



# Lake County Land Trust

LCLT Newsletter • PO Box 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457 • (707)995-1398 • Spring 2009

## New members join the LCLT Board

By Pete McGee

The Board of Directors is the engine in an organization. And just like a car engine, there comes a time for replacement parts. We are blessed to have two new people on our board, Susanne LaFaver and Christian Ahlmann.

Susanne was born in Salinas and raised in rural Monterey County, where her family grew their own food. She and her two younger brothers each had their area of responsibility. Susanne's was raising geese and caring for puppies.

Her 25-year career in corporate public affairs and communications covered the globe. She's currently an adjunct instructor for Ageno School of Business, Golden Gate University, where she teaches public relations on CyberCampus.

A resident of Hidden Valley Lake since 2001, Susanne ran against five candidates for Lake County supervisor and lost in a November, 2008, run off. She's a founding member of National Women's Political Caucus-Lake County.

Susanne earned a master of public administration in administrative organization and management from Golden Gate University and a bachelor's with distinction in jour-



The LCLT is excited to welcome two new and dynamic board members: Susanne LaFaver and Christian Ahlmann.

nalism with emphasis in public relations from San Diego State University.

She and her husband, Lyle, anticipate their first grandchild in May, 2009. Son, Tim Coffey, and daughter-in-law, Michelle, live in San Francisco. Hobbies are hiking, gardening, knitting, the HVL book club, and spending time at her family's Russian River cabin.

Christian Ahlmann was born in Denmark and moved with his family to Kansas in 1993, where he graduated high school in 2001. He went to college at Kansas State University and graduated in 2005 with a B.S. in horticulture and a

minor in business. During college he spent a semester in Oregon working for Rex Hill Winery, and a semester in Napa Valley working for Conn Valley Vineyards.

Christian married his wife Rachel in college, and moved to Copenhagen when she graduated. There he worked for a retail garden center named PlanteRiget (PlantKingdom) as a landscape designer and garden consultant for a year. In 2007 he moved to Lake County where he took a job at Lake County Grapevine Nursery, and in August of 2008 he began working for his family's Six Sigma Ranch

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## Letter from the President

In the winter months I am always looking for a water ouzel (“dipper”) down at the creek. In my 14 years of work here on Mt. St. Helena, I have only seen one. The sighting was so rare and so exciting that, when crossing our lower bridge, I never fail to put my eyes down on to the stretch of creek where I sighted it many years back.



Pete McGee

The same thing happens to me at every spot where I have seen a mountain lion or a bear. Bobcat and fox sightings are less memorable. Adrenalin plays a role in capturing memories.

Other things are memorable for other reasons, unrelated to adrenalin rushes. I can clearly remember the old farms and barns near to where I grew up. None are there any more. Our own family farm was sold when it got to be too much for my elderly mother.

When I go back now, I can just vaguely put together where the house and barn used to stand.

The vegetation is nearly completely different. Even the old creek has been relocated. A half-dozen “McMansions” stand where pastures and orchards used to be.

The folk singer Kate Wolf had a song about a “lilac bush and an apple tree, standing by the woods”... the only signs of an old homestead.

The loss of family farms inspires me to work in the Land Trust movement. I also love wildlife habitat and pretty scenery, but it is the transfer of land out of farming that really pushes me to work hard to save the old places from development. Perhaps I still feel a sense of guilt about our having to sell our own home place. As my oldest brother said, “It is certainly nothing to feel proud of.”

But all is not doom and gloom. The countryside of Lake County is still gorgeous in the spring. Blooming trees line the lanes and roadsides. Cattle flourish in lush green pasture. Pruned vines are bursting forth in new growth. There is still a lot to like about Lake County.

## 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 notices about our upcoming events, and, eventually 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](mailto: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 also be available at our website: [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://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



## Appreciation extended to donating artists

The following artists generously donated their works of art to the Lake County Land Trust to sell at the recent Saw Shop Gallery Bistro Spring Dinner and at the October Annual Dinner. All proceeds from the sale of the art goes to the Lake County Land Trust. Many thanks to: John Eells, Greg Cornish, Carmen Patterson, Steven Gay Bilodeau, Lilly Hilt, Patty Oates, Marilyn Higday, Corinne McEvers, Lyle Madeson, Ann Orpustan, Barbara Kossen, Gail Salatori, Jackie Farley, Marge Gray, Kathy Dutra, Barbara LeVasseur, Judy Cardinale, Jackie Smythe, and Sunny Franson.

## New members

(Continued from page 1)

and Winery. Christian did spend most of his summers working on the ranch in high school and college.

The Lake County Land Trust is very excited to have two new, and very dynamic board members.



