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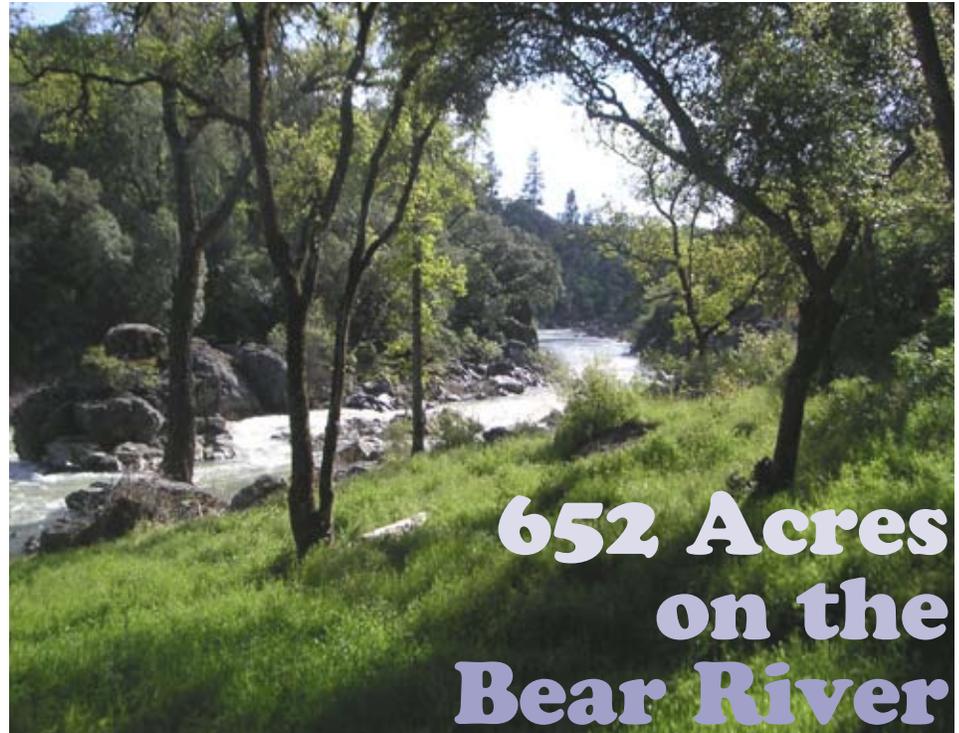
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NEW! *Armchair Trek*

**Bridges and Trails of Sierra
and Nevada Counties**

Join us 7pm, March 20th at the Madelyn Helling Library Community Room, in Nevada City, for an evening featuring local trails projects, with Bill Haire and Zach Anderson. Topics will include trails and bridge construction challenges, and will highlight some of the most interesting and scenic project site locations in Sierra and Nevada Counties. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about community trails projects in your neighborhood.



652 Acres on the Bear River

Land Trust to Acquire Garden Bar Preserve

In late 2008, Nevada County Land Trust entered into an agreement with a generous landowner to acquire an important landscape along the Bear River. This project includes 652 acres of Bear River frontage in southern Nevada County and is within the Spenceville Conservation Area Protection Plan. It is contiguous to 912 acres across the river which is protected with a conservation easement held by Placer County Land Trust. The acquisition of the Nevada County acreage will bring the total to 1,500+ acres of pristine watershed on either side of the river.

This property, combined with conservation easements on contiguous private properties held by Nevada County Land Trust means a there will be a permanently protected landscape of more than 3,000 acres

in North Placer and South Nevada Counties. Our goal is to improve wildlife corridors, enhancing migration and circulation between the Bear River and Beale Air Force Base.

This land has a number of natural and scenic conservation values and historically significant features, as well as recreation potential. The site includes ephemeral and perennial drainages, along with Little Wolf Creek which all flow toward the Bear River. The property contains a two-mile stretch of the river and over two miles of perennial streams.

