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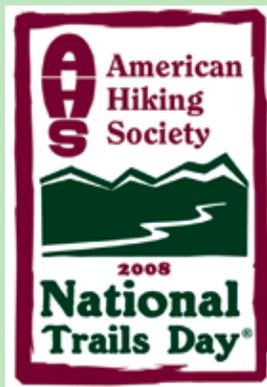
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“National Trails Day® is a celebration of trails that evolved from the report of President Ronald Reagan’s President’s Commission on Americans Outdoors. In 1987, the report recommended that all Americans be able to go out their front doors and within fifteen minutes, be on trails that wind through their cities or towns and bring them back without retracing steps. The recommendation, dubbed Trails for All Americans, became the impetus behind several public and private parties joining American Hiking Society in launching National Trails Day® in 1993.”



Nevada County Celebration of Trails: June 7

The weather is perfect and our community abounds with natural beauty. Enjoy a relaxing day outside on Saturday, June 7 for *Nevada County Celebration of Trails*. Nevada County Land Trust, along with our western Nevada County community partners, will sponsor this event celebrating *National Trails Day*. Partners include a number of organizations interested in building, promoting, and maintaining local trail systems including: the City of Nevada City, Gold Country Trails Council,

Bicyclists of Nevada County, Friends of Deer Creek, Wolf Creek Community Alliance, Friends of Greater Cement Hill Neighborhood Association, Nevada County Public Health, and Greater Champion Neighborhood Association.

The event will include a series of hosted trail rides, walks, and other activities throughout the week preceding *National Trails Day*, with most events taking place on Saturday. Our objective is to inspire community awareness of the wealth of local trails, as well as honor the commitment of the many groups involved in creating great trail projects.

Participants are welcome to choose events most suitable to them. Most events are free of charge to the public. Consult the schedule of events (page 5) to help determine appropriate clothing and footwear. Participants are advised to provide their own refreshments.

Bill Haire

**Schedule of events
continued on page 5.**

Hirschman Trail Kick-Off

Time: 1pm Date: June 7th Place: Hirschman Trail

Join Land Trust Board, Mayor Sally Harris, and many of our *Nevada County Celebration of Trails* event partners as we celebrate our newest community trail, with trail building demos, guided walks, and a short dedication.

This will be an opportunity to pick up information about local trails groups and learn about various trails projects underway throughout our community.

Parking is available in the Rood Center County lot. Trailhead is just a short walk across Cement Hill Road.

Limited seating available; foldout chairs, and water are recommended.



President's Message

What is the role of the Land Trust in our community—both the perception and the reality? Marty Coleman-Hunt, our Executive Director, and I have been having a series of meetings with individuals in our community to find out just that. It has been enlightening for us and very motivating. The wide variety of opinions of NCLT has been a real eye-opener. The opportunity to do so much more has been the inspiration.

What is the public opinion of the NCLT? Our meetings would indicate that it is good but challenged by the need to do more. (We may have limited our meetings to polite people who were too gracious to complain or voice negatives to our face.) The sentiment here is that the people of Nevada County have an enduring sense of history. There is also a feeling across the community that we live in a remarkable but threatened environment. If we wish to save our land resources and allow our children the option of both an economically and environmentally sound future in Nevada County, the time to act is now.

What is the role of NCLT in creating and sustaining this future? Nevada County is blessed with the presence or assistance of numerous conservation organizations which deserve our support. These include both local organizations, such as SYRCL and Friends of Deer Creek, as well as regional and national organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land. Typically, such groups have a special focus, limited either to the preservation of a geographic area or a specific conservation goal, such as diversity of natural communities or creation of parks for public use. The role of NCLT is unique within our service area (western Nevada County, parts of Sierra County and eastern Yuba County). NCLT is not limited by such a narrow conservation focus. We seek to preserve farmland to support local agriculture, timberlands to create healthy forests, and oak woodlands to conserve our historic foothills landscape from development, while still allowing a landowner to realize the economic benefit of land ownership.

