

Contents

Salter Fund Grants Awarded	<i>page 3</i>
Wolf Creek Trail Bridge Completed	<i>page 3</i>
Summer Day Camp	<i>page 4</i>
Banner Mountain Clearing Project	<i>page 5</i>
Member's Corner	<i>page 6</i>
Spring Treks News	<i>page 7</i>

UPCOMING TREK! Historic Tour of North Star House & Grounds with Carole Miller

Join us for lunch and a memorable walk on Saturday, June 6th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will stop at places of special interest and hear stories and history of the site.

Wilderness Medicine

On April 1st a course in "Wilderness Medicine" was presented to the Team Land Trust volunteers by Dr. Graham Billingham. This session was designed to prepare trek leaders and co-leaders for possible emergencies on the trail during any trails outing. Dr. Billingham has over 20 years of experience as a practicing emergency medicine physician and speaks nationally on the subject. We are all much more confident about safety on our community trails. Thanks Doc!



Students investigate the wonders of nature at Nevada County Land Trust Summer Day Camp.

Summer Camp Inspires Early Appreciation of Nature

Sauntering along a trail at the Burton Homestead I was taken by the beauty surrounding us in Nevada County. The plum, cherry and peach trees are in blossom, the oaks are dressed in their full chartreuse regalia, the wind gives voice to the pines as it makes its way through their wispy limbs, and small springs meander down the hillside to the pond where frogs once again stretch their vocal cords in throaty song. Stopping, I am struck by the medley of sounds and, while it may seem contradictory, the quiet as well. I think to myself, "Enjoy the quiet now. It will not be so next time you are here! Next time will be camp time and the sounds of children will fill the air!"

This June, Burton Homestead will again be home to the Nevada County Land Trust Summer Day Camp. We will offer our usual Native American Camp and Nature Camp. Plus, we are adding a Kinder Camp for children ages 4-6 years. Camp begins June 8 and runs for 3 weeks through the end of June. On June 26th we will conclude our camp season with a potluck dinner and campfire for all the camp participants and their families.

Our aim is to develop in each child an enthusiasm for learning about nature through emersion and exploration. Kids will experience heightened observation skills to more fully appreciate the beauty and diversity of the natural environment. Ultimately we seek to develop in each individual a feeling of personal responsibility to help preserve, conserve, and enhance our environment. It's all in good fun, because after all, it's camp!

Learn more about out camp on page 4



President's Message

During the recent Land Trust Town Hall Meeting one of our members suggested that we provide an in-depth explanation of a conservation easement. In response, we have outlined the process and hope members, landowners and the community at large will find it informative and useful.

A conservation easement (CE) is a legal document in which a landowner relinquishes certain rights, including the right to the future development of the property, in perpetuity in exchange for a tax deduction equal to the market value of the relinquished right as established by an appraisal. Presently, those deductions can be taken against 50% of the landowner's income (100% of ranch or farm income) and can be spread over up to 16 years. Only CEs held by a qualified Land Trust can offer this type of tax deduction.

While the CE can provide for a number of restrictions, they do not affect a landowner's right to private recreation on the property like hunting and fishing, selling the property and keeping others off the property. A CE is not a dedication of the property to the public. There is no requirement that the property be made available to the public. In the closely-related agricultural easement (AE), the land continues to be used for agricultural purposes, including timber management, thus maintaining income production and job creation on the property.

The process begins when the Land Trust is contacted by a landowner, or vice versa, about conserving land. Next, two reports are prepared. One report is an appraisal, which establishes the value of the property with and without the restriction of development. The difference between these two values is the amount of the tax deduction. The other report is the baseline documentation memorializing the conservation values of the property. This document is used by the Land Trust in their stewardship of the property to ensure that the original conservation values are not degraded over time. Upon completion of these reports the Land Trust then prepares the easement agreement in collaboration with the landowner. The agreement includes future use and restrictions placed upon the property, which may include restrictions on future residences or out-buildings. This whole process can move quickly though the appraisal may take a long time if the property is so unique that it is difficult to identify comparable sales.

Conservation easements are powerful tools to preserve our natural environment and the tax advantages make them very compelling, particularly if future tax changes continue to increase rates and eliminate capital gains. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about conservation easements, please call our office and we will be glad to discuss the topic further.

Joe Byrne

Nevada County Land Trust

Mission

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.

