

# Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707)262-0707 • Spring/Summer 2021



Land trust volunteers and members of Master Gardeners at the Wright Wetland Preserve shoreline, from left: Victoria Brandon, Bob Schoenherr, Victoria Smithson and Karole Ward. Fully vaccinated volunteers and board members participated in a plant survey at the Wright Wetland Preserve in the spring.

## Protecting land and caring for it is the goal of the Lake County Land Trust

"Stewardship," is a word often heard in the Land Trust community and its importance is immeasurable, not only for the land, but for the people who want to enjoy it. Your Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) is now the custodian of critically important Lake County properties and as you'll read below, efforts to care for them are underway.

### Wright Wetland Preserve

With last year's purchase of the 200-acre Wright Ranch near south Lakeport, LCLT has taken on one of its biggest projects to date. The goal is to restore a significant area of the property to its original status of wetland habitat that existed before the exterior of the

property was diked off from the lake to allow for more extensive ranching and grazing. The berms along the perimeter of the property were probably constructed in the 1940s and while they were helpful for ranching and grazing, the result was a reduction in the natural wetland along this part of the Clear Lake shoreline.

LCLT will be breaching the berm with the goal of creating another 32 acres of seasonal wetland on this preserve which, along with the Melo Wetlands Preserve, is part of the LCLT's Big Valley Wetlands Preservation project.

The wetlands of Clear Lake provide habitat for fish,

*(Continued on page 5)*



# President's Message

By  
Val  
Nixon



Val Meyer Nixon

Today I'm quite content with my spot underneath an ancient Valley Oak tree at the Wright Wetland Preserve where my assignment is to identify the plants surrounding me. To care for and rehabilitate land, we first must know what's living there, and together with other

Land Trust volunteers I have been assigned an area to observe and record. As I diligently track my observations, though, there is one plant I truly hoped to see that is nowhere to be found—baby oak trees.

Like many Californians I feel a deep connection to oak trees. Out of the 22 species of oaks in the state it's hard to pick out a favorite. On properties owned by the Land Trust, the Wright Wetland Preserve supports Valley Oaks as does the Melo Preserve. Rodman Preserve's predominant oak is California's endemic Blue

Oak. When we first acquired the Rodman Preserve back in 1999, there weren't many baby oaks, either. However, over the years that has changed dramatically. As we now begin to carefully rehabilitate the wetlands in the Big Valley Wetland Preserve, I am looking forward to a future where baby oaks have returned like they did to the Rodman Preserve.

At this moment, I'm pleased to hear the squawking scrub jays flitting from ground to tree near this oak grove. Every fall, each one of them plants about 5,000 acorns. After these comical birds return to eat their fill, some acorns are left behind to germinate. If the conditions are just right a few will grow. An acorn's odds of eventually becoming a stately oak tree are slim, and that's where the Lake County Land Trust's role is critical.

Thanks to you, the Wright Wetland Preserve is now protected and the scrub jays' work can continue unabated. Further, the stewardship efforts that you support will help us remove invasive plants ensuring that some of the acorns left behind from the scrub jay become the iconic trees of the future.

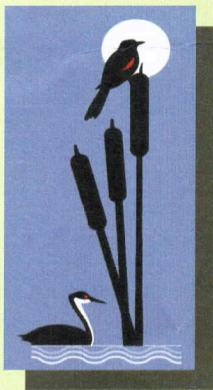
Those trees will support hundreds of species of caterpillars, various types of mistletoe, and several varieties of gall wasps which in turn support a vast food web. They create a community which benefits all. Let us not underestimate the importance of the oxygen these massive trees supply through the photosynthesis that takes place in their leaves.

Nor should we underestimate the important role ancient oaks play in sequestering carbon, which is vital to combating climate change.

I feel very fortunate to be part of the Lake County Land Trust. We are a dedicated community of people who understand the value of conserving open space and ensuring that lands are cared for. And we acknowledge that recreating a relationship with the natural world is critical to the survival of the many species, including our own.

So, I am thankful to those little scrub jays that endlessly chatter and plant acorns. I am equally grateful to all of you for helping the Lake County Land Trust steward these amazing lands. They are vital to the health of us as individuals and members of our growing communities, and to this diverse and astounding planet that we share.

Thank you for your involvement and support.



**You can  
choose to  
receive  
your LCLT  
Newsletter  
by email**

You can opt to receive your newsletter via email, postal mail, or both! Please let us know which you prefer. Contact us at [LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org) if you would like anything changed in way you receive your newsletter. Thank You!



# Land Trust properties open for walking, Hiking and appreciating scenic beauty!

As of June 1, 2021, the Lake County Land Trust has reopened Rodman Preserve every Saturday for self-guided walks. From June through August the gate will be open at 8 a.m. and walkers are asked to complete their walks by 11 a.m. Starting in September, hours will be from 9 a.m. through noon. The preserve is located at 6350 Westlake Road, Upper Lake, on the corner of Westlake Road and the Nice/Lucerne Cut-off. Take the Nice/Lucerne Cut-off from Highway 29, turn right onto the Cut-off, then take the first left onto Westlake Road. Don't confuse the Rodman Preserve with the Rodman Slough County Park, which is further east on the Cut-off by the bridge over the Slough. (Rodman Slough County Park, though, is also a nice place to visit!)

Rodman Preserve offers self-guided walks on a nicely groomed trail. Water and binoculars are recommended. Visitors will be greeted by a Land Trust volunteer.

The Rabbit Hill 9-acre park in Middletown has re-

mained open throughout the Covid pandemic and remains so today. The park is located at 21281 Stewart St. There is a small parking area and a Lake County Land Trust sign at the gate of the path leading up the hill. A short hike up the hill will introduce you to fabulous views of the surrounding mountain peaks, including Mt. St. Helena, Cobb, and Harbin.

Boggs Lake Preserve, which is owned by the Nature Conservancy and co-managed with the Lake County Land Trust has also been open throughout the pandemic. This unique preserve is home to one of the largest vernal pools in the state of California. It is located at 6902 Harrington Flat Rd.

The Melo Wetland Preserve and the Wright Wetland Preserve are open by appointment with Land Trust board members and volunteers ready, willing and wanting to conduct tours and showcase these newer properties to Land Trust members and supporters.

Check out these properties at [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org).