How can we more completely realize our role in the community? One way is through cooperative ventures with other conservation groups. Because of our experience in land stewardship, conservation easements and fee ownership, we are uniquely qualified to compliment the preservation efforts of other groups. We have already assisted local organizations in trail building and youth education. Many of the national organizations are well-funded for land acquisitions, but need a local partner for hands-on management. We are actively seeking these partnerships with other organizations to enhance the synergy such cooperation can bring.

We would like to know your perception of NCLT and the role you would like to see NCLT play in our community. Drop Marty or me a line or an e-mail at Marty@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or 530-272-5994. We want your input.

Joe Byrne, Board President

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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Conservation Workshops for Landowners

Our land conservation program is at the heart of the Land Trust mission with a basic charter to conserve as much land as possible. There are couple of approaches a land trust can pursue in meeting this charter.

First, a land trust can own land in full title, free and clear. This can be accomplished by buying land for its fair market value with funds raised through cash donations or grants. Land trusts also acquire land through an outright donation or through a bequest in a will. In certain communities this approach to conserving land makes the most sense.

A second approach to land conservation is for a land trust to acquire only the future development rights, while the landowner retains title to the land. This legal agreement is called a conservation easement. Landowners are able to continue using the land to meet their personal needs as long as those needs reasonably fit within the values of land conservation. For example, a conservation easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might prohibit development of any kind, while one on

agricultural land might allow continued farming. The land trust takes on the responsibility and legal obligation to enforce the conservation easement “in perpetuity.”

A conservation easement is the ultimate protection of private property rights for landowners, and has been particularly attractive to Nevada

County landowners.

NCLT owns very few parcels outright. More than 90% of the land conserved in western Nevada County is still owned by the landowners with NCLT owning conservation easements on those lands.

Conservation easements are somewhat complex and require the careful consideration of a number of choices facing landowners. NCLT assists landowners with these choices by providing information, opportunities to discuss options, and introduction to other landowners who have dealt with similar issues.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall seasons, NCLT will be conducting a series of informational get-togethers with landowners in various geographical regions of the county. The idea is to gather neighboring landowners to talk about the potential of protecting certain wildlife corridors and watershed areas, or ranchers working together on grazing strategies through the use of conservation tools.

Included in the workshops will be information about:

- How conservation easements work on specific types of properties.
- Protecting private property rights.
- Public access.

- Potential property, income and estate tax benefits for landowners.
- Determining the conservation values on properties in the many diverse areas of our community.
- Special watershed conservation efforts in California.
- Stewardship responsibilities the Land Trust will take on to ensure the easement is intact forever.
- Additional opportunities for farmers and ranchers who want to protect their agricultural lands.
- Opportunities for landowners who wish to conduct ongoing timber harvests.

For more information or to attend a workshop, contact Dan Macon, Director of Conservation Programs at Dan@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or 530-272-5994.

Marty Coleman-Hunt

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Press Release:

Lt. Governor John Garamendi Announces Economic Development Commission's Ag Advisory Committee

Oakland, CA – The California Commission for Economic Development (CED), chaired by Lt. Governor John Garamendi, approved the appointment of 28 Californians to serve on the Commission's Agricultural Advisory Committee, including Dan Macon, Nevada County Land Trust Director of Conservation Programs.

The bipartisan CED, consisting of government, community, labor, business, and education leaders, provides policy advice and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature, and private sector to improve the economic well being and quality of life for all Californians through local and statewide economic development.

The Agricultural Advisory Committee will provide expertise regarding agricultural business in the state, identify key challenges to the industry's growth and offer recommendations for solutions.

Tom Nassif, President/CEO of Western Growers Association and Vice Chair of the CA Commission for Economic Development, will chair the Ag Advisory Committee.

"The importance of agriculture in California's economy cannot be overstated," said Garamendi. "I look forward to working with our partners in agriculture to build a sustainable growth economy and maintain California's position of leadership in the global marketplace."



Land Trust Concert August 23

Put Saturday, August 23 on your calendars and get your dancing shoes ready! Our 6th annual concert event, this year renamed "*Stars at the Peak*", has been relocated to pastoral Penn Valley, and the stunning landscape of Pilot Peak Winery. Appropriately named, our venue lies just across from Pilot Peak, the area's highest point (2,175 feet). Featured musical guests will include Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, and acclaimed slide guitarist Roy Rogers & The Delta Rhythm Kings.



