

Quality and Quantity: 4,500 Acres and Counting!

Thanks to all of our supporters, members, land donors, volunteers and staff who have made conservation a priority in their lives. Because of you all, the following projects have become a reality, benefiting the entire community.

Conservation Lands and Wildlife Preserves:

Adam Ryan Wildlife Preserve • Burton Park
Chaparral Hill Deer Corridor • Feld Family Preserve
Janet Haley Project • Hannan Wildlife Preserve
Hart Pitcher Plant Fen • Lone Cypress Ranch
Mathis Park • Peardale Bird Sanctuary
Phillips Project • Round Mountain Wildlife Preserve
Woodpecker Wildlife Preserve

Partnership Projects:

BLM-Round Mountain Joint Management Group
State Parks-Bennett Street Grasslands

Ranch and Farm Easements:

Linden Lea Agricultural Easement
Quail Agricultural Easement
Wild Rock Ranch • Willow Tree Ranch

Sustainable Forest Lands:

Jonathon Whitworth Butts Forest



South Yuba Watershed Grant A Go!

State Water Resources Control Board has awarded \$300,536 for six innovative projects and programs in education, erosion control, water quality improvement and restoration within watershed.

The grant will be administered by the Land Trust with project work to be completed by the Yuba Watershed Institute, Sequoia Challenge, the Forest Service, the Bridgeport Natural Science Center, and the Land Trust. The funding will be available in 2003. We will give complete details on the projects next year. Special thanks go to Kathy Van Zuuk, ecologist at Tahoe National Forest, for her help in pulling this whole grant together. 🌿

Trails:

Bailey Trail • Banner/Cascade Ditch Trail
Litton Trail I and II

By year-end, we plan to add one more project to the list, bringing the total of land protected to 5,000 acres. 🌿



This ranch will be the Land Trust's newest partner for conservation, protecting another 588 acres of working landscape. This photo was taken in 2002, but looks like the days when settlers came here and started working the land. You'll learn all about it in our next issue.

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From the President's Desk

We can all be thankful that the elections are over. Whether our favorite candidates won or lost, it was a trying process to go through.

I noticed a few particular problems here at the Land Trust. We are a nonpolitical organization, committed to carrying out our mission of developing trails, supporting parks, and preserving open spaces, regardless of the political views of the County's elected officials. We have been very successful in carrying out our programs during the past eleven years by following this nonpolitical position. The success of our



organization can be attributed in no small part to the wisdom of our founders who established this rule. It helped us focus on our work during the election, rather than getting sidetracked on particular issues or candidates. It also lets us have a wide diversity of interests represented on our Board of Directors without factionalizing into tight, special interest groups during election campaigns. I was very pleased that not one partisan issue was brought up at our board meetings, although there were many opportunities.

On the issue of property rights, all of our directors share a common view. Most of our directors are very sophisticated on the issues of property ownership, rights and responsibilities. We understand the motivations of people who want to preserve a portion of their property as their legacy to future generations of residents and visitors. It is their right to have their property protected against encroaching developments, to preserve the vistas of open space, to protect the riparian corridors so important to wildlife and the ecology of the area, to protect the preserves that hold pockets of reminders of what was here before. The Nevada County Land Trust provides a means to carry out this right by establishing a conservation easement tailored to the specific desires of the property owner. The Land Trust will uphold the terms of the easement in perpetuity. Keep in mind that we work with willing donors who are motivated to preserve their property as they see it now. We provide a trust service that enables our clients to carry out their wishes for the future of their land.

It seems difficult to believe that people would want to place a portion of their property in trust. But our responsibilities to protect properties are growing and our business is booming. You almost have to be involved in the process to understand how and why this works. There are many opportunities for participating and helping with the work we are doing. Come join in the activities. Please leave your political agendas at home.

Warm regards,
Ron Mathis

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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.

