



Lake County Land Trust

LCLT Newsletter • PO Box 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457 • (707)262-0707 • Spring 2011

Land Trust events and projects are moving forward

By Roberta Lyons, Lake County Land Trust board of directors

We're half-way through 2011 and excited by the progress made and new projects started by the Lake County Land Trust this year.

Our **Big Valley Wetlands** project is progressing. Our Conceptual Area Project Plan, or CAPP, which is required to be approved by the California Department of Fish and Game has been finalized by the Land Trust and is awaiting review from the DFG biologist. We are confident the report will be approved and look to moving forward on this important project to protect the remaining tule habitat and wetlands on the southwest shore of Clear Lake.

We are continuing to work with The Nature Conservancy on transferring the management of the beautiful **Boggs Lake Preserve** on Boggs Mountain to the Lake County Land Trust. We have had several meetings with TNC staff biologist, Larry Serpa, and North Coast Project Director, Jason Pelletier. TNC recognizes the **value of having the Land Trust's Boggs Lake Committee**, with help from members of the local community, spearhead stewardship of the preserve and bring to the Preserve more local and hands-on involve-



Members of the Lake County Land Trust Boggs Lake Preserve Committee met in May with biologist Larry Serpa of The Nature Conservancy to tour the preserve. Boggs Lake committee members Tom Smythe and Gaye Allen, left, and the Land Trust's Executive Director, Cathy Koehler, talk to Serpa about the many unique features of the area.

ment. A fundraiser specifically for the Boggs Lake Preserve is being planned and will be announced through local media and on our facebook and website pages.

The **Rodman Preserve and Nature Education Center** continues to be a treasure to the community and the local wildlife. Over

the winter we installed more bluebird and tree swallow nesting boxes as well as three new wood duck boxes. Lakeport resident Peter Scranton has been helping in this effort by donating his time to build the wood-duck boxes and install them on oak trees near the water-

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President's Message

Very few of us have a real story to tell. We have all had some minor adventures, some close calls, and we have all seen hard times, but few of us could write (or should write) a book on



Pete McGee

our own lives.

However, most people have known other people who have seen terrifying situations and survived. We have known others who survived an avalanche, or have fallen through the ice of a frozen lake. We have known people who took on huge adventures and survived. However, we rarely

know enough about the trials and challenges of another **person's life to write a complete book.**

That was not the case with Skee Hamann, the founder of the nature preserve on Rabbit Hill in Middletown. Skee loved nature dearly, and because of her close affinity to the natural world, and her love for American Indians, she was entrusted with the life story of Edith Van Allen Murphey. Charles Cleveland Johnson published *Wildflowers of North America* in about **the mid 1860's. Edith helped Charles to discover the flowers of Mendocino County and Charles listed Edith as one of the "four most remarkable humans met west of the Mississippi."** It is unclear how Charles Cleveland Johnson knew Skee Hamann and why he felt that she **could tell Edith's story, but he must have felt that someone needed to honor her life and perhaps Skee was the perfect choice.**

Edith was orphaned as a child and sent to live with Catholic nuns in Montreal. In the winter months the St. Lawrence River froze over and the children were given permission to visit a band of Mohawk Indians who were encamped on the other side. In trading with these Indians, Edith gained a fascination and a love of

American Indians. At age 18 she began to study Indian languages on her own as she worked and studied in the New York State Library School. Her library work earned her a passport to a new university in Berkeley, California; working for the first university librarian, Joseph Rowell.

But Edith's love for nature and love of the American Indian soon took her down other paths. In the course of her lifetime of work with government programs for American Indians, Edith had contact with many significant tribes including, Washoe, Paiutes, Shoshone, Blackfeet, Uintah, Ouray, Arapaho, Ute, Bannocks, and others. Edith was probably the first Ethnobotanist in America. She studied plant material used in baskets, and in foods and medicines.

Although she traveled widely throughout the West, Round Valley and Covelo were always considered **home. A fighter into her 90's, she opposed the construction of a dam that would have flooded out the Round Valley Indians.** Not many days after a contentious hearing on the matter, Edith died at home in Covelo; August 9th, 1968.