Singer-songwriter Dan Hicks is truly an American original. Since the early 1960s, Hicks has deftly blended elements of Swing, Jazz, Folk and Country music to create the appealing sound he sometimes calls "Folk Jazz."

"His voice and his sly, humorous point of view set him apart from any crowd," says Michael Goldberg reviewing Hick's comeback album, *Beatin' the Heat*. "Now that he's an old-timer, his

music seems even more solid."

Not only does Hicks continue to delight his long-time fans, he has earned the attention of a whole new generation of music lovers.

Named after the singing cowboy, Roy Rogers is a highly praised American blues guitarist. Originally a member of John Lee Hooker's Coast to Coast band. In the '80s, he went out on his own with The Delta Rhythm Kings. Rogers has since thrived as a performer, songwriter, recording and guest artist for such diverse artists as Linda Ronstadt, Bonnie Raitt, and Ramblin' Jack Elliott. Rogers has been nominated for two Grammy Awards and three W.C. Handy Awards. *Slideways*, Roger's own CD, reached Number 3 on Billboard's chart for "Top Blues Albums."

We will again partner with like-minded community groups, such as Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue to further our complementary missions. Join us for a wonderful meal prepared by local culinary artists, and featuring local agriculture, including distinctive wines produced by Pilot Peak, featuring Sierra Foothills grapes.

Discount early-bird tickets are on sale at www.NevadaCounty-LandTrust.org.

A great time, at a great place, for a great organization. Stars at the Peak—Don't miss it!

Sandra Rockman, Concert Producer

"If we do not permit the Earth to produce beauty and joy, it will in the end not produce food either."

—Joseph Woodkrutch

Nevada County Celebration of Trails June 7: Events

Hirschman Trail Project

The City of Nevada City and the Land Trust have applied for a grant to construct over 2-1/2 miles of trail on City property. The trail site is located next to the Rood Center, across Cement Hill Road. As a community introduction to the project, this event will include guided walks along the route of the proposed trail, and over to Hirschman's Pond. Trail building demonstrations and walks will be held hourly from 10am – 1pm. Bring walking shoes and water.

Burton Homestead Children's Activities

Join us for a morning of nature and wildlife exploration and craft activities during the Nevada County Land Trust kid's camp open house. Included will be guided bird walks for children of all ages and their parents, as well as exploration of Maidu bark houses and the labyrinth of trails on site. 16200 Lake Vera Road from 10am—1pm. Bring water, snacks and good walking shoes.

Larimer Trail Project

Wolf Creek Community Alliance will lead a walk from Glenn Jones Park (Northstar Mining Museum), down Wolf Creek along the route of the proposed and partially completed Larimer Trail. Meet at 10am for this 2 mile round-trip hike. Bring water and good walking shoes.

Mountain Bike Rides

Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC) will lead two mountain bike rides out of the Rood Center parking lot; one for beginners and one advanced cyclists. Both rides will feature local roads and trails. Whatever your skill level, we have

a ride for you. Bring your bike and water and join us from 10am—Noon.

Deer Creek Tribute Trail

Friends of Deer Creek will lead a trail hike along a portion of the Tribute Trail route. This exciting project will link roads, trails, and canal routes through Nevada City along Deer Creek. Learn about the long-term goals of this grant funded project, as well as the rich history of the area, including the Nisenan-Maidu, and the miners and merchants who lived and worked there between 1852 and 1918. Hike begins at 10am, at the Mountaineer Mine site, 0.4 miles down Champion Road from Old Downieville Highway. This 5 mile hike will last 2 to 3 hours, so please bring water and good walking shoes.

Other events include:

May 31: Poker Ride

Gold Country Trails Council will host an equestrian ride out of Skillman Horse Camp, east of Nevada City on Highway 20. The \$20 entry fee includes one poker hand, raffle ticket, and a meal after the ride. Sign-up begins at 8:30. Riders depart at 10am.