The landscape encompasses the Emigrant Trail crossing of the Bear River for pioneers traveling over Donner Pass into central California. There is also evidence of important Native American archeological sites.

continued on page 3



My Thoughts From the Executive Director

I am the type of person who is always looking for the silver lining. Maybe I'm old enough to see the cycles of good times and bad times, and that change is inevitable. But I think I'm just an old fashioned optimist.

No one is untouched by the current economic downturn. Times of extremity bring out the best and the worst in people. We see bad actors being flushed out into the light of day...that's good. I also see a lot of generosity, especially to local causes.

The sorry situation with the State budget is hurting non-profits in our community. Nevada County Land Trust is not exempt from this pain, especially as it effects our daily operations and program delivery. But, I'm very gratified to see the persistent generosity among members and individual donors, even in these hard times.

We have a small number of projects coming to realization in 2009 that will be especially meaningful in preserving large landscapes forever. For the first time, Nevada County Land Trust will acquire a large preserve on the Bear River. When this happens there will be 3,000 contiguous acres made up of conservation easements on private lands and preserves owned by NCLT – from the Bear River to Spenceville and Beale Air Force Base. These are significant natural habitats in our community: valley and blue oaks, disappearing wildlife, critical watershed lands.

Our commitment to nature education and recreation, including our summer camp for kids, remain a high priority. The day camp program is expanding to include a teen counselor program for young adults. We're working diligently on several important trails-building projects, which will connect Grass Valley, Nevada City, Loma Rica Ranch, Banner Mountain, and branch out to Rough and Ready and Harmony Ridge. Just think: a beautiful community like ours where you can get around without using a motorized vehicle!

Although I'm cautious about financial resources during 2009, at the same time I am excited about a sharpened focus on the mission of Nevada County Land Trust. Thank you for all you've done for us, and please continue to support this commitment in any way you can.

Marty Coleman-Hunt

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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CALIFORNIA TO MONTANA ON HORSEBACK

Armchair Trek Season Off to Galloping Start

The Nevada County Land Trust *Armchair Trek* season kicked off on the 23rd of January, at the Madelyn Helling Library, with a full house. Locals, Tacy and Amelia Hahn told their thrilling story of a horseback adventure which took them 70 days and 700 miles to travel from California to Montana.

After talking about the trip for eight years, the mother-daughter pair from Rough and Ready packed up their three horses and one mule and departed from Jackson Meadows Reservoir, east of Truckee. Taking the Pacific Crest Trail for the first leg of the journey they then drove into the heart of Mt. Shasta's cattle country, hitched a ride across the Oregon desert, and meandered along dirt roads, two-lane highways and the banks of Idaho's Salmon River. The trip ended in Darby, Montana, with a "hullabaloo" welcome from family, and their first steak dinner in two months.

Amelia rode Loki, a rare Norwegian fjord horse while her mother, Tacy, rode Red Rock, a mustang rescued from the Oregon wild. Dougie "the love mule" and their horse Whiskey packed supplies. One night, the horses ran off. The women found them the next day 11 miles from camp. The episode cost them a day and a half.

"At one point we decided to give up, buy dresses and move to New York City," quipped Tacy as she told stories about hardships along the way. Life on the trail inspired eccentricities including photographing "dead bones" and developing voices for their animals. The wildlife along the way, such as bears, a mountain lion and several snakes kept them alert. We extend our sincere thanks to these two brave individuals for sharing their story and inspiring us to dare to pursue our dreams.

Bear River *from page 1*

The proposed public access would offer diverse groups access to an important Bear River area – the only access point to the river in Nevada County. It would include hiking and equestrian trails, nature viewing, picnic areas, and historical and archeological study opportunities and tours.

The site is currently restricted and viewings require prior arrangements be made through our office. Public access will become increasingly available as conservation plans solidify and funding becomes available. We anticipate acquisition funds to come from public sources by the end of 2009.