## Become a member of The Lake County Land Trust Membership Benefits include:

### Golden Eagle: \$1,000+

Reserved seating at our Annual Dinner • Guided hike and picnic lunch at a specially featured Land Trust property • Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," Coffee • Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and publication in our Land Trust newsletter, updated annually • Lake County Land Trust newsletter either via email or a mailed paper copy

### Osprey: \$500-\$999

Guided hike and picnic lunch at a specially featured Land Trust property • Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," Coffee • Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and publication in our Land Trust newsletter, updated annually. • Lake County Land Trust newsletter, either via email or a mailed paper copy.

### Blue Heron: \$100-\$499

Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," Coffee and acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and published in our Land Trust newsletter updated annually.

### Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99

Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and published in our Land Trust newsletter updated annually. • Lake County Land Trust newsletter, either via email or a mailed paper copy.

*Membership period is for one calendar year.*

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

- ☐ Yes, I would like to join the LCLT
- ☐ Please renew my membership with LCLT
- ☐ Please increase my membership support with the below contribution
- ☐ Please sign me up as a sustained giving member and bill my credit card on a monthly basis for the amount indicated below.

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Make checks payable to: LCLT  
Mail to: PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453

I'd like to pay with my credit card:

Card Type: VISA MasterCard (circle one)

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code\* \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*3 digit code on back of your card)

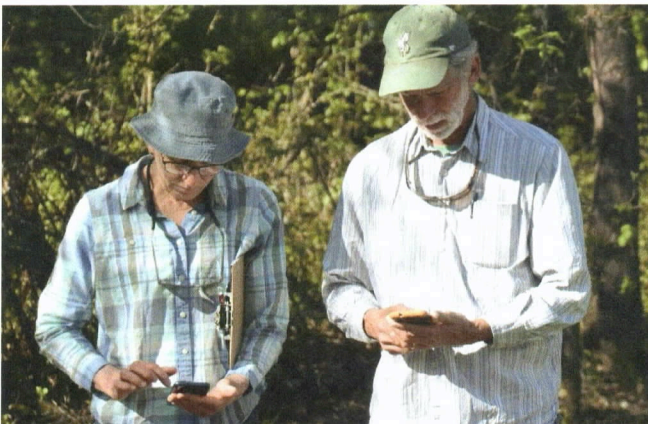
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my newsletter by ☐ Email ☐ US Mail

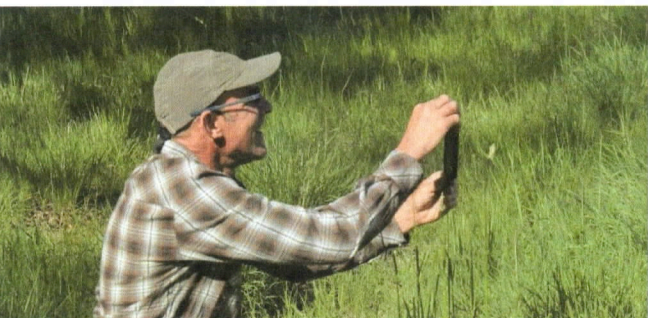




From left, Cathy Koehler; and Erica Lundquist, Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) board members were on hand for the spring plant survey at the Wright Wetland Preserve.



Erica Lundquist and Jim Xerogeanes compare notes during the plant survey at Wright. Xerogeanes is recently retired as the head of Mendocino College Agriculture Department.



Paul Aigner takes an image using the iNaturalist app on his phone. The app is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society and can easily be downloaded onto your mobile device.



Paul Aigner explaining to participants the use of iNaturalist, a handy phone app, for identifying grasses, forbs and flowers during the spring Wright Wetland Preserve plant survey. The survey was organized by LCLT board member Merry Jo Velasquez who is continuing to oversee observations at the preserve.



Majestic oaks at the Wright Wetland Preserve.



Steve Zalusky, R, discusses plans with LCLT board members regarding the biosurvey needed to restore wetlands at the Wright Preserve.





LCLT executive director, Tom Smythe reviews maps with Steve Zalusky (l), of Northwest Biosurvey and board member, Merry Joe Velasquez.

## ***Protecting land and caring for it is the goal of the Lake County Land Trust***

*(Continued from page 1)*

mammals and birds. The charming Marsh Wren weaves its nests in the tules; wading birds parade along the edges, harvesting fish and crustaceans for food; the native and endangered Clear Lake Hitch fry and other young fish "hang out" in the tules to avoid becoming prey of bigger fish; and these areas are home to otters, muskrats, and mink. The wetlands of Clear Lake also filter out nutrients before they flow into the lake. Reducing the nutrient flow will reduce the problem of cyanobacteria blooms in Clear Lake. In short, wetlands are essential to the life and health of Clear Lake.

Efforts have already begun that will inform the modification of the area. In April, a group of plant enthusiasts, including members of the Lake County Master Gardener's Association, the California Native Plant Society, and LCLT volunteers and board members, surveyed the property with the goal of identifying and cataloging both native and non-native plants. Land trust board member, Merry Jo Velasquez, organized the survey and will be continuing to monitor the plant life at Wright with the help of her volunteers, who as Master Gardeners, have been educated in horticulture and plant identification.

LCLT has also entered into an agreement with Northwest Biosurvey to perform a wetlands delineation and botanical survey of the property. Breaching the dikes that keep out water from Clear Lake and restoring what were once natural wetlands will require California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and numerous permits from Federal, State, and County agencies. The wetland delineation and botanical survey are the first steps in this process.

Other plans for the property include the restoration of Valley Oaks. Currently there is a remnant grove of these magnificent trees that in the early 1900s probably covered this area's entire valley floor. Valley Oaks are huge and provide habitat for innumerable birds and insects while sequestering an amazing amount of carbon. Birds from the Western Blue Bird to Tree Swallows and Acorn Woodpeckers make their homes in Valley Oaks.

