

## New Wolf Creek Trail at North Star

**N**evada County Land Trust recorded a new trail easement in March that will provide hikers with over a mile of new trails when completed later this year. The trail will run within a beautiful wooded corridor between Allison Ranch Road and Wolf Creek. The easement was purchased with grant funds from Nevada County through the Forest Reserve Grant Program. The new trail segment will connect to the North Star Mining Museum and the Glen Jones Park in Grass Valley.

Trail Coordinator Bill Haire has mapped out the planned trail and will work with volunteers to complete the trail later this year. Bill is also exploring expansion of the trail with a possible connection through the Grass Valley Water Treatment facility site.

Acquisition of this key trail segment could pave

the way for other trail connections and extensions in the future.

Remnants of an old logging road and an abandoned water canal can be readily enhanced for our new trail, saving a great deal of construction time and cost. While this trail segment is not within the Grass Valley City limits, it could connect with the proposed Grass Valley Wolf Creek corridor trail currently under discussion.

According to NCLT executive director, Cheryl Belcher, "This new trail underscores the importance of working together with partners, funders and our impressive volunteer force to make new trails a cost-effective reality in our community."

Bill will take trekkers to see the new trail site on our May 21st Member's Trek. Call the office if you would like more information. ☘

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## Memorial Park—Empire Mine Trail

**A**lmost half of a mile of trail in Grass Valley has been completed! Working between rain storms, when the soil was dry enough, some 15 volunteers have worked over 60 hours on the trail. In addition, C&D Construction of Nevada City

donated a 24-inch, 24-foot-long culvert, and Caseywood, Inc., combined with BP Landscapes, paid two employees to work a full day constructing the trail.

Trail work is continuing with volunteer work on most Saturdays and some Wednesdays. Contact the Land Trust office for more information.

The Memorial Park—Empire Mine Trail is only the beginning of a trail that will some day extend from Memorial Park to the Brunswick Basin. Planning for the trail has been ongoing for more than two years. Several alternative routes have been discussed with the property owners along the route; however, at this time no trail easements have been secured, and the exact sections of the trail have not been determined.

This trail, when completed, will extend over a distance of more than six miles, and will connect residential areas with shopping, restaurants, a movie theater, and a park. It will provide a safe place to walk, run, or ride a bicycle, and as an alternative to driving through town.

The Land Trust Ad Hoc Trails Committee made

*(continued on page 3)*



*Volunteers on the new trail at the end of a busy day.*

## President's Message

### *Food Security . . . Oil Dependency . . . Numbers*

**3:** *The number of days of food that we have in our grocery stores. The rest is being grown, processed, or shipped.*

**1,500:** *Average number of miles that our food is shipped.*

**2020:** *Year that California will import 50% of its food.*

**2040:** *Year that the Great Central Valley will have 12 cities of 1-million-plus population.*

**59:** *Average age of today's California farmers and ranchers.*

*During the Masters golf tournament, the question was asked, "What would happen if an entire generation of kids never golfed? What would happen if an entire generation of kids did not want to be scientists? That would be a disaster." But this is exactly what has happened in agriculture. **An entire generation of kids left the farm. Less than 2% of our farmers are younger than 35 years. Couple this with our dependency on foreign food and foreign oil, and we are facing an uncertain future. During the oil embargoes of the early 1970s, our cities almost ran out of food.***

*The short solution is to support our local farmers and ranchers. Do your part by making our local farmers and ranchers as profitable as possible. **Farms and ranches that are not making money are the ones that are slated next for parcelization and/or development.***

**1. Buy local.** *Local products are fresher, safer, healthier, and tastier. Nevada County produces world-class produce, grass-fed beef, and wine.*

**2. Protect our local water supply.** *No water = No food or wildlife habitat.*

**3. Minimize governmental regulations.** *Regulations = costs.*

**4. Support local conservation programs.** *Nevada County farmers and ranchers have been very good stewards of their properties. Their lands have extensive and diverse wildlife habitat, and the open vistas that they provide are some of the reasons why many of us live here.*

*The Nevada County Land Trust's mission is **"to voluntarily conserve the natural and agricultural resources of Nevada County."** With the emphasis on voluntary, our main tool is the Conservation Easement. Conservation easements cost money, and that's one way you can help. Call us at 272-5994 if you would like to know more.*

*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 through protection and enhancement of trails, parks, and open space to provide a lasting community heritage.

