



# Lake County Land Trust

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

## Organizations work together to help preserve local public lands

**By Roberta Lyons**

Lake County is an amazing place. It has amazing scenery, amazing ecosystems, amazing wildlife, and amazing people. Those of us in the conservation community realize that we share a common goal, and whether it be folks active in supporting our two California State Parks, the local Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Lake County Land Trust, or the many other citizen-supported groups, we all work together for the common goal of preserving the most special open space and wildlife areas of our home.

That is why the Lake County Land Trust has decided to contribute a portion of its "Holiday Appeal" income to the Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA), which is the organization working with the State Department of Parks and Recreation to help keep Anderson Marsh State Historic Park (SHP) open to the public on a limited basis and provide stewardship needed to prevent damage due to neglect.

We feel this effort meshes soundly with the Lake County Land Trust mission - to protect and preserve wildlife habitat, including wetlands, streams, shorelines and forests, as well as properties with unique

scenic, cultural, agricultural, educational, or historical value to our community. Anderson Marsh SHP meets all of these criteria: the park supports diverse wildlife habitats including valley oak woodland, wet meadow, marshland, riparian areas, and shoreline; its stunning

scenic value is indisputable, especially when gazed upon from vistas in the hills to the south; it is a valuable venue for educational and interpretive opportunities; and the site is important from both a historical and pre-historical perspective, supporting the highest concentration of prehistoric archaeological sites in a protected location in the state of California while at the same time representing European

settler's history with historical ranch house and barns.

Without the actions of AMIA, the park will be closed and there is no guarantee that the State Department of Parks and Recreation will ever again open it to the public. The old ranch house would be boarded up, trails become overgrown, and a favorite hiking, bird watching, and recreational venue for both Lake County residents and tourists would be lost to the community. The minimal maintenance provided by the state would



Organizations are working with the State Department of Parks and Recreation to keep Anderson Marsh State Park open.

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# President's Message



*Pete McGee*

I recently led a Sierra Club hike to Table Rock above Callistoga, in the region called the Palisades. About half way out, there is a small rock-lined labyrinth for contemplative thought. Some of the people on the hike were not well informed about the purpose of a labyrinth, so I took advantage of their naïveté to tell them that you have to

slowly walk to the middle and then back to the outside while repeating over and over one single word, "Simplify." We all did it and we all felt the rush of cleansing that comes with such complete focus...not.

Seriously, there is a lot of power in the word "simplify." I have been blessed to have been able to live most of my life on my own terms, keeping things simple as best I can. Our cars are older, but still in good running shape. We own property in town, but it has been paid off for several years. Our girls are finishing colleges with very little debt.

Growing an organization is not simple. The challenges are very complex. However, there are elements of managing a land trust organization which are simple, like:

- Leading people on hikes at the Rodman Preserve.
- Sharing a glass of wine with donors and other friends.
- Friendly encounters at meetings and events.
- Writing about things that we care about and love.

One of my great joys as President of the Board of Trustees has been writing these short articles. I step down this January and will return to my status as a board member. It has been a great honor to have served the Land Trust as a leader. I will never forget my time as the President, and hopefully our next president will invite me to write some type of folksy piece for the newsletter every now and again.

## We Would Like Your Email addresses!!!

If you would like your Lake County Land Trust newsletter via email rather than regular mail, or, if you would like to receive it both ways, please let us know what your email address is. You can do this by simply emailing your email address to [lclt@lakecountylantrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylantrust.org) and request the newsletter be sent to you by email. Please clarify, however, if you want to continue to receive the newsletter by mail as well, otherwise we will send it to you by email only, which is a savings to the Land Trust in regards to both postage and paper. We will also be sending "email blasts," about special Land Trust events to our email supporters but this does not amount to an excessive amount of emails.