Because of the ongoing improvement of transportation corridors and its close proximity to growing population areas of Auburn and Sacramento, this region is under rapidly growing development pressures. There are few Bear River and related watershed lands remaining for conservation. The time to act is now. Funding is available, but governmental agencies want to insure local community support for significant landscape purchases. To this end, NCLT has established the *Bear River Watershed Protection Fund* to fund preservation in this watershed corridor.

To make a monetary contribution to this important project please contact our office.

Marty Coleman-Hunt

More information at www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or call our office 530.272.5994



President's Message to Members

2008 was a year of challenges for Nevada County Land Trust. Despite these challenges we were able to achieve significant results. Most significant was prevailing in the litigation over Linden Lea Ranch, where we joined the landowners against an assertion by a neighbor to road access through a conservation easement, which would have opened the adjacent property to development.

Other successes:

Burton Homestead - An agreement with Tsi-Akim Maidu for the expansion of their cultural site. This permits the Tribe to bring their people together to preserve their cultural and spiritual heritage and allows them to share with the local community. Also at Burton we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife Release and Rescue, a group dedicated to aid wildlife injured by human encounters. They hope to construct an intake and rehabilitation center on-site.

Nature Camp - We greatly expanded our summer camp despite the smoke-filled air. This year the camp enrollment increased by 100%, doubling the youth served.

National Trails Day - NCLT helped coordinate National Trails Day events throughout the county. This event marked the opening of the Hirschmann's Pond trail and the award ceremony for the first William Nickerl Award for Conservation Leadership. The first recipient was Bill Nickerl himself for his lifetime commitment to land conservation.

Treks - NCLT Treks program was recently cited by a visitor to our community as "the finest example of its kind that he has observed." We expanded the program by reaching out to local equestrians with *Equi-Treks*. The inaugural event was quickly over-subscribed, with more than 75 signed up. Regrettably it was rained out (twice) but we have new *Treks* already planned for 2009.

Land Trust Alliance Accreditation - A great deal of effort was spent on our accreditation with the national organization, Land Trust Alliance. This process required us to review all policies and procedures, and prove we are operating in accordance with legal standards. This is a new national effort and we are very proud to be an early applicant.

The Land Trust struggled to achieve its financial goals in 2008, even as we kept expenses in pace. The generosity of members was gratifying to see, with average donations of more than \$100 per membership, an increase of 16% from 2007. However, total number of members is declining. Income from our endowments was reduced substantially as our portfolio experienced the same declines as the overall market. In these challenging economic times, we have had to make adjustments to our budget and our expectations, and have had to rely more on volunteers.

In other changes, we have instituted a policy of term limits for Board members. In 2008 we had the departure of Ron Mathis, Geri Bergen and Bill Nickerl, all long-standing members of our Board. We thank them for their many years of exemplary service and continuing support. Dan Macon our Conservation Director also left, taking a position with Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Despite the difficult economic climate, we are optimistic that 2009 will mark a new era for the Land Trust. We thank all the members who returned our recent survey. We greatly appreciate the feedback which will influence our long range planning. In response, we plan to begin an era of aggressive preservation of larger parcels, starting with Garden Bar Preserve this year.

Joe Byrne, Board President

2008 Accomplishments

Land Conservation:

5,000 acres protected

- Garden Bar Preserve: 652 acres on the Bear River
- Bear River Watershed Protection Fund targeting 5,000 contiguous acres

Trails Program:

10 miles completed; 3 miles in progress

- New Hirshman's Pond Trail
- Friends of Deer Creek partnership
- Larimer Trail begun
- 2 bridges on trail through Loma Rica Ranch
- National Trails Day: approx. 180 attendees

Salter Fund for Animals:

\$120,203 granted to 5 organizations

Children's Nature Camp

- 70 participants
- 12 teen counselors

Burton Homestead

- Tsi Akim Maidu Tribe cultural center
- Wildlife Rehab and Release center
- Community input session