June 3-6:

Local Walks with Bill Nickerl

Bill Nickerl, long-time trail guide with the Land Trust, will lead a number of walks on local trails from 8—10am.
6/3 Memorial Park to Empire Mine
6/4 Tyson Trail in Alta Sierra
6/5 Litton Trail near Sierra College
6/6 Loma Rica Ranch
Meet at the Beam Center on Colfax Avenue for all walks mentioned.

June 6:

Slide Show with John Olmsted

Local legend John Olmsted will host a slide show at the Madelyn Helling Library featuring trail projects he is involved in. Discussion will include the

dream of continuing the John Muir Trail throughout California, including the integration of many local community trail systems. Event scheduled from 7—8:30pm.

—For more information about these events please visit us online at www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org

Britta Halling Memorial Endowment

February opened with an unexpected gift from a long-time resident. The Land Trust was deeply honored by an extremely generous endowment from the estate of Ida M. Halling. “In accordance with the terms of this bequest, the principal of this fund is to be held and administered as the Britta Halling Memorial Endowment”, in honor of Ida's beloved step-daughter. “The principal of the fund should be invested and the income therefrom shall be used for the purchase, improvement and maintenance of lands, or interests therein, such as public easements.”

Ida loved the land, the forests and the river. She swam regularly and walked and participated actively in the community. She valued the friends she made in Nevada City, Grass Valley, and Washington areas. It was her wish that part of her estate be used to further the mission of the Land Trust, and that the landscapes she loved continue to flourish.

You can read more about Ida's inspiring life and family at www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org



Burton Homestead Development Plan Community Input Session May 28 at Burton

A community input session for anyone interested in the future of Burton Homestead will be held May 28, from 5—6:30pm, at Burton. Bring your own chair or blanket.

Burton Homestead is a 38 acre private parkland on Lake Vera Road in Nevada City, California. Nearly a decade ago the site was donated to the Land Trust by Francis Burton, a retired local librarian, for the purpose of nature education. The site has a highly diverse ecosystem including large, spreading oaks and soaring conifers, wetlands, ponds, plus a network of woodland trails and the original Burton cottage and gardens.

There is evidence, such as several grinding stones in granite outcroppings, pottery shards, and other remnants, that a significant-sized Native American settlement was located on the site. There is also evidence that mining activity typical of our community occurred.

For the past nine years, the Land Trust has operated two week-long summer camps for about 50 kids, in addition to other activities such as Land Trust member and volunteer picnics,

and public hikes.

Last year the Land Trust and the local Maidu tribe signed an agreement to create a cultural center for tribal activities on a three-acre section of the property.

The purpose of the Tsi Akim

Maidu Active Cultural Center at Burton is to have a permanent location where the tribe can reunite, teach children tribal cultural ways and language, conduct ceremonial activities, and define the needs

of individual tribal members (e.g. care for the elders). Current tribal activities at Burton include *Indigenous Peoples Days* celebration, tribal council meetings and cultural events. In addition to serving the needs of local tribal members, the Center will be made available for educational purposes to the Nevada County community including interest groups, children's camps and school groups.

The Burton Homestead development plan includes the creation of physical infrastructure for the operation of Land Trust activities, and other programs in keeping with the intent expressed in Francis Burton's will. Among other things, these programs include an expanded Land Trust camp, offered to more kids, and operating on more days throughout each season of the year. It also includes making Burton Homestead available to public and private schools, home school groups and charter schools for field trips in support of curriculum on science, nature, and local Native American studies.

In addition to education for kids, we want to add programs for nature

and conservation groups such as nature hikes, workshops on conservation, native plants, etc. Finally, we have plans to support the rescue activities of Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release and their ongoing wildlife habitat protection training and education.

In order to support these activities, the natural and physical infrastructure will need to be enhanced, including:

- Rehabilitation of the pond & wetlands areas for water fowl and plant life.
- Improvement and construction of trails for nature walks, including trail safety for diverse populations such as children, adults, persons with disabilities, as well as trail signage.
- Creation of an interpretive kiosk for the park, including historical data, nature information, maps, and park rules.