So, if you are a member of the Lake County Land Trust, you automatically receive the newsletters by US mail, and if you prefer you can let us know you'd like them by email, or both email and mail. Just let us know your preferences if you are not receiving it in your preferred format(s). Those who support the Land Trust at fundraisers, even if they are not members, also receive newsletters as indicated above. But the economic times don't allow us to continue mailing paper newsletters to folks interested in receiving our news but not supporting the organization. Such interested folks can sign up for receiving the newsletter electronically, however. If you know anyone who used to receive paper newsletters and misses hearing from us, encourage them to become members and/or sign up for electronic newsletters! The newsletter is also available at our website: [www.lakecountylantrust.org](http://www.lakecountylantrust.org).

## 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.

## Youth Nature Education program will take winter off

The “Rodman Explorers,” youth nature education program at our Rodman Preserve Nature Education



Elaine Mansell

Center will start again in April, 2012. The program is free and open to all youth age 7-12.

This free program started in June, 2011 and because of conditions at the preserve during the winter, it has been decided to create a program that runs from April through November, instead of year around.

Elaine Mansell, who is a well-known local naturalist and educator, has been leading the programs at Rodman, taking kids on “slough adventures,” and awarding them with “Rodman Explorer,” certificates. Elaine is a retired teacher and enjoys continuing one of her greatest passions – educating children about nature. Mansell worked for the California State Parks for 15 years, starting out as a volunteer and eventually becoming the park’s Interpretive Specialist. She led the Junior Ranger program at Clear Lake State Park, did campfire programs, hikes, and still leads school groups at the park.

Mansell’s programs focus on the habitats and animals at the Rodman Preserve. Students walk down to the wetland areas and observe birds, waterfowl, and other animals and enjoy numerous games and hands-on experiences. Mansell draws on her experience and knowledge of what children love.



Hugo Moreno looks at flora and fauna through a microscope at the Rodman Preserve youth nature education program in November.



Emily checks out a turtle carapace.



## Organizations work together

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not be able to prevent the potential damage that ill-intentioned trespassers could impose on the wildlands or the historic features.

The Lake County Land Trust joins others who value the natural and cultural attributes of Anderson Marsh. The Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association is also contributing funding to help Anderson Marsh SHP remain open, local wineries have supported fundraising for AMIA, and we hope to partner with other conservation organizations, civic clubs, and interested groups or individuals to make sure our treasured Anderson Marsh continues to receive caring oversight and be available, at least on a limited basis, to all. This

is why we hope that, when you renew your annual membership for 2012 or become a new member with the Lake County Land Trust during our Holiday Appeal (November 28<sup>th</sup> through February 29<sup>th</sup>), you will consider increasing your donation, knowing that part of your contribution will be donated to AMIA in order to help preserve its natural and cultural splendor and keep the park open for the public to enjoy.

### ***Follow us on Facebook***

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

# Good will and cheer for our “Holiday Appeal”

The annual Holiday Appeal is underway, one of two annual appeals in which the Lake County Land Trust reaches out to the community for support. The Land Trust, with its work to steward and preserve important natural and cultural lands of the county, is fueled solely by the good will and cheer of the citizens who love Lake County and its wild and rural beauty.

The Holiday Appeal heralds the new membership year, and we look forward to the continued support of our faithful members as well as welcoming new ones. By contributing to either the Spring or Holiday appeal, making general donations throughout the year, or signing up as a sustaining member with monthly contributions, you become a member of the Lake County Land Trust for that calendar year.

Those who make multiple contributions throughout the year increase their membership standing and the membership benefits associated with increased support. More details of our membership program are in this newsletter and on the Land Trust website: [www.lakecountylantrust.org](http://www.lakecountylantrust.org).

Thanks for your enthusiastic support, whether you respond to a Holiday Appeal letter you received in the mail, renew or begin your membership with a general donation, or support us on-line. We, and the protected lands of Lake County, appreciate your support!

## Directions to the Rodman 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.



Executive Director, Cathy Koehler, right, greets Land Trust supporters Ken Ling and Debi Sally at the October annual dinner.



Greg Giusti spoke about sustainability at the the Fall Land Trust annual dinner. The event raised \$6,000 for the Lake County Land Trust.



The silent auction is always a popular part of the Land Trust annual dinner.