The Lake County Land Trust board of directors is happy to welcome two new members, and is also working on several projects, including introduction of a new website, developing the Nature Education Center at the Rodman Slough Preserve, and developing a campaign to save wetlands along the southwest shore of Clear Lake. Board members include, in back from left: Michael Friel, Pete McGee; Christian Ahlmann, Tom Gilliam, Jon Ambrose, Tom Smythe, and Brad Barnwell; in front from left: Nina Marino, Roberta Lyons, and Susanne LaFaver. Not pictured is Kristine Groff.

Go to [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org)!!!

The Lake County Land Trust is pleased to announce the unveiling of its new website. Still at [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org), the site has been revamped and expanded, with lots of photos and more content.

Land Trust board members Kristine Groff and Roberta Lyons worked for two months with local website designer, Verna Schaffer to rebuild the trust's site. **The new site is heavy on content and information and will be updated on a regular basis.** Designers are hoping that the site will prove to be easy to navigate and it was also designed to be friendly to people who still use dial-up service for internet access.

The site covers the history of the land trust, including accomplishments and projects. **There is an "Our Lands," tab with extensive information on Land Trust properties and a "Special Events," tab that will keep everyone updated on upcoming events and past activities as well.** A calendar is featured on the front page with dates and phone numbers about fundraising activities, and other events.

Also featured are pictures of volunteers and supporters of the Land Trust, as well as a list of the capital campaign donors for the Rodman Slough Preserve Nature Education Center and a list of our Rookery Club members. The goal is to recognize the volunteers and supporters of the Land Trust – without whom the Trust could not continue to operate.

## 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)995-1398

[www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org)

*Tax I.D. No. 68-0332712*

A sponsor member of the



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

## 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 Susanne Scholz, the Trust's Executive Director, at 707 995-1398.

## Spring Appeal continues

By Roberta Lyons – Membership Chair

The Lake County Land Trust's Rookery Club membership program is working out well. Many of you have received our "Spring Appeal," letter and have been updated on our works in progress and recent activities and accomplishments.

We have changed our "member/donor," program to the Rookery Membership Club program. We no longer have two categories of giving, where we have "members" based on a yearly payment, and then ask folks (both members and others) to give during what was once our annual Holiday appeal.

Now our 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 see the benefits being offered through our Rookery Membership Club.

If you wish to increase your support to the Land Trust, to be placed in another category, your Spring contribution will be added to your Holiday appeal contribution to bring you into a higher category of membership.

Having explained all that, I want to stress that we appreciate the support we receive from all of our members, in any category they choose. All of our donors help the Land Trust to continue the important work of preserving Lake County's beautiful natural places.



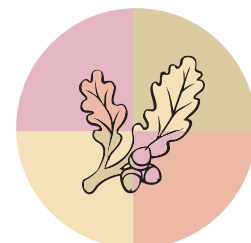
The Lake County Land Trust participates in various public outreach efforts every year. The Land Trust had a booth at the Calpine Earth Day event in Middletown in April, as well as the Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch held at Clear Lake State Park at the end of April. Pictured is Land Trust member and volunteer, Michele Quere, visiting with an interested citizen at the Land Trust booth at the Heron Festival on April 25 and 26th.

## Nature Art contest winners announced

Lyle Madeson's photograph of a Great White Egret took the first place in the Nature Photography contest showcased at the Spring Dinner at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro Dinner on May 12, 2009. Second place awards went to Jackie Farley for her Acrylic painting "Pear", Sunny Franson for her Oil "Windy Day", Barbara LeVasseur for her Oil "Spring Dancer", and Carmen Patterson for her Oil "Bountiful Spring". The Lake County Land Trust was honored with many entries and thanks all the artists who participated.

## Leaving a Legacy for Lake County

What better legacy is there to leave than your commitment to protecting some of 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 confidentially discuss how you can name the Lake County Land Trust in your will or estate plan call Susanne Scholz, the Trust's Executive Director, at 707 995-1398.





# Annual Spring Land Trust Dinner was fun for all

The annual Lake County Land Trust Spring Dinner at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro in Kelseyville on May 12, was a great success with over 100 people enjoying the hospitality of Saw Shop owner, Marie Beery, and her able staff.

Marie Beery and her staff donate the dinner every year to raise money for the Lake County Land Trust.

The convivial evening included entertainment by David Neft of Middletown, who donated an hour of his excellent piano playing to the event. Also, numerous local artists donated paintings that were for sale during the evening and will also be available at the **Land Trust's annual dinner in October**. The names of the donating artists will be featured on the new Lake County Land Trust website at [www.lakecountylantrust.org](http://www.lakecountylantrust.org).

## Many thanks to wine & food donors

Wine and food donors for the evening included Foods Etc. in Clearlake, donating bread; and Main Street Bakery, Kelseyville, who donated the dessert. Wine was generously provided by: Bell Hill Vineyards, Gregory Graham Wines, Shannon Ridge Winery, Six Sigma Winery, Steele Wines, Noggle Vineyards, Tulip Hill Winery, Wildhurst Vineyards, and the Moore Family Winery.