Skee Hamann was not the only person to work on **the life story of Edith van Allen Murphey.** Skee's manuscript was returned by University of Oklahoma Press shortly after her death in 1983. From there, **Skee's cousin, Mary Ellen Dearborn Bollen carried the banner and found support and help from the Mendocino County Museum; specifically help came from Marcia Whitaker Pratt, Rebecca Snetselaar, and Sandy Metzler.**

Through a gift from the Redbud Audubon Society, the Lake County Land Trust now owns Rabbit Hill, the home and nature center of Skee and Huck Hamann; and certainly the place where the writing of the story of Edith van Allen Murphey took place.

[Bahai Wakidu: The Seed Seeker](#) is available through the Mendocino County Museum.

SAVE THE DATE!

**The Lake County Land Trust Annual Dinner
will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Rancho de la Fuente on
Soda Bay Road. We look forward to seeing you there!!!!**

Land Trust events and projects

(Continued from page 1)

way. The Rabbit Hill Preserve continues to be enjoyed by local residents who appreciate a short hike right in Middletown, and a beautiful view of the town from the top of the hill. Removal of much of the downed wood near the trail is appreciated by many who enjoy hiking the Preserve and appreciating its unique flora.

A new **Children's Nature Education Program** has started at the Rodman Preserve. The plan is to conduct the program on the third Saturday of each month, throughout the year. Leading the children's program is Elaine Mansell, a well-known local naturalist and former teacher. Elaine conducted the Junior Ranger program at Clear Lake State Park and we are pleased to have her join our effort at the Rodman Preserve Nature and Education Center.

Walks at the Rodman Slough Preserve continue to be held every Saturday, starting at 8 a.m. It's hard to believe, now that summer heat has arrived, that the preserve was closed to walks from February through April of 2011 because of heavy rains that caused flooding on the trails!

The **Spring Dinner in May** was a big success with over 90 people attending. Thank you to Marie Beery and staff from the Sawshop, Foods Etc., and Big Valley Properties for their sponsorship and donations! The dinner is one of the main fundraisers for the Land Trust and is enjoyed by everyone. Looking ahead, mark your calendars now for Oct. 8, 2011 for the date of our Annual Dinner! This year the dinner will be held at Rancho de La Fuente on Soda Bay Road.

We continue to expand our **"newsletter by email,"** list so more and more of our supporters receive their quarterly newsletters in color! We continue to mail **"hard copies,"** however, to those members who prefer to receive a newsletter by US Postal Service.

We continue to encourage our supporters to volunteer for the land trust. Our **"Volunteer Tuesdays,"** are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Volunteers gather at the Rodman Preserve Nature Center and pitch in on mailings, filing, sorting, and more, with occasional additional volunteer activities throughout the year. Let us know if you would be interested in becoming a regular or occasional volunteer, and what your volunteering interests are.

The Lake County Land Trust continues to work towards becoming accredited. We are assembling our volunteer accreditation team, and welcome your interest in becoming a team member and helping the Land Trust attain the nationally recognized status of **"Accredited"**.



Peter Scranton of Lakeport is shown placing a wood duck box that he constructed at the Rodman Slough Preserve near Upper Lake. Peter has volunteered to place the boxes and is monitoring any activity. The Land Trust now has seven wood duck boxes along the water ways of its Rodman Preserve property.



Summer Walks are continuing at the Land Trust's Rodman Slough Preserve.



The Boggs Lake Preserve is one of the gems of Lake County's natural areas.



Cathy Koehler gave a presentation on Lake County's botanical diversity on April 13th at the Rodman Slough Nature Education Center.

LEAVING A LEGACY

What better legacy is there to leave than your commitment to protecting Lake County's natural resources for future generations? Whether you are taking those first important steps toward planning your estate or are in the process of updating your estate plan, please consider a donation to the Lake County Land Trust. To discuss how you can name the Trust in your will or estate plan call the Land Trust's Executive Director, Catherine Koehler at (707) 262-0707.

Ely Stage Stop and Country Museum grand opening set for July 24, 2011

The Lake County Historical Society and County of Lake are inviting the public to the grand opening of the Ely Stage Stop & Country Museum, which will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, 2011. The Museum is located at 9921 Highway 281 (Soda Bay Road) between Kelseyville and Lower Lake.

The new Ely Stage Stop & Country Museum will function as a historical and agricultural visitor center that will encompass the Ely Stage Stop building, several reconstructed old barns, displays of farm equipment, agricultural demonstrations, and interpretive and living history exhibits, including a blacksmith shop. The two-story structure will provide a permanent home for the Lake County Historical Society, as well as a starting point for a self-guided historical tour of Lake County.