Board of Directors

Joe Byrne
President

Dave Palley
Vice-President

Jack Stillens
Treasurer

Jason Muir
Secretary

Jim Bair

Ted Beedy

Paul Carlson

Fran Cole

Greg Fenner

Tom Goodenough

Rich Johansen

Larry MacMillen

John Taylor

Staff

Marty Coleman-Hunt
Executive Director

Stephanie Lorensen
Volunteer / Treks Coordinator

Jean Gilbert
Office Manager

Bill Haire
Trails Coordinator

Luci Wilson
Lands Intern

Françoise Bunnell
Editor

Land News is a publication of
Nevada County Land Trust
175 Joerschke Drive, Suite R
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 272-5994

www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org
info@nevadacountylandtrust.org

Grants Awarded for Al Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals

On April 8th, 2009 Nevada County Land Trust announced the names of the organizations chosen this year to receive grant funding from the Al Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals. Funds in the amount of \$34,000 total has been distributed during this round.

This fund program was established as per instructions in the will of Al Salter to the Land Trust on March 5, 2003. Distributions from the fund are made to organizations engaged in promoting the welfare of animals. The goal of the Land Trust is to provide as much funding to local animal support organizations as possible while extending the program over a number of years.

After reviewing many worthy applications the Salter Fund Committee made its final selections. Grant awards for 2009 include:

Sammie's Friends: \$10,000 for medical care for injured, abused and neglected animals.



AnimalSave: \$9,000 for low income pet food distribution.

Scooter's Pals: \$7,000 for pet deposit aid to needy families.

Chow Chow Rescue of the Sierra Foothills: \$5,000 for dog rescue and home placement.

Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release: \$3,000 for food for injured and orphaned wildlife.

“This year’s total grant awards are lower than last year’s due to poor performance in financial markets, but we wanted to get some money into the hands of people who are doing really good work for the benefit of animals in our community,” said Marty Coleman-Hunt, executive director of Nevada County Land Trust. “We are hoping as the economy improves, we will be able to do another round of funding before the end of the year.”

—Marty Coleman Hunt

Trail Bridge over Wolf Creek Completed



On March 28th, fifteen volunteers finished construction on the new trail bridge over Wolf Creek along Brunswick Road. The 30 foot bridge, which closes the missing link in a trail that parallels Brun-

wick Road from Town Talk Road to Loma Rica Drive, was assembled in less than 8 hours.

Construction of the bridge was made possible through the donation of materials by Hansen Brothers and Caseywood, and a \$5,000 grant awarded to the Land Trust by the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District to purchase bridge materials.

“A bridge of this length would cost over \$20,000 to purchase, so the ability to do the work with volunteers, as well as the generous donations of trail funds by the public,

and donations of materials by local businesses was essential to getting the bridge built” stated Bill Haire, NCLT trails coordinator.

The Land Trust has been working on this project since 2003 with the objective of eventually connecting trail by Memorial Park with the Glenbrook Shopping Center. The trail route would connect existing trails through Empire Mine with trails to be extended east to Brunswick Road, then north connecting with the trail through Loma Rica Ranch.

—Bill Haire

Summer Camp Inspires Early Appreciation of Nature



Native American Camp

The Native American Camp will kick off the season with an opening ceremony and talk by Don Ryberg, council chair of the local Maidu tribe, followed by drumming and circle dancing. Parents and other family members are invited to join in the festivities. During the week, the children will participate in art, tracking, language, and other cultural activities, ending their week with storytelling and making fry bread. This cooperative endeavor provides an authentic experience for the

children. This session is open to kids from 7-12 years of age.

Summer Nature Camp

Week two is Nature Camp, and will offer sessions for children ages 7-9 and 9-12. Guest presenters will include Ann Westling from the U.S. Forest service and Roger McGehee. Local artist Eileen Blodgett will fire the children's imaginations and creative talents with an art activity, and feathered and non-feathered friends from Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation will add to the fun.

Kinder Camp

The third week will be our new Kinder Camp which will provide an opportunity for younger children, ages 4-6, to have a guided, safe, hands-on experience with the natural world through music, art, crafts, puppetry, direct observation and exploration.

Teen Counselors

There are 10 openings for teen counselors. Our day long training is required for all counselors. This is a great opportunity for any local youth interested in early childhood education or a career in outdoor recreation.

Through exposure to nature and the culture it provides we hope to instill a sense of wonder, curiosity and respect for all life on this beautiful planet we all share. Here's to Happy Camping!

Applications are available online at www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org/camps.html

— Sandy Simmonds, Camp Director

Nevada County Land Trust Summer Day Camp

Native American Camp

June 8-12 Daily from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Ages 7-12*

Summer Nature Camp

June 15-19 Daily from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. *Ages 7-12*

Kinder Camp

June 22-26 Daily from 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. *Ages 4-6*

Camp Celebration & Family BBQ

June 26th Evening event at 6 p.m.

Camp held at Burton Homestead, just 3 miles outside Nevada City.

Cost: \$85 plus \$15 for snacks (optional).

Scholarships available. Contact office for details.