The Land Trust would like to thank Marie Beery and her staff at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro, as well as the artist, David Neft, and the food donors for supporting our organization in this very important fundraising event, which raised \$6500 to continue the work of the Lake County Land Trust.

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Pictured at right: Jenny McGee (l) and Alexis Rockwell (r) helped at the recent Land Trust **dinner by selling raffle tickets for three "Lake County" baskets put together by Jenny's dad, Pete McGee.**



New Lake County Land Trust board member, Susanne LaFaver visits with Clearlake Chamber President, Joey Luiz, at the recent Spring Dinner at the Saw Shop Gallery Bistro.



Board member, Brad Barnwell, converses with Clearlake veterinarian, Debi Sally, and Denise Jones, left, also of Clearlake, at the Annual Spring Dinner held on May 12 in Kelseyville.



## Lake County Vector Control District representatives presented a fascinating program at the Rodman Slough Nature Center

The May 13 presentation by biologists from the Lake County Vector Control District (LCVCD) was informative and fascinating. Over 20 people gathered at the Rodman Slough Preserve Nature Education Center to learn about the programs and projects of the Lake County Vector Control District, as well as to look at the fascinating creatures that live in the waters of Clear Lake and Lake County. Visitors enjoyed looking through microscopes at *Daphnia*, gnat larvae, “water boatmen,” and other interesting animals as part of the program entitled: “What’s That Swimming With Me?” Presenting the program were: Jamesina Scott, Ph.D. District Manager and Research Director for the LCVCD; Bonnie Ryan, vector biologist, and Brittany Mills, assistant biologist. The Lake County Land Trust will be presenting nature education programs at the center on a regular basis throughout the year.



Jamesina Scott addresses the audience at the recent LCVCD program at the Rodman Slough Preserve Nature Education Center.



Kathy Barnwell, Lakeport; visits with Vector Control District Biologist, Bonnie Ryan at the recent presentation.



Biologist Brittany Mills, center right, discusses the insects and arthropods seen through the microscopes at a recent Rodman Nature Center program.



Leona Butts, of Clear Lake Oaks, received the Environmental Award at the Stars of Lake County celebration held in March, 2009. Leona was honored for her many environmental efforts, including her relentless campaign to save both State Parks in Lake County. Since its inception in 2007, the Lake County Land Trust has sponsored the Environmental Award at the Stars of Lake County celebration. The **award is given to “the person (s) or group who has made a special contribution to preserve, protect or enhance the natural and cultural resources for the residents of Lake County.”** Leona, left, is pictured with Land Trust executive director, Susanne Scholz.

# Mt. Konocti Master Plan topic of meetings June 10th and 24th

Public Services Director Kim K. Clymire has been hosting a series of meetings to begin developing a Mt. Konocti Master Plan. When complete, **which will probably take one to two years, the plan will govern the park's use, conservation and preservation.**

Types of use, policies and procedures, resource and fire management plans and more were discussed at two meetings held in Lakeport. Two additional meetings are scheduled to take place Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at the Lower Lake School House Museum in Lower Lake.

These meetings will make it easier for south County residents to participate in the process, although all are welcome. County staff anticipates having the basics of the Master Plan decided on prior to opening the trails to the public late this year or early next year. For more information contact the Public Services Department at 262-1618 or visit [www.preservekonocti.org](http://www.preservekonocti.org).



## Benefits of the Rookery Membership Club:

Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99

Acknowledgement on the 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 \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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\* \_\_\_\_\_

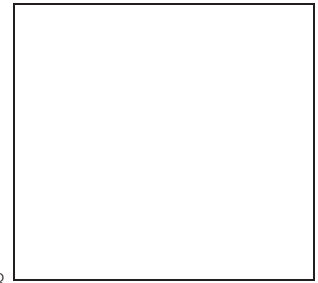
(\*the 3 digit code on the back of your card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 711, Lower Lake, CA 95457 ~ Phone (707)995-1398



## *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 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. beginning June 6 and continuing through August; and 9 a.m. September through May. Participants are asked to meet at the new 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.

June 10th and 24th—Mt. Konocti Master Plan meetings. Public Services Director Kim K. Clymire is hosting a series of meetings to begin developing a Mt. Konocti Master Plan. When complete, which will probably take one to two years, the plan will govern the **park's use, conservation and preservation. Two additional meetings are scheduled to take place Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009** from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., at the Lower Lake School House Museum in Lower Lake. For more information contact the Public Services Department at 262-1618 or visit [www.preservekonocti.org](http://www.preservekonocti.org).

Sept. 12—Oldtime Bluegrass Festival at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park in Lower Lake. This event features premier bluegrass musicians from throughout Northern California. Go to [www.andersonmarsh.org](http://www.andersonmarsh.org) for info.