Anyone interested in contributing time or resources may contact Greg Dills, chairman of the Ely Stage Stop & Country Museum Project for the Lake County Historical Society, at (707) 263-4180, extension 12.

We would like your Email addresses!!!

If you are a member of the Lake County Land Trust and would like your Land Trust newsletter via email rather than regular mail, please let us know what your email address is. Simply email your email address to membership chair, Roberta Lyons, at roberta.lyons@att.net or call her at (707) 994-2024. The goal is to start sending the newsletter electronically to save on postage and paper, as well as to let our Land Trust members know about Land Trust events. If you are not a member and have been receiving our newsletter by mail, we will eventually be phasing out that portion of our mailing. However, our newsletter will be on our website: www.lakecountylandtrust.org. Also, hard paper copies of the newsletter will continue to be sent to those members who prefer that format.

Roberta Lyons, Membership Chair

Follow us on Facebook

You can now become a Land Trust fan on Facebook at [facebook.com/LakeCountyLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyLandTrust).

Thank you for responding to our Spring Appeal!

By Roberta Lyons – Membership Chair

The Lake County Land Trust's Spring Appeal letters have been sent and we thank everyone who has responded. Many of you have received our "Spring Appeal," letter and have been updated on our works in progress and recent activities and accomplishments.

Our membership program focuses on asking for support twice a year with our Holiday and Spring appeals. Our Spring appeal is still underway, so if you would like to increase your category of giving, it isn't too late! If you look in this newsletter you will find our membership coupon and our different categories and member benefits.

We appreciate the support we receive from all of our members, at any level they choose. All of our donors help the Land Trust to continue the important work of preserving Lake County's beautiful natural places.

If you have any questions about the membership program, please give me a call at (707) 994-2024. It is also possible to donate on-line. Just go to www.lakecountylantrust.org and either go to the "support" tab or just hit "donate now" to go directly to the payment site.



Who We Are

The Lake County Land Trust is a local, 501 (c) (3) charitable nonprofit organization directly involved in protecting important land resources. These include: wetlands, wildlife habitats, parks, forests, watersheds, riparian stream corridors, lakeside areas, and trails. The trust is also concerned with property that has unique scenic, cultural, agricultural, educational, or historical value.

Lake County Land Trust

Officers: President Pete McGee
Vice-President Tom Gilliam
Treasurer Kristine Groff
Secretary Jon Ambrose

Board Members: Tom Smythe,
Michael Friel, Nina Marino,
Brad Barnwell, Roberta Lyons,
Gaye Allen, Christian Ahlmann,
and Keith Petterson

Executive Director: Cathy Koehler

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www.lakecountylantrust.org

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A sponsor member of the



Become a member of The Lake County Land Trust

Membership Benefits include:

Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99

Acknowledgement on Land Trust website, updated annually

White Pelican: \$100-\$199

The Member Benefit listed above, plus:
Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust" Coffee
Annual recognition in the local media

Blue Heron: \$200-\$499

All of the Member Benefits listed above, plus:
Invitational reception at the Rodman Slough
Preserve Nature Center

Osprey: \$500-\$999

All of the Member Benefits listed above, plus:
Guided hikes of Land Trust properties

Golden Eagle: \$1,000+

All of the Member Benefits listed above, plus:
Invitational wine tasting at local winery
Reserved seating at our Annual Benefit Dinner

Yes! I want to become a member of the Lake County Land Trust!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to join the LCLT | <input type="checkbox"/> Golden Eagle: \$1,000+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please Renew my membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Osprey: \$500-\$999 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Heron: \$200-\$499 |
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Youth nature education program at Rodman Preserve Nature Center



Elaine Mansell is offering a youth nature education program at the Rodman Preserve Nature Education Center. The program is offered on the third Saturday of each month. Pictured is Elaine helping young Oran Cole learn how to use a microscope.



Oran Cole enjoyed dissecting owl pellets at the inaugural youth nature education program. He is the Land Trust's first "Rodman Explorer."

Accreditation process underway

Land Trusts across the nation are aligning their organizations with the practices and standards that have been vetted as indicators of integrity and effectiveness by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

Over 130 land trusts have been accredited to date. This means their conservation portfolios and records of organizational practices have been reviewed by the **Land Trust Alliances' Accreditation division**, and found to be in compliance with standards for excellence in conservation.

For this reason, the Lake County Land Trust is seeking recognition that it is a quality conservation organization by becoming accredited in the future. Other land trusts with few staff members have attained accreditation through the dedicated work of volunteer accreditation teams and the Lake County Land Trust can do the same.