Expanded Treks

- Equi-Treks on horseback
- People with Limited Mobility including walkers and wheelchairs
- Family Treks for kids
- Extreme Treks for advanced hikers

Stars at the Peak Benefit Concert

- Held at Pilot Peak Winery
- Dan Hicks and Roy Rogers featured
- Sell-out crowd of 600 attendees

Other Successes:

- Filed for Land Trust Alliance Accreditation
- New William Nickerl Award for Conservation Leadership
- Won Linden Lea Ranch defense lawsuit

Treasurer's Report

For Nevada County Land Trust 2008 was a challenging fundraising environment. As it became apparent that income targets would not be met, expenses were closely managed to ensure that commitments to program delivery were met. Fortunately NCLT was greatly benefited by the generous bequests of four individuals in 2008. While NCLT focused on stewardship of existing lands, no new land or conservation easement acquisitions were made during the year. Although Net Income on the Statement shows a Net Profit of \$47,041, the extraordinary amounts recorded as Unrealized Loss of Assets and Sale of Assets of -\$471,055 obscures the total upside of income received during the year. The following are some highlights to consider:

- *The value of endowments and trust funds declined by 469,205.00 representing a decline comparable to the overall market. Since market trends are cyclical we expect a rebound, hopefully during the next fiscal year.*
- *Income from operations was strong in 2008, due to the receipt of three unrestricted grants and bequests for \$163,000 and a restricted endowment of \$75,000. Fundraising, memberships and contributions fell 24% year-over-year reflecting the negative effects of the overall economic environment.*
- *The Salter Fund for the Benefit of Animals distributed \$120,203 in grant monies.*
- *Legal expenses for the Linden Lea defense were \$39,972 bringing NCLT's contribution to the cost of litigation to \$74,372. The total cost of litigation was shared with the landowners also named in the lawsuit: Tom and Kellye Manual, Bill Trabucco and Anna Reynolds Trabucco.*
- *A grant from the Ghidotti Fund for \$3,000 was received. No State of California grants were made during 2008, protecting NCLT from the losses suffered by many non-profits due to the freeze in State funding.*
- *In January, 2008, all of the assets of the North Star house and land were transferred to North Star Historic Conservancy (NSHC). A promissory note and lease agreement was completed with NSHC for these assets. NSHC is now responsible for all operations, maintenance and restoration of the North Star House property.*

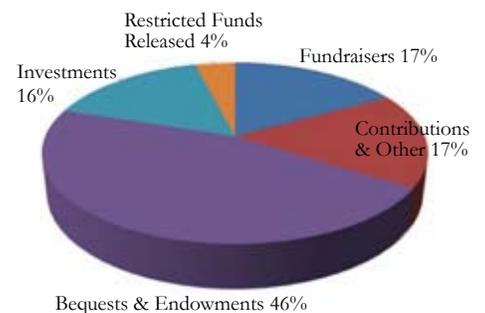
Jack Stillens, Treasurer
January 23, 2009

SUMMARY REPORT OF 2007 FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

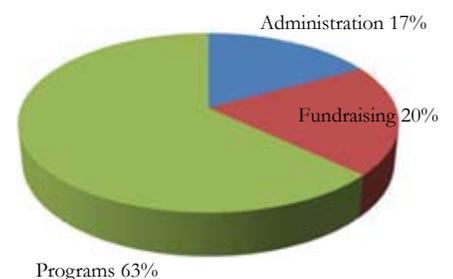
INCOME		EXPENSES	
Member Contributions/Donations	\$77,898.00	Payroll	\$186,440.00
Fundraisers (Net of Expenses)	88,853.00	Occupancy	23,372.00
Grants and Bequests	163,000.00	Programs	176,745.00
Investment Income	83,966.00	Fundraisers	56,130.00
Gain/(Loss) on Sale of Assets	(1,850.00)	Equipment & Materials	14,624.00
Unrealized Gains/(Losses) of Assets	(469,205.00)	Professional Fees	58,789.00
Gain on Sales of Assets	129,798.00	Other Expenses	22,419.00
Income Transfers f/Endowments	75,000.00		
Restricted Funds Transferred	20,934.00		
Other Income	8,465.00		
Total Income	\$47,061.00	Total Expenses	\$538,519.00