Youth Make a Difference on Banner Mountain

“Seeing these teenagers get to work, have fun and get a job done, was uplifting, reinforcing a positive feeling about today’s young people,” said Jim Bair about the Banner Mt. cleanup project (story below). “We also felt good about reducing the wildfire danger to the Banner Mountain community.”



Bitney Springs School volunteers help with brush clearing at Woodpecker Preserve.

Nature experience has been linked to better performance by children in school. Sponsored by many state departments of education, a 1998 study documented the enhanced school achievement of youth who experience school curricula in which the environment is the principal organizer. This study was followed by two related studies, conducted by the U.S.’s State Education and Environment Roundtable, both of which produced results consistent with this original study (Lieberman and Hoody, 1998, 2000). More recently, factoring out other variables, studies of students in California and nationwide showed that schools that used outdoor classrooms and other forms of nature-based experiential education were associated with significant student gains in social studies, science, language arts, and math. One recent study found that students in outdoor science programs improved their science testing scores by 27 percent (American Institutes for Research, 2005).

Many thanks to the crew that worked so hard one in March to clear brush and reduce fire danger on Woodpecker Preserve on Banner Mountain. This enthusiastic group moved dead trees and branches uphill through the woods to the side of the county road for chipping. By the end of the day more than four truck loads of wood had been cleared. This was enough to diminish the fire danger in that area and greatly improve the appearance of the land, and open the panoramic view of Nevada City and beyond.

Volunteers for this project included Jim Bair, land steward and Land Trust board member, and 20 able-bodied students from Bitney

Springs Charter School, in addition to Bruce Herring, Dave Peterson and Alice Martin of Bitney Springs. Land Trust volunteers Ray Bryars, Peter Arnold, Tracy Gidel and Gene Haroldson were also on hand wielding chain saws, cutting down big dead trees and chopping them into firewood.

For Bitney Springs Charter School, the effort was part of a two-day community service event. “We headed out in four different directions,” said Bruce Herring. “We went to the Land Trust site on Banner, Wolf Creek riparian restoration with the Wolf Creek Alliance, helped seniors at Meadow View Manor convalescent home, and worked

with primary school kids at Williams Ranch School.”

—Marty Coleman Hunt

Featuring local & regional foods:

Produce seasonally from 18 farms
(see price signs for farm names)

Eggs from 17 local sources

Honey • Olive Oil • Beef

30 Locally Made Wines

No. California Dairy Products

Full list at www.briarpatch.coop

BriarPatch
Co-op Natural Foods
CommunityMarket

290 Sierra College Dr., GV
530-272-5333 • www.briarpatch.coop
M–Sa 7–8 (‘til 9pm for summer), Su 8–9

Member's Corner



Bob Goar pictured with trusty walking companion.

Bob Goar is the busiest retiree I know. He's Chair of Sierra Nevada Group (the local Sierra Club chapter), President of Rattlesnake Neighborhood Association, Co-chair of the Federation of Neighborhood Associations, participates in LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) and SYRCL, among other organizations. And he's an active member of Nevada County Land Trust.

"I believe in preserving land," Bob said. "That's the Land Trust's main mission." Bob and his wife Joyce moved to Grass Valley 20 years ago and have been Land Trust members since 1998. He was in the restaurant business most of his life. Through a friend, he began volunteering at the North Star House restoring the historic property.

An avid hiker, Bob participates in the Land Trust's *Treks through Time* program on a regular basis. "I love to hike," he said. Not satisfied with simply walking the county's trails, Bob decided to get involved in building them. That's how he met Trails Coordinator, Bill Haire.

"Bill is a great trail builder. He knows how to get it done right," Bob said. He is particularly excited about the new Wolf Creek bridge project on the Loma Rica trail. Involved with land use planning in Nevada County, he has worked with developers and agencies to incorporate trails into their development projects.

Bob attended the Land Trust's annual Town Hall Meeting on February 18. "It was very informative and brought me up to date on all the projects and programs you're working on," he commented. "The Land Trust is doing a good job for our entire community."

And so do you, Bob. Thanks for your continued support, participation and enthusiasm over the years. We appreciate all you do.

—Jean Gilbert



Go Team Land Trust!

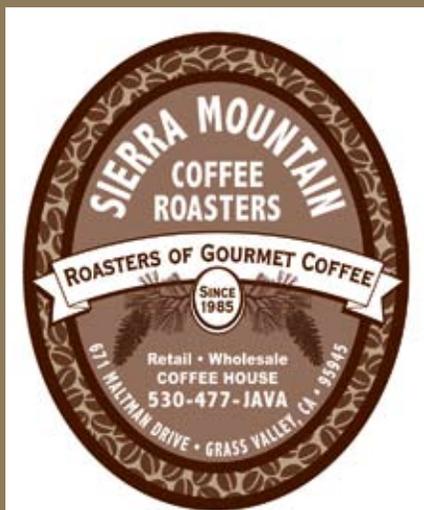
Got a little free time? Want to make new friends while having fun at the same time? Call Stephanie and join the Land Trust Volunteer Team.