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### LandNews

Published quarterly for Nevada County Land Trust members.

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this trail their highest priority trail project construction, and the first segment is becoming a reality. The Wolf Creek Parkway and trail being studied by the

City of Grass Valley will, when built, connect with this trail, and the Narrow Gauge Railroad Trail route shares a portion of the route with the Memorial Park—Brunswick Trail. ♣

## Yuba Watershed Grant Program

By Lynn Campbell

**T**he Yuba Watershed Grant is finally off and running! The Land Trust is serving as the financial and administrative “umbrella” organization for the Proposition 13 grant awarded to five Nevada County agencies and groups. This two-year project is a watershed protection and conservation grant, which funds three restoration projects and three education programs. The grant is funded by the CALFED Bay-Delta Watershed Program.

The restoration, education, and research/planning activities of this Project will be implemented as follows:

- **Sequoia Challenge:** Repair a section of historic Excelsior Canal (Independence Trail) located above the Yuba River to stop erosion and sediment from entering the river system.
- **Forest Service:** Restore the old Ancho Erie mine site located on Forest Service land to premining condition in a project that includes revegetation and sediment control methods.
- **Forest Service:** Protect the sensitive Pat Yore Flat wetland (fen) on Forest Service land from sediment damage by diverting and controlling drainage from nearby roads.
- **Yuba Watershed Institute:** Educate the community with a program of workshops and demonstrations about watershed health, biology, and forestry best-management practices.
- **Nevada County Office of Superintendent of Schools:** Expand a natural history science center located at Bridgeport State Park on the banks of the Yuba River to reach more students, teachers, and families.
- **Nevada County Land Trust:** Educate small forest-parcel owners about the benefits of sustainable forestry practices (including fire safety considerations); and develop a program for the South Yuba Watershed that encourages watershed best-management

practices and conservation easements on new lands.

The grant will continue until March of 2007. John Taylor will provide Land Trust oversight as Project Director. Lynn Campbell will work with the individual project leaders and coordinate administrative needs. Campbell will also be the Task Leader for the Land Trust portion of the grant, and is looking forward to providing public meetings and educational materials to landowners in Nevada County to help them manage their lands in a safe, watershed-sensitive manner. Bookkeeper Susan Werner is setting up the books and budgets for the grant; we are grateful for her expertise!



*John Taylor, John Olmsted and Linda Chaplin measure and mark sites for levee restoration on the Independence Trail, Nevada City.*

The Yuba Watershed Grant is a fine example of collaboration between agencies and groups in the area. We feel proud that the Nevada County Land Trust is providing a service to the community by serving as the administrative vehicle for this grant. The setup was complicated; however, now that everything is in place we can look forward to good results in land conservation efforts for Nevada County. ♣

## Trekking Season Lifts Off!

A combination of green hills, flowers, fauna, birds, butterflies, brooks, waterfalls, and sunlight have reached out and embraced this year's trekkers. If you have not been able to get out with



*Trekkers taking in the panoramic view during the Spring Wildflower Trek to Table Mountain.*

us yet, be sure to carve out a little time in your busy schedule and join our knowledgeable and enthusiastic trek leaders for your well-deserved gift of time with nature. It's a great way to meet new friends and learn more about Nevada County.

Go to our web site for a complete listing of everything offered. Call Stephanie at 530-272-5994 and get out and get going!