ASSETS	
Cash and Other Current Assets	\$ 142,442.00
Pooled Restricted Projects & Stewardship Funds	519,129.00
Restricted Endowment and Trust Funds	707,179.00
Fixed Assets: Equipment	926.00
Buildings Improvements in Progress	356,950.00
Buildings	245,000.00
Land	871,926.00
Other Assets	52,995.00
Total Assets	\$2,896,547.00

Income



Expenses



Member Survey Results: Stronger Role in Land Planning Discussions Recommended

Late in 2008 a survey was sent out to Land Trust members with the objective of keeping our board of directors apprised of general member consensus regarding the work of the organization as they embarked on their 2009 planning session. Responses were quite consistent. The vast majority believe NCLT is on the right track with environmental programs and is making good progress in protecting lands. There was a clear message in the comments that the Land Trust needs more visibility, especially in the media. Many strongly

believe the community should be better educated about what a land trust is and the benefits to everyone.

There was one issue that generated a good discussion and divergent viewpoints. This was a clear call for a stronger role in advising land use policy, without taking political sides. Members believe the Land Trust can and should participate more as an advocate for open space and promote dialog between government officials, political candidates and the public.

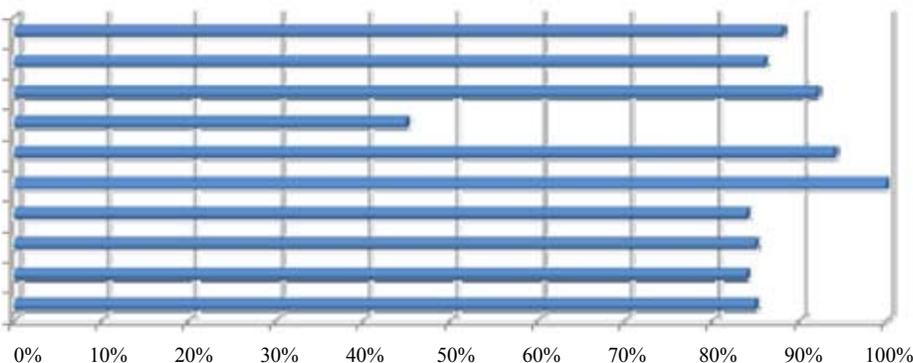
Thanks to everyone for taking the time to respond. The following are some specific comments:

"I feel the LT should present the benefits of conservation and preservation in land use planning and policy, without taking sides."

"I feel that the land trust does not effectively inform the community about its programs."

"I would like to see more work being done to protect landscapes."

- Most people think NCLT is ethical
- NCLT is making progress in protecting land
- People are worried about development in the county
- NCLT should not become involved in land use policy
- Agricultural land is considered a high priority
- Community trails are considered a priority
- Treks are considered a priority
- Camps & education should be a priority
- NCLT is communicating with the public effectively
- NCLT is delivering on its mission



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Welcome Members

Dudley and Betsy Warner
Nancy and Ralph Henson
Lia Lorton
Cathy Blake
Michael Brook
Caroline Burt
Kris Byrne
Robert Savage
Daren and Tim Haley
John and Bonnie Torres
Susan and Diana Abrell
Shuniaa
Dr. Nathan Brott
Nancy Bleile
Sam Gitchel
Suzanne and Rob Ferroggiaro

HOT AIR

SEPARATING THE from Real Forest Carbon

For professional foresters like me, forest carbon sequestration and the potential for financial benefits to landowners is a hot subject these days. As you know hot subjects generate a lot of hot air. Here are some of my thoughts on the new landowner benefits that can be derived from the forests that grow very well in Nevada County.

