



Lake County Land Trust

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Fish and Game Biologist, Paul Hoffman, (above) visited Clear Lake and was hosted by the Lake County Land Trust on a shoreline tour of the lake.

Clear Lake's last remaining wetlands are worth saving

The Lake County Trust was founded in 1993 to protect important land resources in Lake County. The trust was successful in preserving over 250 acres of wetlands and inland oak habitat at Rodman Slough, protected the Black Forest on Mt. Konocti, and contributed to the successful protection of Mt. Konocti.

In 2008 the trust's board of directors created its Land Conservation Priority Plan. One of the areas of prime concern defined in the plan is the stretch of shoreline on Clear Lake between the Clear Lake

State Park and south Lakeport. The wetlands along this south/western shore of Clear Lake represent much of the remaining tule and wetland habitats on Clear Lake. The trust has started the process of contacting land owners to identify those who would like to participate in an effort to protect this area. The Lake County Land Trust deals with willing landowners in a cooperative way that is beneficial to all concerned. Several land owners have expressed interest in being a part of this conservation effort.

The Land Trust's executive director, Susanne Scholz, points out

that the Trust is currently laying the ground work for the project. "We want to be ready so if there is an opportunity to obtain funding, and if we have land owners who want to participate, we will be in a position to move forward," she explained.

In September, 2009, Department of Fish and Game biologist, Paul Hoffman, visited Lake County and was hosted by the Lake County Land Trust on a boat tour of the proposed protection area. Any effort to receive funding from the State Wildlife Conservation Board

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Letter from the President



Pete McGee

The old time conservationists have always fascinated me. Although I could never actually stay awake while reading the writing of John Muir, I have always been inspired by his sense of commitment to the preservation of Yosemite. I visited Walden Pond once and reflected on the life and times of Henry David Thoreau. Mostly, I have felt that the conservation movement ended in the mid 1900's when most of the big national parks became established.

Recently, however, I saw a coffee table book on Yosemite that was a collection of images from four very successful Sierra Nevada photographers. The book was dedicated to my former boss, Norman B. Livermore. Norman was born in 1911 and grew up in simpler times on Mt. St. Helena, when you had to take a horse down to the road to get the mail at the old Mountain Mill House. His childhood summers on Mt. St. Helena led him to a love affair with horses. When he was 14 he went to work on a cattle ranch in Texas. When he was out of college he set out to have the best pack string of mules in the entire Sierra Nevada. His commitment to wilderness travel lasted his entire life. Although unable to hike, or camp, or ride a horse in later life, he never veered from his zeal for protecting wild places, especially in the Sierra Nevada.

A contemporary, colleague, and friend of Norman's was Edgar Wayburn M.D. Dr. Wayburn was a leader in preservation in Marin County with thousands of acres of preserved lands in California, the Pacific Northwest, and Alaska to his credit. In reading about the life of Dr. Wayburn, I was impressed with his views:

"For me, conservation has been a compulsion; I acted because I felt I must. Ultimately, the explanation for such life decisions lies beyond reason. Simply put, however, I feel that protecting wildness is absolutely necessary. Whenever we encroach on the natural world, we crop the boundaries of our own existence as humans, cut off our fields of solace and sensation. Vistas, textures, odors, and sounds fade and then disappear. In destroying wildness, we deny ourselves the full extent of what it means to be alive. In preserving wildness, we not only recognize our place in the chain of life, but we also invite ourselves to reach, to explore, to wonder, and to make a difference."

I have also been lucky to work with a couple of great environmental leaders in Lake County, Susanne Scholz and Roberta Lyons,

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We would like your email addresses!!!

If you are a member of the Lake County Land Trust Rookery Membership Club and would like to receive your Land Trust newsletter via email, please let us know what your email address is.

You can do this by simply emailing 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 Rookery Club Members know about Land Trust events.

Our newsletter will be available at 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

Wetlands worth saving

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(WCB) for land or conservation easement acquisitions must start with a Fish and Game biologist who acknowledges the importance of the area that is being put forward for conservation. Hoffman agreed that this area of tule and wetland habitat is a valuable wildlife resource and encouraged the Lake County Land Trust to proceed with efforts to work with willing landowners to preserve this beautiful area of Clear Lake's shoreline.

Thanks to everyone who made the Lake County Land Trust Annual Dinner a resounding success



Each year the Lake County Land Trust honors "Supporters of the Year." This year Pamela Capito, left, of Lakeport and Michele Quere, Upper Lake, were honored for their support of the Lake County Land Trust. They are pictured with Land Trust President, Pete McGee.



Suzanne Lyons, Lakeport City Council member, and her husband, Bill Lyons attended the recent Land Trust annual dinner.



Tom Gilliam, Lake County Land Trust board member, serves Lake County wine to Clearlake resident, Henry Bornstein.