In the meantime, a temporary trail and parking area have been mowed to allow entry to the property. Before the property is officially open on a regular basis, a baseline management plan must be developed, trails must be outlined, and signs installed. With access to

*(Continued on page 7)*





**AmeriCorps volunteers at the Rodman Preserve working on the boardwalk.**



**Luci Navas, an AmeriCorps volunteer who was in Lake County last winter helping the Lake County Land Trust, and other local organizations including both of the County's State Parks.**



**Jeremy Todoroff, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) biologist with the Ukiah field office; Korinn Woodard, NRCS District Conservationist for Lake County, LCLT Vice-president Bill Lincoln and LCLT board member Merry Jo Velasquez learning about plans for the wetland restoration project at the Wright Wetland Preserve.**





Darlene Hecomovich, Cathy Koehler, Nancy Harby and Drew Tritchler participated in a spring weeding party at Rodman preserve.

## ***Protecting land and caring for it is the goal of the Lake County Land Trust***

*(Continued from page 5)*

the property still limited, LCLT is happy to conduct field trips and guided tours. If you are interested in a tour or would like to go on a hike and learn about this property as modifications are just beginning, please call (707) 994-2024 and leave a message or send an email to [roberta.lyons@att.net](mailto:roberta.lyons@att.net).

### **Melo Wetland Preserve**

LCLT has started work on mowing a trail at the 32-acre Melo Wetland Preserve and a community meeting for neighbors living on Clipper and Reeves Lane, adjacent to the preserve is scheduled for this summer. LCLT looks forward to involving local residents in helping steward this wetland preserve. We are also interested in hearing improvement ideas and suggestions from neighbors. LCLT has already conducted a plant survey on this property and numerous native and non-native plants have been identified and catalogued thanks to experts like Jack Alderson. Jack is formerly with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and he and others have been combing the property to discover the types of flora that exist there.

### **Rodman Preserve**

If you're looking for a great opportunity to birdwatch or just get out into nature, self-guided Saturday walks at the Rodman Preserve at 6350 Westlake Road have

started. Gates open at 8 a.m. and close at 11 a.m. Guests are invited to walk the groomed trails and enjoy scenic views and wildlife. Once on the trails, you'll notice that LCLT volunteers have been stewarding the

*(Continued on page 9)*



A "weeding party," was held at the Rodman Preserve in May to weed around the native bunch grass patch of California's State Grass, *Stipa Pulchra*, or Purple Needle Grass. Victoria Smithson was one of volunteers.





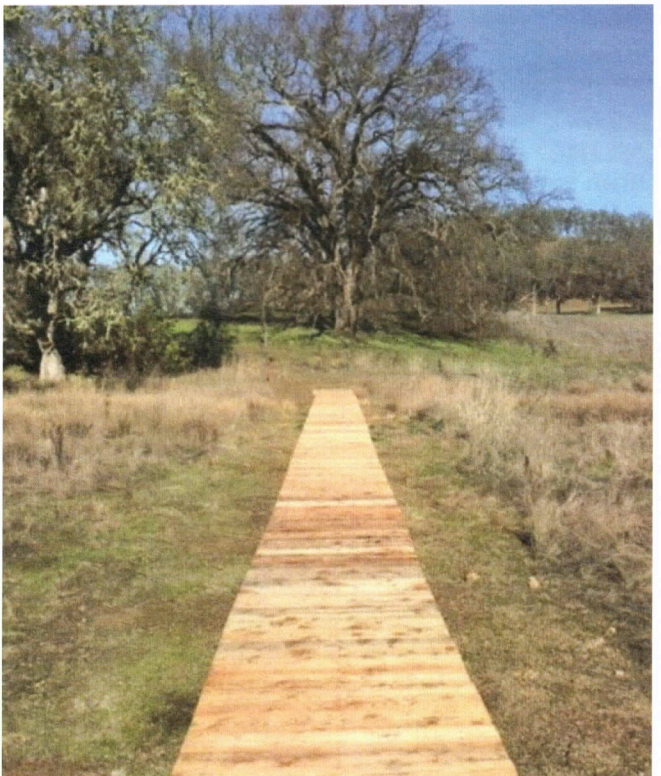
California Primrose (*Oenothera californica*) are often seen at the Rodman Preserve in spring.



Popcorn flowers (*Plagiobothrys nothofulrus*) were in full bloom at the Rodman Preserve in May.



California's State Grass, *Stipa Pulchra* at Rodman preserve.



The finished boardwalk at Rodman Preserve.





Volunteers at work hammering the final boards on the new boardwalk last winter.

## ***Protecting land and caring for it is the goal of the Lake County Land Trust***

*(Continued from page 7)*

Rodman Preserve, concentrating their efforts on tending unique and impressive patches of native California bunch grasses and refurbishing and monitoring the nest boxes of numerous pairs of Tree Swallows and Western Bluebirds. At Rodman you'll find an abundance of Tree Swallow and Western Bluebirds and it is not uncommon to view a Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and even a Bald Eagle on a short one-hour walk. At the entrance to the preserve is an Osprey nest that is currently occupied by an Osprey pair and their two chicks.

The trails are being kept in good condition for walking and visitors have enjoyed the ease of the new boardwalk that was constructed last winter by LCLT board members and a large group of Americorps Volunteers.

### **Rabbit Hill**

Middletown residents enjoy hiking up the short passage to the top of Rabbit Hill where a great view of surrounding peaks can be seen. Informational signs will

soon be installed, pointing out the main mountains and peaks of interest that can be seen from this view-

*(Continued on page 10)*



LCLT volunteer and Stewardship Committee member, Bob Schoenherr, put in a lot of time and work on the new boardwalk at the Rodman Preserve last December.





The Varni easement in eastern Lake County is comprised of unique chaparral and native California bunch grasses and forbs.

## *Protecting land and caring for it is the goal of the Lake County Land Trust*

(Continued from page 9)

point. Thanks to volunteers and artists from the Midletown Art Center (MAC), once you reach the top of Rabbit Hill, you'll be rewarded with a new sculpture installation. And thanks to MAC volunteers and artists, you can relax and enjoy the view from the comfortable seating area surrounding the installation.

### **Boggs Lake**

As co-manager of the Boggs Lake Preserve, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy, LCLT has begun the process of removing the old pier at the lake and installing a new one. The new pier should be installed by early fall. Trails through the wooded area near the lake are open for walking. LCLT has been kept busy removing fallen trees from across the paths. Because of the drought the lake is very low but it is still a lovely place to visit.

### **Easement Monitoring**

The Lake County Land Trust holds three conservation easements that must be monitored on a yearly basis. Easements are on private land where the owner enters into an agreement with LCLT to restrict development on parts of the property in exchange for a tax incentive or sometimes simply to assure continued protection of the property into perpetuity.

One such property is in Eastern Lake County near the McLaughlin Reserve (the former site of the

Homestake Mine.) The property is owned by the University of California, but a conservation easement is held by the LCLT. Board members and LCLT's Executive Director, Tom Smythe, recently visited the property to view the extensive restoration work to encourage native California bunch grasses, forbs, and wildflowers. This work is being carried out by Reserve Managers, Paul Aigner and Cathy Koehler. Cathy is also an LCLT Board Member.

We hope you'll take time to visit some of our LCLT lands in the coming months. If you would like more information about any of these properties or would like to become involved in LCLT's stewardship efforts, please call (707) 262-0707 and leave a message or email us at [lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org).

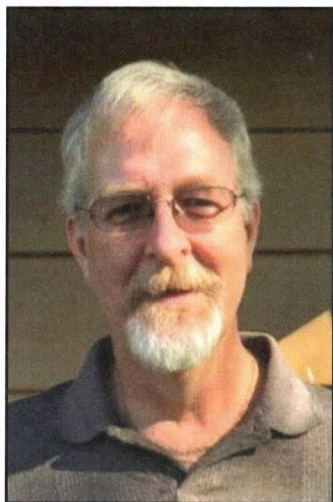


Val Nixon, Tom Smythe and Bob Schoenherr monitoring the Varni easement.



# Executive Director's Message

By Tom Smythe



Tom Smythe

Over the past year and a half, your Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) has continued to steward all of our properties and easements—even with the inconveniences of social distancing and face masks. Now with the advent of vaccines and the corresponding reduction in Covid cases, stewardship will once again become easier and more enjoyable. We look forward to upcoming

efforts, and we look forward to seeing you as we are once again able to socialize at events. We have some exciting pending projects that we have worked on over the last couple years that we hope will come to fruition in the near future.

In the beginning months of COVID, we closed escrow on the Wright Wetland Preserve and are now defining and assessing resources as we develop a comprehensive management plan. We are moving forward with creating a series of trails on the property as we work to restore the 32 acres of wetlands that were

physically separated from Clear Lake about 50 years ago. We have a group of dedicated volunteers who are surveying and identifying plants on the Wright and Melo Preserves. Thanks to iNaturalist these volunteers are able to expertly and with confidence complete their task at hand.

In December, another group of volunteers constructed a 200-foot boardwalk at Rodman Preserve. This boardwalk is designed to make the walking trail at Rodman accessible year-round, even during the wettest of months. Their expert work is impressive and we hope this winter brings lots of much needed rain, giving us plenty opportunity to utilize the boardwalk and appreciate their efforts!

Thanks to the Middletown Art Center, Rabbit Hill is more intriguing than ever with a delightful new art installation. If you haven't taken the opportunity, please consider the mile long hike up to its summit. You'll be rewarded with great local art and fabulous mountain views! With funding now secured, we are in the final stages of replacing the floating platform at Boggs Lake Preserve. Our dry conditions have made this work easier, and our plans are to have it completed by fall.

Thanks to you, our Land Trust continues to grow and make a positive countywide impact. We look forward to our role in protecting important land and water resources in Lake County for many years to come.

## Farewell but not goodbye to Melissa Kinsel



Melissa Kinsel

Melissa Kinsel joined the Lake County Land Trust staff in 2016 in the newly created position of Development Director. Melissa brought with her a deep love of nature, a commitment to Lake County, and an enthusiasm for all that was and today is the Lake County Land Trust, especially our hands-on projects and collaborations.

She was gifted in executing our special events, and took much joy in bringing the community together to support a common cause. Not only have her friendly demeanor and contagious smile been the face of the Lake County Land Trust for the past five years, she has been a tremendously positive force behind our growth and success.

As she moves on to another career, we will miss her but know that she will not be a stranger. We fully expect to see her at the occasional special event and we hope she can carve out time to volunteer.

Please join us in wishing Melissa the very best of luck in her new ventures as we extend sincere gratitude for all she has done to shape the Land Trust over the last half decade.

Thank you, Melissa!





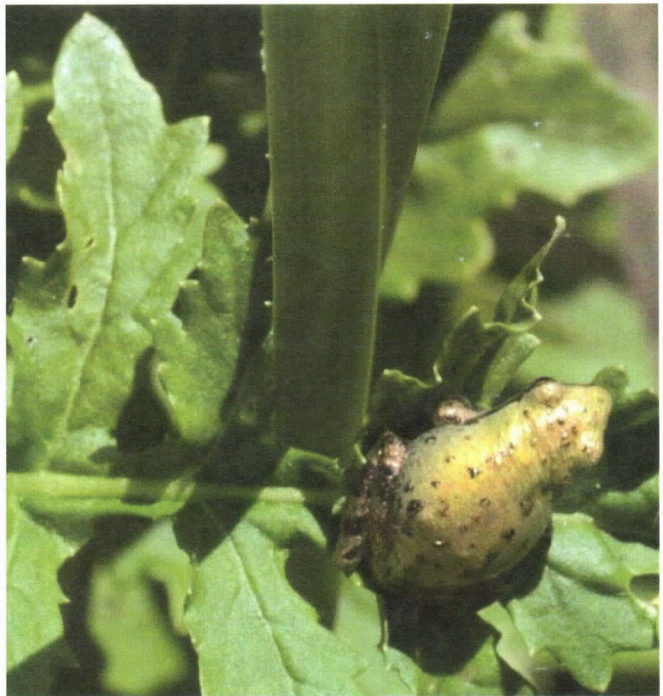
Box Elder grows at the Melo Wetland Preserve.



Western marsh cudweed.



Mud Pattens, also known as mud shoes, come in handy when walking on mudflats.



A beautiful little Sierran treefrog.

## Melo Botanical Survey— Diverse Willows and Mud Shoes

By Erica Lundquist, LCLT Board Member

Who knew a plant survey at the Melo Big Valley Wetlands Preserve on Clipper Lane near the Lands End Subdivision could bring so many surprises? Golden frogs, specialized exploration equipment, and an array of willow species have been some of the highlights.

Developing a thorough list of the plants for a given area requires dedication. Definitive identification of species usually requires having the flowers, and/or fruiting structures, which requires repeated visits to capture different plants as they come into bloom.

So far, two first-rate botanists have volunteered to develop the plant list for the property; Jim Xerogeanes, just retired Head of the Mendocino College Agriculture Department, and Jack Alderson, retired NRCS Engineer. They both joined me on April 17, and Jack returned to continue the plant survey on May 15. Another date was set to be the next day to continue the plant survey, and with Jack's dedication to truly cover the property, specialized equipment will be rolled out.

The two surveys so far have yielded a list of 64 species in 25 different plant families. Of these, eight are trees, including a rich diversity of willows; Hinds' willow (*Salix exigua* var. *hindsiana*), Gooding's black willow (*Salix goodingii*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*

(Continued on page 13)



## Melo Botanical Survey—

(Continued from page 12)

var. *lasiandra*), and Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Other trees present are black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), box elder (*Acer negundo*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). The survey is also helping the Land Trust to recognize invasive, non-native plants that may require management to control their spread. One of concern on the property is perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*).

The irrigation canal that was dug from the lake into the center of the property hosts water-loving plants as the lake level drops. These include the fuzzy-all-over Western marsh cudweed (*Gnaphalium palustre*), and two kinds of yellowcress (*Rorippa curvisiliqua* and *Rorippa curvipes*). Also observed along the canal was a tiny, one-inch-long golden frog. Most likely this is our native chorus frog, now known as the Sierran tree-frog, *Pseudacris sierra*<sup>1</sup>.

The final frontier on the property, the border of trees on the edge of Clear Lake, has been inaccessible so far, with a lagoon separating the peninsula with these trees from the main portion of the property. Jack Alderson has found an intriguing solution: mud pattens. These are akin to snow shoes, but for mud. Online descriptions of mud pattens have been published by groups such as the Langstone and District Wildfowlers and Conservation Association (England) who have long experience with trekking across mud for the purpose of duck hunting. They seem to be rather proud of their mud “often black, glutinous and stinking”, and have discovered the secret to mud-walking which “lies not so much in the board's dimensions, but in the positioning of the foot and the precise method of fastening.” The positioning is to have the foot leaning over the front of the board a bit, so that as one's foot tilts forward to walk naturally, the suction from the mud breaks more easily than if the foot is strapped in the center of the board, which then needs to be pulled straight up to walk.

So the lake level is down, and we now have the technology to cross the lake. As the waterfowlers say “a few minutes practice on the lawn may prevent a potentially disastrous tumble in the mud”. I hope to report soon on mud-walking and maybe another willow species on the Melo property.

1. Online naturalist Michael F. Benard confirmed that this picture looks like a recently metamorphosed Sierran treefrog.



Jack Alderson identifying some grasses.



The Melo Wetlands Preserve is home to a variety of trees as well as different flora. A team of scientists are working on surveying the property and listing the plants and trees that exist there.



## ***LCLT 2020 Membership***

Thank you to our Lake County Land Trust Members! Because we all share a love for our beautiful natural habitat and the life that it sustains, we come together to protect it. It's because of your support that we are able to protect and preserve Lake County's wildlands in perpetuity. Thank you all for the support that you give us to do this vital work. THANK YOU!

### **Golden Eagle: \$1,000+**

Andrew Belschner & Tom DiRenzo  
Aaltje Koski  
Broc & Sharron Zoller  
Dennis Darling  
James & Susan Herrmann  
Kaj & Else Ahlmann  
Lake County Winegrape  
Commission  
Louis Schump  
Norman Eichelmann  
Roy E. Crummer Foundation,  
Board of Trustees  
Russell & Joyce Porterfield  
Sarah Elizabeth Shaver  
Susan Morton  
Richmond Kelly & Heather Conlin  
Edward Oswalt  
Roberta & Harry Lyons  
Sharon & John Reynolds  
Tom & Jacqueline Smythe  
David & Merry Jo Velasquez  
Tom & Val Nixon  
Rick & Suzanna Macedo  
Paul Pennington  
Clear Lake Rimlanders Coalition  
Charlotte Griswold

### **Osprey: \$500- \$999**

Bob Schoenherr  
Dennis Rollins & Cindy Ustrud  
Donald Tripp  
Elodie Weeks  
Ilene Weeks  
John Wise & Evelyn Wachtel  
Lynne Bruner  
Mary Ann & Peter Schmid  
Paul & Jackie Farley  
Russ & RJ Stager  
Susan Smith  
Coast Range Wetlands, Inc.  
Mary Benson  
Brad & Kathy Barnwell

### **Blue Heron: \$100- \$499**

Angela Nuckles  
Arthur Mann  
Barry Brown and  
Joy Roades-Brown  
Bill & Karen MacDougall  
Bill & Lee Ann Gilbert  
Bonny Goselin and  
Danny Samson  
Camden Toy  
Carolynn Jarrett  
Chernoh Excavating, Inc.  
Chiyako Ito  
Chris & Lori Holmes  
Clyde and Doris Toland  
Daniel W &  
Barbara G Christensen  
Dave Kwinter  
David & Helen Menasian  
David B Thiessen  
Denise Petterson  
Doyle E Awtrey & Steven Sartori  
Gary & Pamela Maes  
George Keller &  
Marcia L S McDonald  
Greg B & Lynn R Howerton  
Greg B & Lynn R Howerton  
Iola Bartlett  
Janine Sprecher  
Jed Steele  
Jim & Gail Jonas  
Joyce Anderson  
Judith Rae Mullens  
Judy Luchsinger  
Karen & Kevin Bradley  
Karen & Terry Poplawski  
Kathe A Toy  
Kathleen "Nikka" Deacon  
Kathleen Caldwell  
Kelly Cox  
Kim and Olga Clymire  
Lesley S. Troy  
Linda Marie  
Mark & Lucia Boyle

Mark Janlois  
Martin L & Nicole Schroeder Jr  
Mary Beth & Carl Peter  
Ingvaldstad  
Meredith & Geoffrey Drake  
Michael & Dona Lee  
Nikki & Jerry White  
Nina Marino  
Noble Family Llc  
Pamela J & William E Held Jr.  
Pat and Chuck Brown  
Peter and Kathy Windrem  
Philip & Toni Scully  
Rachel Elkins and Dana Thibeu  
Richard & Peggy Jones  
Robert & J Huddleston  
Rose & Dave Geck  
Sarah Nave  
Sissa & Doug Harris  
Sondra Peterson  
Steve & Carol Ellis  
Steve & Linda Hedstrom  
Steve & Liz Huber  
Steven J & Carol S Schepper  
Sue Samota  
Susan & Roberto Lozano  
Susan Lindstrom  
Susan Parker  
Terry & Aletta Clark  
The 1997 Gibbs Family Trust  
Thomas and Merci Hoskins  
Weldon & Dolores Parker  
William & Susan Groechel  
James Titterington  
Jeannie Vierra  
Eric Richardson  
Barbara Ehr  
Christie White  
Pat Harmon  
Shannon Maurer  
Miguel F & Rebeca O Feijoo  
Philip & Donna Hartley  
Deborah & David Vaughan  
Gary & Kimberly Olson



Jack Elizares  
 Susan Cameron & Richard Koury  
 Tierras Schlies LLP  
 Verna & David Rogers  
 William and Colleen Kranz  
 Green Page, Llc  
 Connie Besgrove  
 Bill & Donna Lou Brown  
 Bob & Carol Prather  
 Glen & Amy Marks  
 Guy W. Kay  
 Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry  
 James and Becky Hiss  
 Joe Bob & Lily Hitchcock  
 John Sheridan & Andrea Duflon  
 Juliette Johnson  
 Karen Kennedy  
 Kerry & Beth Shaver  
 Larry & Kathy Jansen  
 Lorraine James  
 Margaret & Arthur Miller  
 Martha Fiorito  
 Norman & Mo Livermore, III  
 Npn Investments, Llc A California  
 Limited Liabilit  
 Pamela & Bill Bordisso  
 Patsy Thorburn  
 Robert & Dale Reynolds  
 Robert & Laura Allen  
 Roslyn Griffin  
 Royce & Carolee Van Bebber  
 Sharon Weeks  
 Sue & Win Stiles  
 Thomas & Karen Sinclair  
 William B Walker & Holly Hand  
 Denis Eucalyptus  
 Jon & Annette Hopkins  
 Cathy Koehler & Paul Aigner  
 Janet Swedberg  
 John Diederich, Jr.  
 Katherine Lindsley  
 Mark & Shirley Van de Wiel  
 Sara L Dorn  
 Big Valley Properties  
 Donald & Louise Browning  
 John & Ruth Stierna  
 Michael & Angela Alten  
 Michele Quere  
 Nancy E Hodges  
 Olga & Jim Steele

Paula Bond  
 Robert & Cheryl Todd  
 Twin Pine Casino & Hotel  
 Val & Neena Hanchett  
 Victoria Brandon  
 Charles R Krag & Erica Lundquist  
 David A Hicks  
 Jennifer Fox and John Magee  
 Jim & Susanne Scholz  
 Kathy & Thomas Scavone  
 Patricia Rosa  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
 John & Sasha Reynolds  
 Bert & Stephanie Agustinovich  
 Ralph Moore  
 James David Alderson  
 A. Nichols Tree Service

**Snowy Egret: \$20 - \$99**

Brock Falkenberg  
 Debbie Doran  
 Fredrick Veio  
 KC Patrick  
 Nancy Cary Smith and Bob Smith  
 Pauline E Giottonini  
 Sheila O'Hara and  
 Bill Fredriksson  
 Allen Franz  
 Anna Ravenwoode  
 Christine & Wilson Goddard  
 Frank & Sandy Hedley  
 Janis Eckert  
 John Musilli  
 Kenneth & Janet Rosenthal  
 Lois Bakke  
 Loring and Roberta Lynch  
 Pat and Jon Meyer  
 Richard D Nickel  
 Sandra Moura  
 Charlotte and Roy Disney  
 Dennis & Kathryn McKaig  
 Hans & Carol Dobusch  
 Jane and Linda's  
 Custom Framing  
 Kenneth Barnes  
 Neil R & Nancy C Lundy Jr  
 Jody Altic  
 Linda & Ron Green  
 Mary Lou Baird  
 Gerald Logan & Veronica Grey

Virginia Hamilton  
 Cathy Fox  
 Mark & Jeanne Wotherspoon  
 Randall Williams  
 Amy C Behrens  
 Angela & Alan Siegel  
 Arlene Altic  
 Beth and Mark Rudiger  
 Bill and Judy Rett-Barnes  
 Carol Hornish Hays  
 Diane Brookes  
 Elva S Hohn  
 Eugene M Gaffney  
 Evonne Landwehr  
 Gary & Jennifer Rockwell  
 Hidden Valley Storage Llc  
 Jeri L Wylie  
 John & Jeri Vanzetti  
 John & Kennie Winter  
 K Rose Decker  
 Katherine & Ronald Yoder  
 Kris & Nancy Langdon  
 Marie Baker  
 Michael Ellis  
 Pauli & Tom Jeffers  
 Peter McGee  
 Pomo Investment Corp  
 Richard Ross and  
 Carmen Fox-Ross  
 Ross E & Joanne M Currie  
 Salvatore & Annette Daniele  
 Sandra Boorn  
 Steve & Vicki Sukup  
 Steven Kriske  
 Susie LaPointe  
 Teresa Mayorga  
 William & Katherine Perkins  
 Stephanie Hiatt  
 Vicki & John Maley  
 Jim Bridges  
 Stella Winckler  
 Solange Gabany  
 William & Joanne Sharon  
 Cora Ann Blue  
 Diane & Ron Schmurr  
 Jonathan & Charlotte Ambrose



# Giving Tree members are long-time supporters of the Lake County Land Trust

By Roberta Lyons

*The Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) has established the "Giving Tree," a planned giving program that enables members and supporters to leave a legacy gift. We honor these special supporters by featuring them in our twice-yearly newsletters. We are proud to honor these individuals and hope that their example galvanizes others to consider LCLT in their will or trust.*



**John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon**

It is a great pleasure to honor John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon and tell their special story about their connection to the Lake County Land Trust.

John Sheridan was one of the very first supporters of the LCLT. Back in 1999 he was a donor to LCLT's campaign to purchase what eventually became Rodman Preserve. It is in no small part thanks to John that Rodman Preserve eventually became LCLT's flagship property and home to its nature center. He was one of the first people to reinforce to the founding members of the board that this relatively young organization had a critical mission and a bright future.

Although he did not live here, John felt a special connection to Lake County and wanted to create a lasting legacy for his late wife Carolyn Grew-Sheridan and her parents, Ron and Dorothy Grew, who all died within 24 months of each other. All three had an appreciation for the subtle beauty of Lake County and enjoyed their hillside view of Mt. Konocti. He knew that donating to the Land Trust would both honor their legacy and his belief in the importance of preserving valuable wildland habitat in perpetuity.

Living in the Bay Area, John continued his monetary support of the Land Trust and also donated fabulous furniture and artwork he had made himself to LCLT's

silent auctions and fundraising events.

John served in the US Army and received a BA in history from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. After graduation, he began an apprenticeship training program at the Peters Valley School of Crafts in Layton, New Jersey. His career as a craftsman of unique furniture and a teacher of wood working began with his first shop in the Mission in San Francisco and then later on the south waterfront. John taught for nearly 50 years at the Grew-Sheridan Studio, teaching woodworking to interested amateurs, a high percentage of whom were women. He also wrote articles for Woodwork Magazine.

In 2009 John met the second love of his life, Andrea DuFlon. Andrea had lived in Berkeley, CA for 35 years; she and John were married in 2011 and moved to Portland in 2015. Also a widow, Andrea was thrilled to connect with John, who became the second love of her life as well. The two share a passion for art and nature. Andrea received her BA from Mills College in 1969 and an MA from JFK University in 2007. She was a graphic designer for 35 years and then began a new career as a licensed psychotherapist. Continuing with her artistic endeavors, Andrea specializes in fiber sculpture and sculptural basket making using handmade papers, materials found in nature and recycled wire.

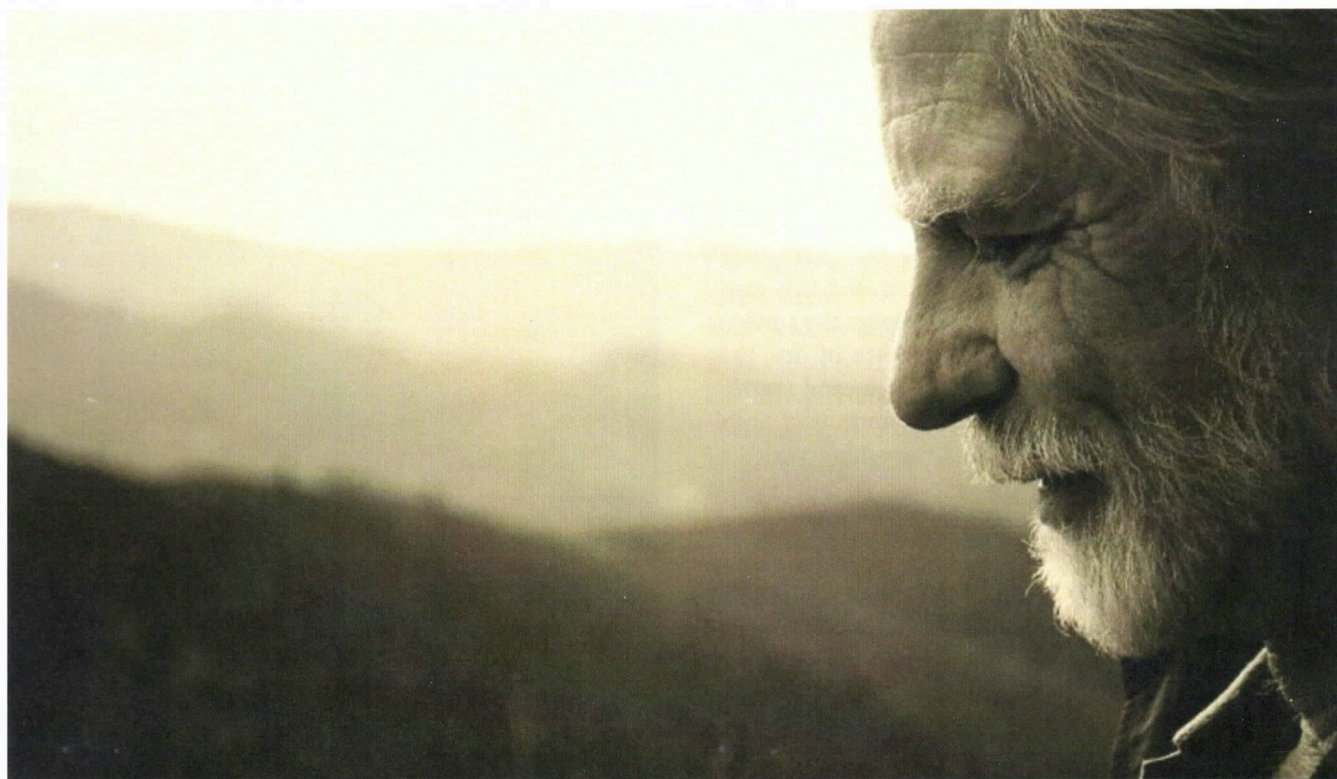
Born in the Seattle area, on the edge of Puget Sound, she spent all of her free time as a child in the woods or on the beach; her parents took her sister and her hiking and backpacking from a young age and she started mountain climbing at the age of 14 with her dad, a well-loved climbing leader with the Seattle Mountaineers. Andrea has climbed all of the major mountains in the Pacific Northwest. (Turns out John was a climber as well and was a member of the Spokane Mountaineers.)

"I am most at home in nature," Andrea notes, and enjoys her extensive knowledge of native plants and herbal medicine.

In 2016 John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon were honored as Land Trust Supporters of the Year. Along with their long-term support, John and Andrea donated the initial \$20,000 that enabled LCLT to begin the purchase of its keystone Big Valley Wetlands property, the 32-acre Melo Wetland Preserve. The couple donated in the name of Andrea's parents, Alta and Bitu DuFlon, to honor them and their love of the natural world.

Thank you, John and Andrea, for everything you have done for the Lake County Land Trust and for honoring us with a legacy gift.