- Construction of public restrooms.
- Construction of a small naturally terraced amphitheater.
- Construction of an indoor-outdoor classroom/meeting facility of sustainable building materials that has minimum impact on the adjacent land.

The site will be designed as a model for similar projects in other communities and as a special local community amenity.

The Burton Homestead master plan will encompass the needs assessment, community (including neighborhood) input, landscape plan, construction plan and program operation plan. Next, a fundraising campaign will be conducted to procure funds for both managing the site, operating programs and for infrastructure build-out. Work will commence once funding is secured and is expected to take 3 years to complete.

To volunteer to support this project contact our office at 530-272-5994 or Marty@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org.

Marty Coleman-Hunt

The Power of Nature-Based Camps

Burton Summer Camp June 16 -27

Here in Nevada County, even in our most congested areas, we are surrounded by the ever constant beauty of nature. On any given day, we can be treated to the splendor of tall pines dancing in a gentle breeze and the setting sun casting apricot light on the surrounding mountains. Streams, creeks and our beloved Yuba River, sing their way through our canyons providing habitat for a wide variety of animals, from bears to bobcats, and numerous species of birds. Yet, despite our physical proximity to the natural world, there is a growing and disturbing gap between today's children and nature. In his book, "Last Child in the Woods" author, Richard Louv, refers to this gap as a "nature deficit disorder."

It hasn't always been like this. As a young child, I spent many happy hours in the outdoors. Whenever we were not in school, kids in my neighborhood were booted outdoors in the morning only to be dragged back in, kicking and screaming at dusk. No self-respecting child wanted to return indoors if the slightest ray of light remained in the sky. How did we manage to entertain ourselves all those hours and stay out of trouble?

Though I lived in a typical suburban neighborhood, we were lucky to have a large empty lot a block away from my house. In the spring, the lot was covered with mustard greens so high they seemed to touch the sky. We spent endless hours making trails and dens in



those fields, playing countless rounds of hide and seek and tag. As the mustard receded, the tumble weeds began to fill in, providing us with ample material for the best roundhouse forts. When we tired of those, there were always trees for climbing.

So why are today's children not playing outside as have previous generations? A number of reasons: homework, extracurricular activities, organized sports, consume more time for children today. Stranger danger, increased traffic and fear of nature itself, all bring about hesitancy to allow children to play outside. Sadly, too many children have little or no access to parks or other safe open areas.

The most insidious is our love affair with technology. With computers, Xbox, and the proliferation of television, children are spending more time indoors and little, if any time outdoors. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children watch between four to six hours of television a day. We have created a generation of increasingly unhappy, unhealthy, overweight kids who are afraid of bugs and dirt!

In today's world of the child, camps are a vital part of growing up. They open the door to a host of possibilities: new interests, unique approaches to problem solving, a wider scope of social skills, a more diverse circle of friends, even new career opportunities.

Nature camps provide children the opportunity not only to relate to the

natural world in a life affirming, respectful manner, but also to test their ability to be leaders, to fine-tune observation and assessment skills and work cooperatively with one another. They come to know that they are not apart from nature, rather they are intertwined with and inseparable from all life. They witness the simplicity, beauty, and miracle of nature and the intricacies of complex ecosystems.

Nevada County Land Trust has been running a children's nature camp at Burton Homestead going on nine years now. Hundreds of kids in our community have come to understand and delight in the natural world around them,



through hands-on outdoor learning. Children experience hiking, storytelling, and structured instruction with locally renowned experts, as well as games and nature inspired art projects. They learn about local plants and animals and how native people lived here in harmony with nature before we built our towns and neighborhoods.

As a child observes the natural surroundings an intimacy begins to develop. The child begins to see his or her place in the world. An understanding of the interdependence of all living things develops. This is an empowering experience. With this knowledge they are better able to make decisions about their responsibility for themselves, their schools, their community and the planet. And to top it all off—it's fun!

Camp applications now available. For more info call 530-272-5994, email Camp@NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org
Sandy Simmonds, NCLT Camp Coordinator



A baby Bush Rabbit gets a check-up after its nest was destroyed by a string mower.