### **Armchair Treks: No Hiking Boots Required!**

Our new series of Armchair Treks have been well

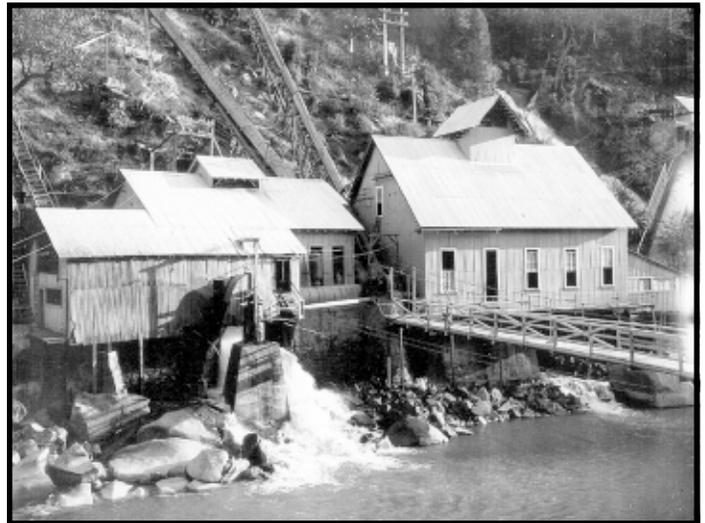


*Audience enjoying an Armchair Treks slide presentation.*

received. Held at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room, these two-hour lectures and slide shows have covered a wide range of interesting and timely subjects. Thanks go to Jerry Pressler, Walt Anderson, Sterling Warr-Pryer, Hank Meals, Gregg Schiffner, and David Beesley for their insightful and informative presentations. We look forward this year to yet another delightful series!

### **2005 Centennial Year of PG&E**

You are invited to participate in the Nevada County Land Trust series of five "Treks" as part of their series to highlight the historical significance of



*Nevada Rome Powerhouse.*

Nevada, Yuba and Placer Counties contribution to the creation of PG&E. These treks will be led or co-lead by Dale Johnson, retired PG&E Sierra Division manager. Visited will be the Yuba Powerhouse, Nevada Rome Powerhouse, Historic Ditches of the South Yuba Canal Company, Alta Powerhouse, and Colgate Powerhouse and Pelton Wheel. The Land Trust is grateful to PG&E for their generous donation, which has enabled us to offer this rare series memorializing the early history of PG&E and its valuable contributions.

### **Sutter Buttes Trek**

Every year the Land Trust, in partnership with the Middle Mountain Foundation, conducts a series of hikes into the Sutter Buttes. This is what our co-leader Jim Simmons had to say about his climb.

"On a beautiful spring day in April close to 40 people from the Land Trust met in a Yuba City parking lot. After a short drive to the base of the North Buttes and passing through locked gates, we

gradually found our way up and through the rolling hills of numerous working cattle ranches. Almost immediately, a vista of the Buttes unfolded that none



*Sutter Buttes Trekkers.*

of us could have imagined existed. Most of us were accustomed to views only from afar, and the green grass, abundant wildflowers, reaching oaks and craggy outcroppings could not have been more perfect and surprising. It was amazing to realize what a treasure we have in this tiny volcanic mountain range between the Sierra and the coast. I know that when next I see the Buttes in passing, it will be through the experience and new eyes of this truly unforgettable day.” ♣

### North Star Centennial Celebration

**O**n Saturday, September 10, we will celebrate the one-hundred-year anniversary of Julia Morgan’s North Star House. The proceeds from this event will go toward our continuing efforts to seek funding and to repair the damage done by vandals and years of neglect.

The Centennial Celebration highlights include: A reading of *Fair Use* by Sands Hall, tours of the house and grounds, age-appropriate games for children of that era, photo exhibits of before and after the renovation, and a living history presentation.

Food and beverages are included in the admission price. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 years. Invitations will be mailed in early August, outlining the day’s events. You can also check our web site for updates on our projects and upcoming events. ♣

### Sierra Nevada License Plate

The California Legislature recently passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation creating the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Help support the conservancy by being the first in your neighborhood to display the new Sierra Nevada Conservancy license plate.

To reserve your special license plate, please fill out and mail the enclosed card.

**All proceeds will benefit  
The Sierra Nevada Conservancy.**

### Trabucco Member Tour

If you couldn’t join us for the members’ tour of the Trabucco Ranch you missed a delightful outing. The rain held off long enough for twenty Land Trust members to hike around the ranch to take in some spectacular views. The hike provided an opportunity for the members to see just how valuable a conservation easement can be.