Land News

Published Quarterly for Nevada County Land Trust members
Editor: Cheryl L. Belcher
Design: Frank Schmidt

Executive Notes: We're in Good Company

by Cheryl Belcher, Executive Director



With Thanksgiving fast approaching, I find myself thinking about the many reasons I have to be grateful — my great family, wonderful friends, good health, living in this beautiful area, and having a job that I really like. My life has been enriched through the people I

have met and the projects I have worked on for the Land Trust over the past nine years. I have learned that our conservation work opens a connection with nature that can truly change our lives for the better.

I enjoy meeting people who care about where they live and actively try to participate in keeping it open and productive for future generations. I like visiting their property for the first time, and then working together to figure out how we can protect the land they love.

The land protection process is never easy and is not always successful. There is always more we could do if we only had more time and money. Sometimes it seems that whatever we do, it isn't enough. Yet it helps me to remember that we are not just working in isolation here in our small County in the Sierra foothills.

We are part of a fast-growing number of land trusts across the nation — all trying to do the same thing we are. In fact, private land conservation may be the fastest-growing segment of the environmental community in the last half of the 20th century. Today, there are more than 1,260 grass-roots land trusts in the United States, up from just 887 in 1990. More than one-million people are members of these land trusts or in other ways support land conservation. We are in great company. ❀



Trustworthy News

LTA Rally 2002

Executive Director Cheryl Belcher and Fund Developer Susan Kane attended the annual Land Trust Alliance Rally (conference), held this year in Austin, Texas.

More than 1,700 attended the Rally this year from as far away as Hawaii and Guatemala. The conference offered two-hour classes and full-day seminars on all phases of land protection, stewardship, nonprofit management, legal considerations of land protection, and so much more. Next year the conference will be held in Sacramento, October 16-19.

Litton Trail Phase III

Litton Trail Project Manager, Larry MacMillen, working with a 12-man crew from Washington Ridge, have cleared the next leg of the popular Litton Trail. This segment comes off the Sierra College trail and goes between Eskaton Village and Nevada Union High School to connect walkers to Ridge Road.

Next steps include tractor work and the laying and compacting of gravel, and will be dependent on weather conditions for completion. If we receive a great deal of rain in November, the work will be completed in the spring of 2003.

Ghidotti Grant

Many thanks to the Ghidotti Foundation for a grant to support the Children's Outdoor Camp program for 2003. The program provides classes for children grades 3-6 on

birding, pond ecology, zoology, plants and trees, native American foods and games, and art in the wild. It has been held at Burton Homestead Park.

Litton Trail Grant

The Land Trust received a grant from the Northern California Air Quality Management Board for \$14,700 to buy gravel for phase three of Litton Trail. The Trail will provide a safe walking and biking alternative to car travel for many adults and youngsters going to work or school.

Strategic Planning Starts

This month the Board and Staff have begun the process for directing Land Trust efforts for the next five years. Facilitated by Patty McCleary from Conservation Solutions, the all-day session integrated previous work sessions on organizational development and project selection. ❀



Paul Carlson, Team Leader for Lands Project break-out group, and Patty McCleary, facilitator, at November NCLT Board and Staff Retreat.

Litton Trail Faire Fairly Marvelous!

by Anne Hendrickson, Litton Trail Faire Chair

Strollers and wheelchairs, an occasional bicycle, and many, many walkers — some with dogs on leashes — came out to celebrate our hallmark trail on September 15. Mild weather, great entertainment, fine art, children's activities, and a super raffle all came together with a delicious brunch to make the day exceptionally successful.

Music was provided by Pete Siegried's *Mountain Laurel*, and the *Railroad Bill's*, both groups traditional friends of the Land Trust. New this year were *The Nevada County Strum Bums*; and their ukulele music added greatly to the festivities.

Brunch along the Trail included mimosas, a wide selection of grilled sausages — as varied as cherry-champagne and peach-apricot — served with grilled autumn vegetables, and the usual cheeses, bagels, breads

and fruits. The *piece de la resistance*, however, was provided by a crew preparing trail-side crepes and serving them with a sauce of warm apples and butterscotch.

Almost a hundred guests took the challenge to walk beyond the planned activities to the end of the trail and qualify for their "I went the distance" badges and a special raffle. Other just-for-fun raffles included one for all dogs in attendance. First prize was a free bath at a local pet grooming establishment.