The World With Us

Alan Weisman's surprise best-seller, "The World Without Us," imagines what would happen to the planet if all humans instantly disappeared. When asked why he wrote such an intriguing book, Weisman replied, "I wrote the book because I wanted humans to look around and think about what we're doing. It's a way of looking at the environment by theoretically removing us, and seeing what we'd leave behind."

Fortunately, this premise, as interesting as it is, is unlikely, as no global species of animal dies out in a flash. Let us consider the equally interesting idea, "The World With Us."

Every living thing leaves its own footprint on the earth. Mankind leaves the biggest footprint; and, we tend to tread heavily. The desire to make a place "our own," can be seen in our own beautiful foothills. We buy a piece of woodland so that we can live in nature and among nature. We put in a road; we build a house. We clear the land to prevent fire. We take out the native grasses and put in a lawn. We pull the reeds from the edge of the seasonal pond. Soon, we have a beautiful park-

like setting for our "back to nature" retreat. Somewhere, during this "make a place our own" process we forgot that before we came, the woodland was already a home—a home for many species of native wildlife, plants and animals alike.

As a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, I see, on an almost daily basis, the effects of man's interaction with wildlife. During the summer months my

rehabilitation organization, Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release, gets many calls from the public, including citizens who have found dead deer, hit by cars and lying beside the road. Sometimes a young fawn is standing next to its dead mother's side. Calls come about hawks with injured wings, caused by flying into barbed wire fences. As a songbird rehabber, a great many of my calls are from homeowners whose cats have caught and injured a bird. One woman called because her cat had slipped out the cat door while she was sleeping, caught a bird, and put it in her bed!

While it is amusing to picture the above-mentioned woman waking up to find a bird in bed with her, it was not amusing to the bird. It was brought to me with a broken wing and several puncture wounds—the result of its encounter with "Sweetheart the Cat." Fortunately, this story had a happy ending; the bird's wing was carefully wrapped, and after three weeks, and a course of antibiotics, the bird was released back into the wild.

Last year, Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release assisted over 800 songbirds, raptors, fawns, small mammals, and bats. As people continue to leave their "footprint" on local area wild lands, we

expect this number to grow.

For the most part, the public is grateful we are here to help their wild neighbors. Sometimes we are asked if, by rehabilitating and returning wildlife back to the wild, we are not violating "nature's way."

Indeed, death is common in nature and is part of the way nature operates. Unfortunately, the wildlife that comes to us is usually injured and orphaned as a result of "man's way," not "nature's way." As rehabbers, we place ourselves in nature's corner, serving as wildlife advocates to help keep man and nature in balance. As Wallace Stegner says, "We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate."

Fortunately, Stegner goes on to say, "But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy." All of us can be part of that effort "to save what (we) might destroy." On an individual basis, we can set aside parts of our property for wildlife. Dead trees that are not a fire danger should be left for woodpecker housing. Find a spot where native grasses can be left to grow naturally. The field birds and rabbits will thank you. Tidying up around your pond? Leave some grasses and reeds for the ducks to hide and nest in.

On a grander scale, support local and national organizations that work to save our open spaces and our native wildlife. And remember, "In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create but by what we refuse to destroy."—John Sawhill

About the Author

Janey Powers is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator specializing in songbirds. She is the President of Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release.

Spring Treks Though Time

The new season has sprung into spring with true color. The trip to Table Mountain with Clarence Motter and Sue Graf was abundant with rolling green hills quilted with colorful patches of wildflowers. Cathy Anderson-Meyers led her snowshoe-clad group into the sunny slopes of Castle Peak Recreation Area for a truly beautiful experience. Under the expert guidance of geologist and noted author, David Lawler, *Trekkers* were transported back 6,000 years in time to visit the extraordinary remains of a petrified forest, fossils and hanging gardens of Chalk Bluff.



Upcoming Hikes

Zeibright Mine with Dan Beatie and Jack Clark
Saturday, June 14
10am—2pm

How often have you seen the sign, “Donner Mine Music Camp”, and wondered what was down that road in Bear Valley, off Highway 20? In 1959, Dan Beatie and his family purchased the Old Zeibright Mine from Newmont Mining, and renamed it the Donner Mine Camp. Now is your chance for a visit. Join us as we hear about Dan’s history with the

property and its current use. Former mine supervisor at Idaho-Maryland Mine, historian and author, Jack Clark, will describe previous mining operations of the area and share anecdotes about the people who worked there. Our visit will include many of the original buildings, as well as the portal of the tunnel and a view of the head frame and hoist.