We are looking for people with an eye for detail and great organizational skills who can help us review our records and policies, among other things. We have already signed up some volunteers for this project, and land trust board members are also volunteering.

If you would like to join in this effort, please contact Cathy Koehler at lct@lakecountylandtrust.org or call (707) 262-0707.



Directions to the Rodman Slough Preserve and Nature Education Center

The Rodman Slough Preserve and Nature Education Center is located at 6350 Westlake Rd., Upper Lake, 95485. Take the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off off of Highway 29, between Lakeport and Upper Lake. Turn east onto the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off, then left on to Westlake Road. The preserve entry is to the immediate right after turning on to Westlake. The preserve is owned and operated by the Lake County Land Trust and this is the area where walks and events are held. The Rodman Slough Park, further down the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off near the bridge that goes over Rodman Slough is the County Park.

Spring Dinner



Richard and Joyce Anderson visited with Linda Lake at the May Spring Dinner at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro in Kelseyville. The Spring Dinner, donated by Marie Beery and her staff at the Saw Shop, is an important fundraiser for the Land Trust and is always a fun event.



Nina Marino, Kim Dvorak, and Michael Friel at the May Saw Shop benefit dinner for the Land Trust. The dinner drew a crowd of 90 people and raised over \$6,000 for the trust. Sponsors included Foods Etc. of Clearlake and Big Valley Properties of Kelseyville. Wine was donated by numerous local wineries.



Val Nixon, left, had a lively conversation with Neil and Bobbi Towne at the May benefit dinner for the Lake County Land Trust. The dinner is presented each year by Marie Beery and her staff at the Sawshop. Brunos Shop Smart store donated the dessert this year and the 90 people attending enjoyed a delicious four course meal with local wines. Tom Nixon and Doug Kauffman entertained during the social hour.



Tom Smythe, a member of the Trust's board of directors, enjoyed helping staff the Land Trust's booth at April's Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch held at Clear Lake State Park. The Land Trust "tables" at numerous events in the County including the Calpine Earth Day event, Heron Festival, and the Pear Festival.



Lake County Land Trust

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2011 Calendar of Events

The Lake County Land Trust shares a common goal with many other organizations in the County, the State and the Country, that of preserving and enhancing our environment and educating the public about the wonders of nature. Through our newsletter we are able to publicize other events, both locally and some out-of-county that we believe will interest our members. The public is cordially invited to all of the events listed here.

Every Saturday – Walks at Rodman Slough Preserve – The Lake County Land Trust holds Saturday morning walks at the Rodman Slough Preserve. Walks start at 8 a.m. June through August, and start at 9 a.m. September through May. Participants are asked to meet at the Rodman Slough Preserve Nature Education Center on 6350 Westlake Road (the corner of Westlake and the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff). No dogs, please, and heavy rain will cancel. Call Gaye Allen at (707) 928-4590 or Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024 for information.

July 9 – Saturday – Premiere showing of “The Economics of Happiness,” a documentary film about “Going Local,” with examples of communities from six continents working to build more humanscale ecological economies. Middletown Community United Methodist Church, 15843 Armstrong St. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. film starts at 3 p.m., refreshments served. For more information call 295-7174.

July 24 – Sunday – Open House at the newly reconstructed Ely Stage Stop country museum, 9921 Highway 281 just off Highway 29 at Kits Corner. The public is invited to see the progress to date and learn about the plans for continued development of the museum’s exhibits. Dramatic views of Mount Konocti and lemonade too. For more information contact project chairman Greg Dills at 263-4180 Ext. 12.

Sept. 10 – Saturday – The annual Old Time Blue Grass Festival will be held at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. This event features numerous well-known bluegrass and singer-songwriter artists from Northern California and Lake County. The event is held from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. and features craft booths, children’s activities, great food, local wine, beer, “Art in the Barn,” music workshops and just lots of fun. Proceeds benefit Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. For information go to www.andersonmarsh.org or call (707) 995-2658.

Oct. 8 – Saturday – The Lake County Land Trust will hold its annual dinner on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Rancho de la Fuente on Soda Bay Road near Kelseyville. Land Trust members will be receiving a mailed invitation, but the general public is also cordially invited to this fun event. The annual dinner and silent auction is one of the main fundraisers for the Lake County Land Trust, so Save the Date!