The Annual Lake County Land Trust dinner was a fun event which saw over 100 supporters gather at the Clearlake Community/Senior Center to enjoy the evening while supporting the Land Trust's efforts.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the silent auction and thanks to those attending who bid on those items. The silent auction brought in over \$3,000 this year. Thanks to Angie Siegel and her Carle High School students, and to the dinner and silent auction committee: Bonnie Piccolo, Roberta Lyons, Susanne Scholz, and Suzanne Lyons. The excellent dinner was prepared by the Blue Wing Saloon and Cafe of Upper Lake.

Wine was provided by the Lake County Winery Association members: Ceago Vinegarden, Focused on Wine, Gregory Graham wines, Kelseyville Wine Company, Six Sigma, Steele Wines, Tulip Hill and Wildhurst Vineyards.

Dinner sponsors included The Livermore Family Ranch and the Lake County Winegrape Commission. Music was provided by Blue Collar Band. Thanks also to the City of Clearlake for making their excellent facility available to non-profit organizations like the Lake County Land Trust. Appreciation is also extended to all Lake County Land Trust board members who pitch in on this annual event, collecting silent auction items and working the evening of the event.

Land Trust Supporter of the Year reflects on everyone's contribution

By Michele Quere

At the Land Trust dinner a number of people were saluted and lauded. As I smiled into Roberta's camera I faced a number of people who had not been similarly recognized. You, who are reading this, are one of them. You are one of the supporters of the Lake County Land Trust who have brought it to where it is today.

Fifteen years ago a small group of people had a vision...you shared that vision and have provided the support necessary to pursue it. Look what you have done in just 15 years: Rodman Ranch and Slough wildlife preserve and a beautiful nature center, Rabbit Hill, Mt. Konocti, and continuing efforts to preserve Lake County's important land resources. Each of these projects took hundreds, if not thousands, of hours of work

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Get Ready for “Holiday Appeal”

The Lake County Land Trust is continuing our membership program that we call our Rookery Membership Club. The program focuses on asking for support twice a year with our Holiday and Spring appeals. If you contribute to either the Spring or Holiday appeal, you are a member of the land trust for a year from the date of your contribution. If you want to increase your membership, and contribute to both appeals, it will put you in a different category in the Rookery Membership Club. More details of the Rookery Membership Club are in this newsletter and on the Land Trust website: www.lakecountylantrust.org.

So, look for your upcoming Holiday Appeal letter in the mail, and please continue to support the Lake County Land Trust.

Rabbit Hill Plan Underway

By **Susanne La Faver**

The small, but much loved, 9.5 acre parcel of Rabbit Hill in Middletown received special attention recently in anticipation of a land management plan being created for the site. Co-Directors of UC-Davis McLaughlin Reserve Paul Aigner and Cathy Koehler, Lower Lake, volunteered to walk the site to survey the site's ecology and make recommendations.

Entering the trail head at 21281 Stewart Street at Callayomi Street, Paul and Cathy noted Rabbit Hill's distinctive serpentine rock, few non-native plants, and unique vegetation. They identified shrubs and trees and observed birds including western scrub jay, Hutton's vireo, lesser goldfinch, California towhee and western bluebird. Land Trust Director Brad Barnwell will conduct a formal bird survey. This information, and more, will describe Rabbit Hill for the land management plan and help fulfill preservation objectives of protection; education, scientific and passive recreation uses; and any needed restoration.

Rabbit Hill is special to generations of Middletown area residents who received handmade gemstone rings when they started kindergarten from Hugo "Huck" and Juanita "Skee" Hamann, who lived on the site. The Hamanns left their land to Sonoma County's Madrone Audubon Society, which later deeded the property to Lake County's Land Trust.

Rabbit Hill Committee members are Land Trust Directors Susanne La Faver, chair, and Jon Ambrose, Hidden Valley Lake; Pete McGee, Middletown; and Michael Friel, Lakeport. For more information on Rabbit Hill, see http://www.lakecountylantrust.org/r_hill.htm.

Letter from the President

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the founders of the Land Trust.

After years of volunteer work in support of the early development of the Lake County Land Trust, Susanne Scholz became the first paid Executive Director of the Trust. In a half time job, she gave a full time effort. We moved from an organization that could barely pay for postage, to one that led the way in preserving very important habitats throughout Lake County. Susanne has been the driving force behind our evolution as a force for natural resource protection.

Susanne has decided to retire this coming February. We are currently receiving resumes and plan to conduct interviews in November. We will undoubtedly be able to find someone for the job, but we will never be able to find someone with the type of commitment and vision that Susanne Scholz brought to the job.

Although we want to wish Susanne well in retirement, we are also secretly hoping that she will rejoin us on the Board of Trustees after she has had some rest and relaxation. **Good Job Susanne!!!!**

Land Trust Supporter reflects

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and energy. It has been your continued support that has allowed Land Trust personnel to do the work that needs to be done. You are heroes, and it is about time you are thanked many times over for your support, no matter what its level. Beyond the monetary, any contributions sustain the morale of those who work "in the trenches" of land protection and/or acquisition. Thank you very much.