Fisher Lake with Albert Earl and Bill Nickerl
Saturday, June 21
7:30am—4pm

Fisher Lake is a little-visited, pristine lake nestled in a bowl of granite. Extraordinary views of the Summit, thick forest, huge granite batholiths make this a trip worth taking.

Rome Powerhouse & the Birth of PG&E with Dale Johnson
Sunday, June 22
9am—2pm

The Yuba River gave birth to the hydroelectric power industry in the late 1890s. Learn how it all started in Nevada

County! Join us as we visit Lake Vera and the remains of the powerhouse.

Be sure to check our new *Treks* brochure for current schedule of upcoming *Family* and *Extreme Trekking* outings.

Make your reservations today by calling our office or by mail-in registration. Forms available online at www.NevadaCounty-LandTrust.org

Member Picnic

In appreciation of all our members do to support our Mission we will host a celebration on June 14 from 2—5pm at Burton Homestead. Join us for an afternoon of good food and good company. Save the date and watch for details.

Give the Gift of a Memorable Outdoor Experience

Trek vouchers are perfect for that special someone who already has everything. \$12 for members and \$17 for non-members. Special 10% discount available for books of ten.

Trek Co-leaders Needed

Hey all you outdoor enthusiasts! Join the Land Trust Volunteer Team and become a *Trek* co-leader. Experience new adventures and meet great friends along the way. Call Stephanie at (530) 272-5994 and get the fun started!

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.”

—Edmund Burke

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Anna Reynolds and Bill Trabucco enjoying an afternoon ride on their property.

Linden Lea Lawsuit Q&A

with
Anna Reynolds, property owner

Q: Anna, can you summarize where we are in the trial procedure at this point? What's next?

A: After trial being delayed many months, testimony concluded in March. Attorneys are to exchange briefs by June 1, and exchange replies to those briefs by July 1. At that point, the judge has 90 days (3 months) to render his decision, which he will send by mail. The decision could be as late as October 1. The attorneys are unlikely to beat their deadlines and we expect the judge will utilize the full time allowance.

Q: How does it feel to have so much support from Land Trust members?

A: Great! And other groups (e.g., the Local Food Coalition) and individuals have also been so supportive. This nightmare wouldn't be survivable without the caring from the community. I wish the judge could see this aspect. It is extremely gratifying that NCLT members have paid attention (this process has been so slow and at times boring) and continued to demonstrate support

both financially and verbally.

Q: What is the basic argument here?

A: It's a little hard to summarize but here is a brief summary: We are being sued by our neighbor for an access easement. We feel that granting him one will compromise three things: our own

privacy; the viability of Jim Gates' business, Nevada County Free Range Beef; and the integrity of our conservation easement held by the Land Trust. The neighbor claims there is a historic "public" road on this ranch that he should be able to use. He wants to use Barr Ranch Road, North Ponderosa, and Gold Fork. But none of these is public. Barr Ranch is a private driveway that has only ever gone between Bitney Springs and a former residence near one of the sets of chicken sheds. To get from

it to Ponderosa requires driving across a pasture, as there is no road connection. Ponderosa was built the 1930s as a fire break, with gates at every property line. It was not intended as a public thoroughfare. There is a road network along Starduster that runs within a few hundred yards of his property. There is Kentucky Creek to cross, as well as a steep hill to ascend, which complicates his situation. We argue that he is not landlocked, despite repeated use of that term in local publications.

Q: What alternatives are available to resolve this problem?

A: We have offered to buy his land at the price he paid for it. We also suggested a plan whereby he could put the whole thing in a conservation easement (no development), with the potential of tax advantages. Other than our attempts at settlement, we don't know how to resolve this except for the judge to rule against him.

Q: Have you learned anything particularly interesting throughout this process?