The tour ended with Bill and Anna Trabucco cooking up a delicious lunch of barbecued hamburgers made from their very own range-fed beef. Keep an eye out for other member tours throughout the trekking season. ♣

**We would like to acknowledge and  
thank those who have given  
donations in memorium.**

***In Memory of Madonna Rough  
by Mike & June Rough***

## 2005 Childrens Summer Day Camps on Beautiful Burton Homestead!

### *First People Studies*

*8-12 year olds, June 22-24*

Nevada County has a wonderful resource: A site tucked into a lush little valley just outside of Nevada City. Native American people visited this gentle place in the course of their lives and work. This site has been the inspiration for Land Trust Children's Camps for years, and this year we offer a program fully honoring the native peoples of the past, and present.



Native American friends will teach the cultural activities of first Californians through artwork and activities, songs, dances, food, nature studies, and much more. These three days of hands- and hearts-on experiences will be remembered for a long time!

### *Children's Nature Studies Camp*

*8-12 year olds, June 27 - July 1*

This is a week full of sessions with visiting local natural and botanical experts, giving us wonderful nature and

history lessons through hands-on activities. We learn all about birds: their calls, feathers, habitats and behaviors.

We learn the local native plants and their uses. We will have lessons about wildlife using trackers and surprise visitors. We collect aquatic

insects and see them bigger than life (we get wet!). We have art and craft activities using materials and inspiration from nature. We have a day full of Maidu and Nisenan activities, and much more! This year features an optional overnight star studies (families welcome) camp-out!



*These camps are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day; snacks and drinks will be provided. Each Session is \$75. Call Stephanie or Robin at 272-5994 to register. ☘*

## Benefits of Estate Planning

*Susan Kane, Development Director*

**W**hile many of us have good intentions of creating a will or trust, many of us put it off until sometime in the future. And then that day never comes. By developing an estate plan, you are able to create a plan that brings you peace of mind and reflects your intentions.

Our lives are enriched by the work of public benefit organizations, such as the Nevada County Land Trust. A planned gift can be in the form of cash, securities, real estate, or personal property. You can name the Nevada County Land Trust as a beneficiary in a retirement plan, insurance policies,

and other accounts. You can also stipulate how the gift is to be used. The benefit of estate planning is that it is flexible. You can change your mind about the gift. You may have an estate tax deduction. You can leave a lasting legacy to protect our ranches, farms, natural areas, trails, or wildlife preserves—whatever you care about.

It can be as simple as a written and signed statement. You can contact the Gold Country Estate Planning Council for a list of local professionals who can help with your estate planning needs.

If you don't make the time to do this, you run a big risk that the only real beneficiary of your estate will be Uncle Sam! ☘

## Maidu Bark House Project

**O**n Sunday, April 17, wood for a traditional Maidu Bark house was culled, loaded and transported by a hale and hearty band of volunteers. Small mill owners Mel and Bonnie McGuire have gifted our friends from the Tsi Akim Maidu tribe with enough material to build this cultural gem at the Burton Homestead.



Mel and Bonnie McGuire

The site selected was at one time in the past inhabited by Maidu People. Grinding rocks beneath a majestic Grandmother Oak remain to this day. Mel and Bonnie have been milling wood since 1992 after 43 years of owning a trucking business. Their beautiful wood has been used for historical restoration, furniture making, wagons, small bridges, barns, pottery, games and flutes.

Bonnie says, "Mel is the brains of the outfit and I am the brawn. Our roles might be a little mixed up, but talking about it is part of the fun. Working outdoors and making beautiful lumber is a pleasure. We don't drive ourselves that hard and working together, meeting wonderful people, and learning new things have been good for us."

Nevada County Land Trust extends its gratitude to **Sean Simpson, Ray Bryars, Arren Bryars, Bill Nickerl, Fred Hermann, Robin DeNegri**, and, of course, **Mel and Bonnie McGuire** for coming out early on a Sunday morning to sort, stack, load and haul these beautiful pieces of choice wood. Be sure to watch for the progress on what will be the only traditional bark house in Nevada County. ♣

## Stars At The Ridgetop 2005: Mark Your Calendar for September 3

Make your reservations now for the Nevada County Land Trust's third-annual fundraising concert to be held on Saturday, September 3.