Two of our newest volunteers, Christian Willis (*front left*) and Nadine Kapper (*front right*) are invaluable resources to our organization. Thank you volunteers, for everything you do!

Welcome Members

- Karen Klayman
- Dr. Nathan Brott
- Dianna Suarez
- Gordon and Lynn Mangel
- Melanie Heckel
- Nancy Powers
- Tom and Amy Phillips
- Paul and Anita DePratt
- Jan and Mike O'Driscoll
- Betty Stites

Special thanks



for keeping us supplied with great coffee at our events!

Everything you need to grow organic!

Peaceful Valley
Farm & Garden Supply™

Grow organic...for life!

GrowOrganic.com • (888)784-1722
125 Clydesdale Ct., Grass Valley

Spring Treks News

Riding Community Trails

Nevada County Land Trust teamed up with the Bicyclists of Nevada County (BONC) and the Folsom Auburn Trail Riding Action Coalition (FATRAC) in a ride to benefit the Land Trust *Treks Through Time* program. The group toured the beautiful Hidden Falls Regional Park, formerly known as Didion Ranch, which was acquired under the Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program.

Placer Legacy is a voluntary program to conserve open space, help preserve the local farm economy, protect native plants and wildlife, and provide more passive recreation opportunities

to the public. The event began with a breakfast of fresh fruit and coffee and finished up with a great tasting lunch of Darwin Leek's very own homemade chili and Nadine Kapper & Stephanie

Lorensen's and corn bread. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time while making plans for the next big ride. Thank you Darwin Leek, BONC and Fatrac.



Bicyclists enjoy Hidden Falls during recent benefit ride.

How the Maidu Peoples Managed the Forest

On Thursday, March 19th, Farrell Cunningham of the Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe gave a presentation on Maidu Ecology for Nevada County Land Trust and Nevada County Historical Society. Farrell is reviving the near-extinct Maidu language in evening classes he teaches, but he is also very interested in educating the public about taking care of the land.

Farrell, previous executive director of the Maidu Cultural and Developmental Group, explained the benefits of "treaties" with the land, fire, and plants. In his talk Farrell explained how large and devastating forest fires were prevented in ancient times by the Maidu, and how these methods could come back into use again. The Maidu used controlled burns in these forests for millennia, removed underbrush and low branches around villages, and did not need to use water for fire control. When foods were gathered, some was left behind for other creatures and for regeneration. Excesses of modern society, including hoarding, wasting, and overharvesting of the earth's bounties, are counter to Maidu culture.

In addition to the Thursday evening presentation, Farrell hosted a site visit to the Pata Panaka Maidu Active Cultural site situated on the Francis Burton Homestead on Lake Vera Purdon Road in Nevada City on Saturday, March 21st. With assistance from Tribal Chairman Don Ryberg, Farrell shared how the local Tsi-Akim Maidu tribe has been managing the four acres they lease from the Land Trust on this site, and explained in greater detail the ancient uses of some of the native plants growing there.

—Stephanie Lorensen

Pilot Peak Winery presents Stars at the PEAK

*a benefit concert for
Nevada County Land Trust*

**Saturday, August 22, 2009
in Penn Valley**

**featuring
Asleep at the Wheel
&
Cousin Cricket**

On sale June 1st
Tickets start at \$45

www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org



175 Joerschke Drive, Suite R
Grass Valley, CA 95945

NONPROFIT ORG
AUTO
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 27
GRASS VALLEY, CA

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY EVENT

JUNE 6, 2009

Join us for a community
celebration of trails.

Events will include:
trails walks, rides & activities.

**Open to the public.
All are welcome.**

Check out our web site
for events calendar.

Save the Date

Upcoming Treks

- June 6th** The Night Sky and Native American Legends
with Astronomer Alan Stahler & the Tsi-Akim Maidu
- June 6th** Historic North Star House Walking Tour
with Carole Miller
- June 7th** “Rome” Powerhouse & the Birth of PG&E
with Dale Johnson
- June 27th** Bowman Mountain to Fall Creek Mountain
with Trails Extremist Albert Earl
- July 27th** Saddleback Lookout & Devil’s Postpiles
with John Skinner
-
- August 22th** Pilot Peak Winery presents:
Stars at the PEAK benefit concert *with*
Asleep at the Wheel & Cousin Cricket

Join us in our commitment to the land. Please recycle this newsletter.