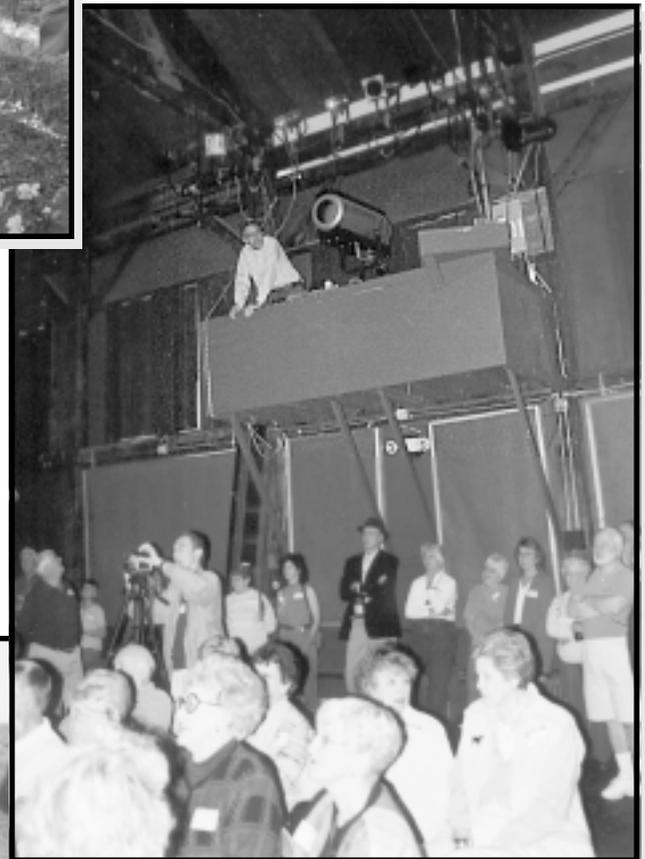
There were numerous activities for children including their own raffle. Bubbles and balloons were everywhere, and face painting was popular with the younger generation. The super raffle included well over a thousand-dollars worth of prizes, including art objects, fine wines, accommodations, meals, services, and more. While the goal was to raise funds for the Land Trust, this event was also fun in its own right; and all the prize donors are very much appreciated. ❁



Happy Holidays from the Nevada County Land Trust Board and Staff
We hope your Holiday Season will be filled with friendship, fulfillment and peace.



Everybody works at NCLT! Board President Ron Mathis raking leaves on Litton Trail with Fund Developer Susan Kane.



Andy Cassano achieved new heights, giving projects overview presentation at the annual Membership Luncheon.



The Treks Program continues to expand our horizons. Immigrant Pass Trek included snow, sun, and wildflowers.



Each One Reach One

by Susan Kane, Fund Developer

Here we are at the end of another year. It has been one of the Land Trust's most successful years in terms of land protection. By year-end, we will have brought our total of lands we protected or partnered to protect to 5,000 acres. This was accomplished on a very small budget because of the extraordinary generosity of local private landowners, who care enough about the future of this county to place conservation easements on their lands, and through the hard work by our volunteers and staff. To continue this work, I am asking you to help us do some "friendraising."

Think about the people you know. If you exchange gifts, consider giving a friend a one-year membership in the Land Trust. Tell them about the reasons you support the Land Trust. Think about why you live here. If you are like most of us, a big part of the reason is the natural beauty that surrounds us — the forests, rivers and mountains that make this such an amazing place to live. The work the Land Trust does helps set aside such lands for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

If you could reach out to just one person you know — a neighbor or work associate — and share your reasons why you support the Land Trust, you will help us to build the grassroots support we need to not only continue but to expand the work we do.

With wide community support, we have accomplished a great deal over the past 11 years. With your continued support and help we can accomplish a lot more. ♡

Don't Forget Those Gifts That Keep Giving!

The future of the Nevada County Land Trust and our conservation work depend to a large degree on the foresight and generosity of today's visionaries — supporters like you — who consider multiple ways to support NCLT's conservation goals. Gifts can be designated to support operation, endowment, or special programs and projects.