You can now become a Land Trust fan on Face Book at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lower-Lake-CA/Lake-County-Land-Trust/137282176534?ref=mf> and follow us on Twitter, www.twitter.com/lcandtrust.

Please make note of the new Lake County Land Trust phone number: (707)262-0707

Lake County Participates in Largest Gathering of Land Conservationists

By **Susanne La Faver**

Land conservation leaders rallied recently in Portland, Oregon, at a national land conservation conference. 1,800 participants representing 402 land trusts, including Lake County, attended the annual event sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance (www.landtrustalliance.org).

“To successfully conserve and protect important areas of Lake County, we must stay abreast of conservation trends, cutting-edge practices of land conservation, and best professional standards,” said Susanne Scholz, Land County Land Trust executive director. She noted that America’s land trusts have markedly enhanced their professionalism and increased their ranks to 1,667 in 2005 from 1,263 in 2000.

Conference topics included fundamentals of real estate law, conservation project appraisals and tax benefits, integrating multiple strategic land preservation objectives, and legal and ethical aspects of managing land trusts. “Knowledge and resources gained in Portland benefit our work preserving Clear Lake’s shoreline, between Clear Lake State Park and Lakeport, and Rodman Slough area,” said Susanne.

Legislation discussed at the conference is HR 1831 sponsored by US Representative Mike Thompson. HR 1831 will amend the 1986 Internal Revenue Code making permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions. Rep. Thompson and supporters pledge to make conservation easement tax incentive permanent in the 111th Congress. This is good news to conservationists everywhere, including Lake County.

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 Roberta Lyons

Board Members: Tom Smythe, Michael Friel, Nina Marino, Brad Barnwell, Jon Ambrose, Susanne LaFaver and Christian Ahlmann

Executive Director:
Susanne Scholz

For info contact:
Lake County Land Trust, POB 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457 • (707)262-0707

www.lakecountylantrust.org

Tax I.D. No. 68-0332712

A sponsor member of the



Benefits of the Rookery Membership Club:

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 join the Rookery Membership Club:

- Golden Eagle: \$1,000+
- Osprey: \$500-\$999
- Blue Heron: \$200-\$499
- White Pelican: \$100-\$199
- Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

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Make checks payable to: LCLT
Mail to: PO Box 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457
Federal ID Number# 68-0332712

I'd like to pay with my credit card:

Card Type: VISA MasterCard (circle one)

Card# _____

Expires ____/____ Security Code* _____

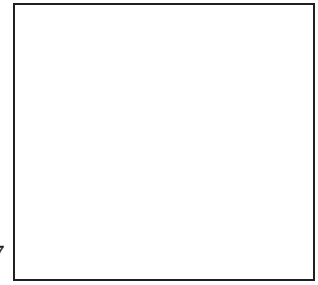
(*the 3 digit code on the back of your card)

Signature: _____



Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457 ~ Phone (707)262-0707



2009 Calendar of Local 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 events, both locally and some out-of-county, that we believe will interest our members. The public is cordially invited to all.

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. beginning June 6 and continuing through August; and 9 a.m. September through May. Participants are asked to meet at the Nature Center at the Preserve on Westlake Road and the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off. No dogs, please. Heavy rain will cancel. Call Pamela Bordisso at (707) 279-0923 or Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024 for information.

Nov. 7 – Saturday – Sierra club hike to Highland Springs Reservoir. A moderate loop in Highland Springs County Park. Bring water/snack. Meet at 9 a.m. in picnic area at the end of Highland Springs Road south of Lakeport. Carpool 8:30 a.m. from Live Oak Drive park and ride lot in Kelseyville on Hwy. 29. Neutered dogs on leash welcome. Reservation required. Leader is Steve Devoto: sdevoto@mchsi.com. Rain cancels.

Nov. 11 – Wednesday - Sierra Club/Friends of Boggs Mountain hikes in Boggs Mountain State Forest. Hike various trails. Appropriate footwear required – water and snack advised. Class H-7-A. Meet 9 a.m. – covered – kiosk – main parking area. Entrance Forestry Road 1.3 miles north of Cobb village on Hwy 175. Carpooling to more remote trails possible. Leader is Boone Lodge: friendsofboggs-mountain@earthlink.net (707) 928-5819.

Nov. 17 – Tuesday – Sierra Club forum on invasive quagga and zebra mussels. Expert panel. Kelseyville High School, Room 203. Free and open to the public. For more information contact Victoria Brandon, vbrandon@lakelive.info.

Dec. 12 – Saturday – Christmas at the Marsh – a Christmas open house at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park features live music, Santa, and Christmas treats. The event is held at the historical ranch house at the park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited.