact it has on the earth. We also are starting to realize that it is not humans that sustain the forest, but the forests that sustain us. We sense this when we hike through the forest and come across a huge old red fir, or a free-flowing stream, or a wild animal. In old economic texts, air and water were considered examples of free goods that had no price. It is time we realized that clean air, clean water, rich soils, wildlife, and old-growth forests are the basic values, and resource extractions are only by-products of healthy ecosystems.

We hesitate to put a price on these public trust values because then they can be destroyed for a price. Our exponential population growth threatens these

basic forest values through land conversion, fragmentation, invasive species transport and over-exploitation. But we must carefully consider these values when we make decisions as to how we use the forests, whether it is logging, mining, grazing, or recreating.

We all like to remember how things were like when we were kids in the good old days. But as the 70's song goes, "these are the good old days." Let's work to make sure that when our kids grow up, they will think that we did a pretty good job of forest protection by getting out of the way and carefully assisting nature to adapt to natural change and not to our unthinking changes. -



*A tranquil day along the narrows of the Yuba River.*

### A Future Dog Park

**T**he Nevada County Land Trust was bequeathed 36 acres of land on Britney Springs Road by W. Alfred Salter. He specified in his will that the property be dedicated to a recreational park for the benefit of the general public, specifically dog owners, providing hiking trails and other dog-related activities. Al died in September 2001, and the property was transferred to NCLT in February of 2003.

During discussions on how the Land Trust could make Al's wishes come true, the possibility of working with Western Gateway Park District was mentioned. The Park Board of Directors was contacted. After several discussions a plan was developed to begin cleaning up the property, making necessary repairs, and eventually turn the property over to the Park District.

With the help of many volunteers, including neighbors, much of this work has been accomplished, and the property will be transferred to the Western Gateway Park District by the end of the year. The Nevada County Land Trust will assist the Park District in developing the trails and a free-run dog area. -

## Stars At The Ridgetop A Huge Success

**O**ur third-annual *Stars at the Ridgetop Concert* will be remembered as a night that proved you are never too old to get on your feet and dance to the music—or at least wiggle your hips. More than 1000 people enjoyed the festival atmosphere as they boogied to the sounds of Leon Russell and Jesse Colin Young. Local musician Saul Rayo performed for those choosing to arrive early and enjoy some wine tasting or get a massage—or simply take in the scenery. There was a wide assortment of food and wine to choose from—and dessert and coffee to complete the evening.

Special thanks to Chris Owen for opening his property to 1000-plus people. And many thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible for the attendees to enjoy a magical evening under the stars.

Thank you to our generous concert underwriters:

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## Special Gifts

*We would like to thank the following people for giving special gifts to the Land Trust*

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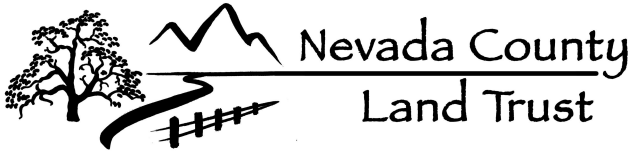
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If you are an on-line shopper you might be able to help the Land Trust as you shop. Just visit our web site at [nevadacountylandtrust.org](http://nevadacountylandtrust.org) and select the *Click Thru* option under *YOU CAN HELP*.

If you follow any of the links listed there, and make a subsequent purchase, the merchant will pay a commission on the sale to the Nevada County Land Trust. Currently the merchant list includes Overstock.com, Macy's, Park Seed, Amazon, iTunes, Wayside Gardens, Tower Records, and Sharper Image. Check back periodically as we will be adding more *Click Thru* merchants. -

## Welcome to New Members

Coulter Adams & Rebecca Coffman • Ted & Holly Ahrens • Doug Anderson • Gilbert Anthony • Ajay & Melanie Avery • Sue Baker • Vicki & Mark Bass • Mark Becker • Jacqueline Beebe • Terri Bianco • Mindy Blankenhorn • Karen & Neil Bledsoe • Russell Broughan • Laura Brown • Syd Brown • Barbara Brown-Neville • Kris Brunner & Harris Weinberg • John Button & Cat Cook • Deanna Carlini • Jo Ann Chatlien & David Craigen • Karen Chileski • Judy Cisowski • Robert Cohelan • Sandy & Dale Creighton • Sam Crockett • Rhonda & Marty Crossman, Crossman Construction • Nancy Cunningham • Sheri & George Cutter, Spring Hill Physical Therapy & Acupuncture • Brent & Suzie Daggett • Warren Daniels • Kathy DiMaggio • Laura Duncan • Jeanette & Peter Dunckel • Steve Evans, Neighborhood Construction, Inc. • Patricia Felton • David & Barbara Ferrier • Norma & James Ferris • Ronald & Leslie Figueroa • Daniel Fitzgerald • Mary Foley • Janet Foster • Mike Freeman • Jean Gilbert & Sylvia Jensen • Melanie & Joseph Glenn • Gayle Greco • Geary Grimes • Gary Gustafson • Brayton & Betty Hahn • John Hensley • Brian & Tammy Hoobler • Melissa Horton & Jeff Wright • Susan & Mal Huntley • Therese Iknoian • Ronald Jauch & Jamie Newman • Mary Jenkins • Mary Johnson • Patrick Kenneally • Glenda Lightfoot • Peter Lipa • Teresa & Troy Long • Chad MacDougall • Albert Martinez • Jeannine Mayer • Michael McGarr • Bill McLean • Mike McRae • Annette & Ted McTighe • Jacquie Minick • John Painter • Missy & Ray Patton • Lana Percey • Rhonda Randolph • Rob Rathbun • Don Reese • Cheryl Rellstab & Kenneth Holbrook • Linsey Richards • Eric Rickel • Jane & Randel Riedel • Vince and Cheryl Rioux • Steve Roddy & Katie O'Shaughnessy-Roddy • Lydia & James Seely • Margaret Seidler • Amy Sibley • Erik Siljak • Michael Sinclair • Linda Sloven & Alan Haight • Verne Spalding • Linda & Jeff Speas • Cary Stein • Gene Thompson • Wayne & Barbara Tierney • Patti Tintle, Tintle, Inc. • Shawn Tuttle • Adeline Vizino • Susan Vogt • Maryellen Walsh & Mac Small • Eric Want • Sue & Mitch Ward • Anje' Waters • Janet Watson • Leatha Welker • Lianne Werner • Peggy Williams • Ryan & Janet Williams • Carla Woodside • Dr. Thomas & Robin Zimmerman -



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## Winter Treks Offerings

*Armchair Treks Offerings at Madelyn Helling Library, 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room*

**Jan. 25, 2006:**

***The Story of Lake Olympia***  
**Vince Seck**

In 1897, nestled on the South end of the most modern race track of its time with night racing under electric lights, was a resort called Lake Olympia (now the Brunswick Basin). Vince's parents owned the resort at Lake Olympia, and he will share his story in a slide show presentation.

**February 22, 2006:**

***Wilderness Emergency Medicine***  
**Graham Billingham, MD**  
Dr. Billingham will keep you



entertained with his fast-paced educational lecture on wilderness emergency medicine. This lecture is a must for anyone who walks, bikes, skies, or hikes. Find out what should be in your first aid kit.

**March 29, 2006:**

***Mining Techniques and Our Mining Heritage***  
**Jim Sindt**

Jim and two special guests will present a slide show and movie program showcasing several area mines in their prime, their mining techniques, and their status today. -