Forests have the capacity to both emit and sequester carbon dioxide, a common greenhouse gas (GHG) that contributes to climate change. Trees, through the process of photosynthesis, naturally absorb CO₂ gas from the atmosphere, release oxygen and store the carbon in its biomass, e.g. trunk, leaves, branches, root and litter. Recognizing this naturally beneficial process as a partial solution to climate change a new market has been established that exchanges dollars for carbon storage available to forest landowners who wish to participate.

The emergence of this forest products market owes its origin to the establishment of the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR - www.climateregistry.org/). In 2001 a group of business CEOs, who were investing in energy efficiency projects to reduce their organizations' GHG emissions, requested the State create a public registry where they could report GHG reductions. It became clear that California forests represent a vast warehouse of stored GHG emissions and when properly managed forests could sequester more emissions into the future.

In the case where a landowner's conservation management practices demonstrate the ability to store more GHG than other activities, CCAR allows the landowner to report the net reduction to the registry. Once a few forest landowners adopted the CCAR measurement and reporting methodologies a supply of forest GHG offset credits became available for sale. A new forest products market was created. The buyers are individuals and large corporations trying to reduce their carbon emission footprint. Last December CCAR announced a market point price of \$10.80 for a registered GHG offset tonne. Now buyers are paying cash to forest owners for carbon offset credits registered annually with CCAR.

For further info on participation in the emerging forest carbon offset market, contact the author at 530-273-8326, or visit www.forco-op.com.

Note: The CCAR rules are being updated and finalized with approval expected in April of this year. For more info on forestry protocols, visit the CCAR website <http://www.climateregistry.org/tools/protocols/project-protocols/forests.html>.

Tom Amesbury, Forrester's Co-Op

Visit us online for more information at www.NevadaCountyLandTrust.org or call our office 530.272.5994

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Smith ~ We will miss a dear friend in Elizabeth Hope (Nichols) Smith who passed away on January 14 at the age of 84. Aunt Beth, as she was known to us, was born in Grass Valley at Jones Hospital in 1924, into a well established ranching family in the Spenceville area. When the US Army created Camp Beale, it acquired the ranch for \$17 an acre in 1942 from the family who felt it was their patriotic duty to sell. In 1959 Aunt Beth and her sisters were able to buy back about half of the original ranch, thus was born the Smith & Smith Ranch. In 2002, the Smiths donated a conservation easement to NCLT to protect the agricultural qualities of their ranch as a 553-acre working landscape. We are very grateful to the Smith family for including us in their family heritage.

Charles Brooks ~ Charles and his wife Sherry have been supporters of Nevada County Land Trust for 5 years. A retired contractor, Charles came to Grass Valley 10 years ago and loved living in our foothill community. The Brooks' also supported the North Star House restoration project. Charles will be missed dearly by all who knew him.

Lisa Miglietta ~ Lisa had a successful career as a realtor associate with Network Real Estate and owner of Back, Body & Beyond in Grass Valley. Above all, Lisa was a dedicated mother to her two daughters and devoted wife to Dr. Darwin Leek, a well known local chiropractor and active supporter of the Land Trust. Our deepest condolences go to Lisa's family and friends.



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Upcoming Treks

- March 21st Snowshoe for Beginners with Cathy Anderson-Meyers
- March 29th Sutter Buttes with Middle Mountain Foundation
- April 1st Table Mountain Wildflowers with Clarence Motter
- April 4th Chalk Bluff with David Lawler
- April 4th Hidden Falls Mt Bike Trek with Darwin Leek & BONC

Tuesday is *always* a great day for a walk.

Join us every Tuesday morning at 8:30 for one of our blood pumping *Treks for Health*. All fitness levels are welcome and encouraged to walk with us. The company is great, and keeping your body active has never been so much fun. Group meets in the Beam Easy Living parking lot.

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