A: We have learned that the legal system is extremely cumbersome, slow, and not necessarily responsive.

Welcome New Members

June Anderson
Gregory Archbald
Keith and Jennifer Babcock
Jeanne Carroll
Jennifer Carville
Collette Castro
William Condon
David and Jessie Emanuel
Tracy and Alice Gidel
Kathy Grant
Ken Grossman
Bobbie Hefner
Laurie Helm
Buzz and Mary Claire Hoever
Kevin Ivey

Barbara Johnson
Jim Lewis
Randy and Nancy Lindberg
Tor and Elena Lokvig
Jean Masquelier
Susan McClatchy
Mike McLean
Ted Smith
Louise Steckler
Sue Tally
Tom Taylor
Chet and Donna Thomas
Ward and Diana Thompson
Susan Wiesner
Marilyn Wilson

Estate Planning for Land Owners

What is Estate Planning?

Estate planning may sound complicated and intimidating, but is really nothing more than arranging what is going to happen to your assets, both personal and real property, over time and after your death.

When you are living, you control what happens to your property. Your estate plan will assist you in having control over what happens to your property when you pass away. This includes establishing who will own your land after you die and what that person can do with your land.

Why Make Plans for Your Land Now?

This is a question that can best be answered with additional questions: Is my land unique? Are there things about my land that are important to me that I would like to see remain untouched and undisturbed? Will my children be able to afford to keep the land? Can I protect the most important natural and

scenic values of my land, while selling some of it for living expenses? Do I want to see my land continue in farming or forestry?

You get the picture. Clarifying your personal goals and desires for the land is paramount in any plans that you make for now and in the future. Careful estate planning can help you to reach these goals and lessen the financial and emotional impacts that accompany changes in your life.

Federal estate taxes are one of the greatest reasons for having an estate plan. Your heirs may have to pay significant percentages of the overall value of your assets to the federal government upon your death.

What Steps Can You Take Now?

One of the first things you may want to consider is having your assets, both personal property and real estate, appraised.

Second, think about what you want to have happen to your personal assets and your land. Consider talking with family members about what your goals and objectives are. It is helpful to have

heirs understand your desires and for you to know their position on your goals.

Third, these decisions cannot be made lightly and upon the advice of a friend or relative. You need to have experienced professional assistance to help you understand your options and the steps that will most likely maximize your goals and financial needs.

If you are not familiar with such professionals, contact a local or regional land trust or the local conservation commission and ask for referrals.

Finally, if you do have some type of estate plan (such as an already existing will) in place, do not take for granted that that particular vehicle will best serve your purposes.

Tax law has changed drastically in the past decade and what worked well in the 90's may not be appropriate for the 00's. Not only have the tax laws changed drastically, but the vehicle that you arranged previously to settle your estate may no longer be appropriate.

Robert A. Levite, Esq., taken from "Bundle of Sticks"

Cherished Lives

Betty Taylor

A loving mother of four and grandmother of six, Betty was well known for her active volunteerism.

During their lengthy involvement with the Land Trust, Betty and her husband, John, had many opportunities to support its ongoing mission. Betty encouraged and inspired her husband in his duties as board member and president. Her good humor and bright wit will be missed by all who had the good fortune of knowing her.

Lila Schiffner

Lila Schiffner lived her life fully. A registered nurse professionally, Lila answered the call of the Red Cross in 1940 by became a volunteer in the Navy.

After the death of her husband in 1974, Lila started the Mother Trekkers hiking club for women. Lila's love of nature inspired her family to ask that remembrance donations be made to organizations working to expand and maintain the trails of Nevada County, of which she was so fond. As one of the grateful recipients of Lila's legacy, Nevada County Land Trust thanks her many friends and family members for the donations made in her memory.

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Nevada County Celebration of Trails

May 31 - June 7

Member Picnic

Saturday, June 14

2 - 5pm

Land Trust Concert

Saturday, August 23

Doors open at 5pm

Burton Homestead Input Session

May 28

5 - 6:30pm

Kid's Camp

June 16 - 27

Spring Treks

June 14 - Zeibright Mine

June 21 - Fisher Lake

June 22 - Rome Powerhouse