Once again the concert will be set on the beautiful grounds of a 40-acre private property with a natural amphitheater. This will be a magical evening. Located just a few miles from Nevada City, access will be made easy by special bus service from the Government Center. Delicious offerings from local caterers, as well as beer and wine, will be available for sale at the concert.

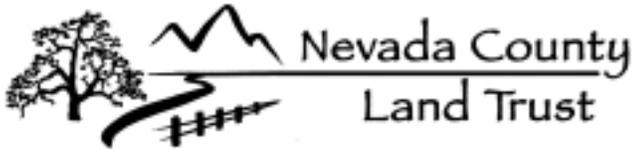
Last year's concert sold out six weeks before the concert, so avoid disappointment and reserve early. Stars at the Ridgetop 2005 just keeps getting more fabulous!

Tickets are \$50 for members and \$60 for nonmembers. You'll be receiving a mailing with complete concert information within the next month. ♣

## Special Gifts

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

Arnold & Ruth Adicoff • Pat Barrentine • Donald & Karna Campbell • Elaine & Larry Channel • Karen Cox & Kathleen Kershaw • Barbara L. Davis • Mary Dreifuss • Janet Feil • Fred Forsman • Eugene & Gail Fox • Fred Hillerman • Robert & Joan Huff • Susan Hughes • Wayne & Barbara Jarosh • Anita Lambie • Barbara & Alton LaPlante • Joan Laue • Susan & Reid Luhman • Robyn Mallgren & Janaia Donaldson • Robert Mora & Lily Marie-Mora • Judy & Eric Nielsen • Tim & Sheila O'Connor • David Painter & Sharon Winegar • Cynthia Park • John Paul — 49er Rotary Club of Nevada City • Mike & June Rough • John Schroeder • Margaret Scotten • Tim & Meridith Smith • Jan & Karen Stevens • Nancy & Ted Tilman • Barbara & Cathryn Willcox ♣



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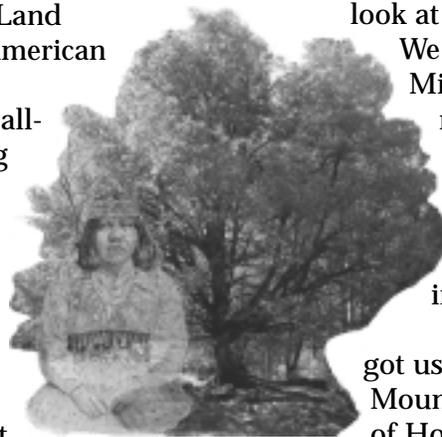
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### Native American Cultural Day Event Sunday, May 22, 10a.m. - 4p.m.

Once again Nevada County Land Trust will hold its Native American Cultural Day Event at the Burton Homestead in Nevada City. This all-day family event offers something for everyone.

Our thanks go to Wendy Olenick and Don Ryberg of the Tsi Akim Maidu Tribe for their priceless contribution, both this year and last. Well-known Rick Adams of the Maidu Interpretive Center in Roseville will be present to both delight and enlighten us with his dancers. Mike Tomson will bring oral tradition to the day. Mike was raised in Micronesia and was influenced by tribal chiefs, navigators, and storytellers since an early age. Naturalist and animal tracker Grayson Coney will lead a walk through the property and present a fascinating



look at ancient traditional Maidu culture.

We are thrilled to have the gift of Mike Oitzman's music during our meal. Mike is with the Northern California Flute Circle, and is a representative of the Native American Flute Association. For the kids there will be face painting and guided craft projects. Cache Creek Casino and Resort got us rolling with a generous gift. Mount Royal Venison and Game Meat of Houston, Texas, has generously provided enough venison for a big stew; the Bois Forte Chippewa in Minnesota sent wild rice grown on their reservation; the Elk Meat Shop in Watertown, South Dakota, is sending dried Elk; and Lundberg Rice has sent enough for everyone to take home a sample.

For reservations, call 530-272-5994. ☎