# Fun, food, and education featured at recent Lake County Land Trust dinner

The annual Lake County Land trust benefit dinner on Saturday, Oct. 8 at Rancho de la Fuente was a great evening of socializing with friends, bidding on fabulous silent auction items, enjoying Lake County wines, dining on good food by Ciao Thyme catering, and hearing about local biologist's Greg Giusti's ideas of sustainability.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Land Trust's annual "Supporter of the Year" award which was given this year to Elaine Mansell who is leading children's nature education programs at the Lake County Land Trust's Rodman Preserve the third Saturday from April through November. Mansell was honored for her excellent work of inspiring children to get close to nature through her "Rodman Explorers" program at the Preserve.

Many thanks to sponsors: Law Office of Dennis Fordham, Lake County Winegrape Growers, Brad and Kathy Barnwell, Katzoff & Riggs Law Firm, and Hanchett Publishing. Thanks to Bonnie Piccolo, for organizing the dinner, and Sherrie Hidalgo for assisting, Tom Nixon and Doug Kauffman for entertaining during the social hour, Rancho de la Fuente and Ciao Thyme Catering.

Thanks also to all of the volunteers, including Kelseyville High School students, who made this event possible, as well as Michele Malm. Wine was donated by Six Sigma, Tulip Hill, Wildhurst, Steele, and Shannon Ridge and numerous silent auction items were donated by members and businesses in the community.

Most of all, thank you to the many Land Trust supporters who attended our annual event to show their support for the Land Trust.



Lake County Land Trust president, Pete McGee, and board member, Roberta Lyons, present Elaine Mansell, center; with the Supporter of the Year award for her work on establishing a youth nature education program at the Rodman Preserve.



Jon Ambrose, left; Pete McGee and Pete Grushaka at the Oct. 8 Lake County Land Trust annual dinner.



(Left) Volunteers from Kelseyville High School helped serve and clear tables at the October Lake County Land Trust annual dinner. From left they were: Maeve Rixen, Lisa Kurth, Kali Powell, Dakota Rixen, Carlee Harpe, Joey Avakian, and Ashley Osborne. Not pictured is Jeannie Johnson.





Packing up after a long hard day of working at the Boggs Preserve, from left: Victoria Brandon, Cathy Koehler, Jon Ambrose, Tom Smythe, and Sandy Leggit.

## 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    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> White Pelican: \$100-\$199 |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99     |

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# Volunteering at Bogg's Lake



Darlene Hecomovich was one of the volunteers working at the Boggs Lake Preserve on Nov. 5 to spruce up the pier, path, posts, and other projects.



(Left) The path through the forest at the Boggs Lake Preserve is now better delineated, with help from the Konocti Conservation Crew. The Lake County Land Trust is working with The Nature Conservancy to eventually take responsibility for the preserve.



There was a good turn out for the November work party at the Boggs Lake Preserve. Several jobs were accomplished, including pulling all of the old nails out of the pier and replacing with screws. Pictured here is executive director Catherine Koehler drilling in the screws as other volunteers pull nails.



Gaye Allen, Land Trust board member, refreshed the numbers on the informational posts that correspond with brochures about the Boggs Lake Preserve. The Land Trust is working on re-publishing the brochures with the information that corresponds with the post numbers.

## 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 Nina Marino  
Secretary Jon Ambrose

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

Executive Director: *Cathy Koehler*

For info contact:  
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(email) [lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org)

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# Lake County Land Trust

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## *2011 Fall 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.

**Thursday, December 15**-Redbud Audubon will present an extensive slide show and discussion of distinguishing features of birds that are often seen during the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count. The meeting takes place at the Presbyterian Church Social Hall, 5430 Thirds Street, Kelseyville, at 7 pm. If you are interested in participating in the count, contact Darlene Hecomovich at 928-5591 or email her at dheco@me.com.

**Saturday, December 17**-Redbud Audubon invites all birders and nature enthusiasts of all levels to participate in the annual Clear Lake Christmas Bird Count. After the count, participants are invited to a pizza dinner at 6 pm at Kelseyville Pizza on State Street in Kelseyville where the tally of the day's bird sightings is compiled. If you are interested in participating in the count, contact Darlene Hecomovich at 928-5591 or email her at dheco@me.com.