You can make a lasting investment in NCLT's conservation projects which are making a real difference in our community.

You can help with:

Gifts of Membership to friends and family — starting at just \$30 — will help us widen our supporter base.

Gifts of Land or Highly Appreciated Assets can directly assist in conserving special places, as well as provide possible tax benefits to the donor and their heirs.

Planned Gifts of Bequests and Charitable Remainder Trusts will ensure continued support of NCLT far into the future, and can entitle you to considerable tax savings.

Gifts to the Land Trust Endowment or Stewardship Funds will help NCLT continue our conservation work, and manage our lands into the future.

If you would like more information, call the office at 530-272-5994. ♡

Volunteer Opportunities: Want To Help in 2003?

Trekkers

Treks Chair Christy Sherr is looking for six volunteers to co-lead, plan and help distribute materials for the *Treks Through Time Program*. There will be an orientation/training session in March for new volunteers. If you have 6 hours per month, and like to hike, please call us at 530-272-5994. This is not only fun, but you get to attend treks for free! And it's good exercise, too!

Volunteer Coordinator

A very high level of volunteerism within our community has helped NCLT to accomplish an amazing amount of conservation work over the years.

Volunteers in the office help us cut costs by copying, telephoning, and stuffing mailers. In the field, volunteers

help build and maintain trails. The list goes on. We need someone to help us interview new volunteers and find the right job for them to do; then call and line up workers for special events and work parties.

If you like the work we do, like working with great people and have 4-6 hours per month to give, please call the Land Trust office at 530-272-5994.

Earth Day Restoration Project

Nothing beats planning ahead! We are seeking grant funding to work on a property with a large meadow and pond restoration project on April 12, 2003.

If funded, this will involve work on approximately 8 acres. If you might be interested, please call Kristin at the office and ask to be put on the mailing list. We will know in early January if we will be able to proceed with this project. ♡

Special Thanks to Special Volunteers and Supporters

Becky Anderson

Judy Anderson

*Diane Atwell and her 9th grade class that cleared
Litton Trail of leaves and, while they worked,
sang to hikers and walkers!*

Jim Bailey

Ruth Bailey

Glenn Belcher

Lee Blakemore from Youth Can Do!

Terry Brown

Paul Castro

Jim Franks and Fidelity Title

Marlene Hayes

Larry Ingersol and Placer Title

Eric Jorgensen

Patty McCleary

David Miller

Phyllis Miller

Stephanie Paulson

Chris Postlewaite

Carol Sechovec

Christy Sherr

*Paul Simoes and his students from the Three R
School who helped clean off Litton Trail!*

Yuba Watershed Council

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



Children's Camp Set for Next Year

We are grateful to the Ghidotti Foundation for a grant to
help us expand the Children's Outdoor Education Camp to
two weeks in 2003. Camp Director Lynn Campbell is
already hard at work developing the new program. The
camp has been sold out for the past two years and, with
the new funding, we will be able to open up space for
more children. If you wish to be on the mailing list,
please call Kristin at 272-5994. ♻️



Meet Estelle Barber

We are pleased to announce that Estelle Barber has
recently joined the Land Trust as part-time Bookkeeper.
She brings tremendous experience and background to this
vital job. ♻️



Litton Trail - Eskaton: We Need Your Help Chipping!

Litton Trail is truly a community effort. Lots of
volunteers are making this trail a reality. Thanks to the
help from a hard-working team from Washington Ridge,
Larry MacMillen, Litton Trail Project Manager, has
completed the very dense brushing needed on the next
phase of Litton Trail that will connect to Ridge Road.

We have stacks of brush that will need to be chipped.
If you can help, please call Kristin at the office, 272-5994,
and leave your name and phone number. Larry will
contact you when he has the work schedule set up. ♻️

Wish List

Can you help? We could use your tax-
deductible donations of the following items to
help us in our project work.

Rakes
Shovels

*Please bring donations to 10175 Joerschke
Drive, Suite R, Grass Valley, or call 530-272-
5994. ♻️*