Warren Morton

# One Couple's Legacy

*Significant donation will enable LCLT to follow through on important projects*

**Editor's Note:** Every once in a while something truly miraculous happens for the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT). Something so exciting and encouraging that we have to pinch ourselves to see if it is true. This is one of those times. We are pleased to announce that Lakeport resident, Susan Morton, has donated \$100,000 in stocks to the Lake County Land Trust. The trust was immediately able to sell that stock, transforming it into a \$100K plus. In accordance with Sue's wishes, the funds will be primarily used to improve access and restore the vital wetlands of the Wright Wetland Preserve. Some funding will also be used for improvements at other LCLT properties such as the Rodman Preserve, Rabbit Hill, and the Melo Wetland Preserve.

We cannot thank Sue enough for her generosity. She has graciously allowed us to share her story with other supporters. Read below to learn why Sue felt compelled to make such a significant gift to the Land Trust. We are honored to have earned her confidence and trust. Here is her story. Enjoy!

## A child of California

**By Susan Morton**

I was born in San Diego and lived there till I was 12. My younger sisters were born there too. I remember wonderful Sunday drives into San Diego's "back country" and summer vacations camping at Sequoia National Park. When I was 10 my family hiked the High Sierra Trail—9 days out from Sequoia's west side to Whitney Portal. It was a time of no cell phones, a time

when you could drink the water out of any rivulet cascading down from the snows above. On a typical day, we might pass one or two other people.

I'm a Californian, through and through. I've lived in her sunny southern parts and her foggy northern parts. I very much enjoyed the two years I lived in the high desert country of her Northeast. I love her de-

*(Continued on page 18)*



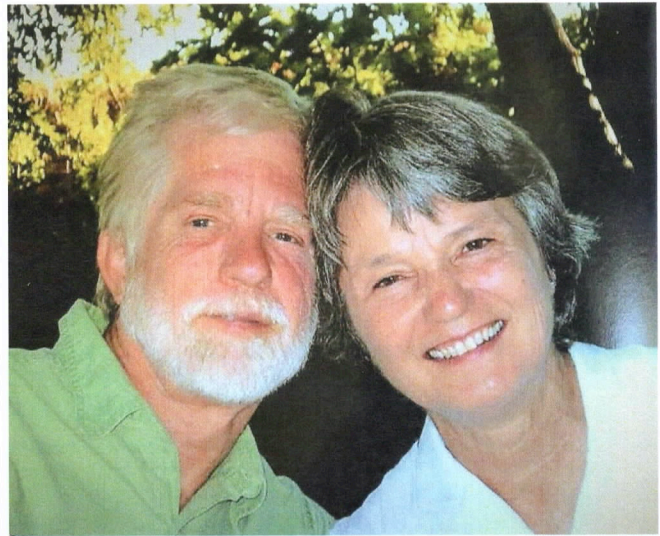
# A child of California

(Continued from page 17)

serts, her mountains and her coast. Here in Lake County, I finally get to live amongst her magnificent oaks. It's always been my favorite.

I met my husband Warren in 1978 and that's when my life got really interesting. Warren had this crazy idea that we would retire from our jobs by the time we were 40, making those first dozen years of our lives together pretty intense. We built houses--and starting with almost no resources other than youth and ambition--we did the work ourselves. I remember very well what it was like to go to my day-job to rest up! I learned how to draw up a plan, frame up a wall, texture drywall, wire an outlet. Warren just seemed to be born with these skills; he was a very smart guy.

And the thing is: We did. We retired when we were 40. It gave us time for the things we really enjoyed--like travel. In Aitutaki, an outer island of the Cook Archipelago, I got the chance to see the South Seas the way Michener may have seen it; I've been to the bottom of the Grand Canyon on a mule; I've traveled to Marrakech on that train. Warren and I traveled very well together, even when things might get a little "sticky." There's an old saying that "travel is hell on earth." I think that entirely depends on who you are



Warren and Sue Morton

traveling with.

It was Warren who taught me that things can happen; that in fact the only guarantee that a thing will not happen is if you don't try. Warren passed away 5 years ago--very suddenly--of a stroke. He more than deserves to enjoy the pleasure of watching these dona-

(Continued on page 19)

Across from the entrance to the Rodman Preserve off of Highway 29 is an active Osprey nest. PG&E erected the nest dish a few years ago to keep the Osprey from nesting on the power pole in the front yard of the Preserve. Since that time it has been an active nest. This year the pair started out with four offspring. Sadly, two of the chicks were found dead on the ground near the nest pole. At first it was thought that only one chick was left, but viewing through a scope revealed that two chicks still survived. This image was taken by a Rodman Preserve visitor, Greta Dimitrova



© Greta Dimitrova



## A child of California

(Continued from page 18)

tions go to work, and although I can't give that to him, I would like to offer the recognition he deserves. I am very grateful for the years I shared with him.

In fact, I wonder if the source of all generosity may be gratitude. If you are grateful for the people with whom you have shared your life—if you recognize how fortunate you were to have been born in this place, and in this time—if your life has offered you opportunities to witness the extraordinary beauty of our accommodating earth—then you may realize that whatever you can do in thanks or in remembrance will not be enough. But you may try.



**FOLLOW US ON  
FACEBOOK  
& INSTAGRAM**

**You can now become  
a Land Trust fan on  
Facebook and Instagram**

**Facebook.com/  
LakeCountyLandTrust  
Instagram.com/  
LakeCountyLandTrust**



## Leave a lasting impact with a legacy gift

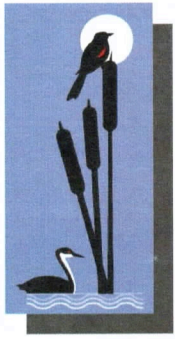
Some LCLT supporters have chosen to support our mission through planned giving—including LCLT in a will or trust—or making another kind of legacy gift. Their foresight and yours, should you choose to join them, ensures the strength and the sustainability of the Lake County Land Trust.

Your planned gift to LCLT will ensure that conservation efforts continue to preserve and enhance vital biodiversity, improve the health of our ancient lake, allow wildlife to flourish, and encourage sustainable economic growth.

Whether you are taking those first important steps toward planning your estate or are in the process of updating your estate plan, please consider including the Lake County Land Trust in your plans.

If you would like more information about Legacy Giving opportunities, please contact Lake County Land Trust board president Val Nixon at (707)331-8321 or email her at [4val944@gmail.com](mailto:4val944@gmail.com).



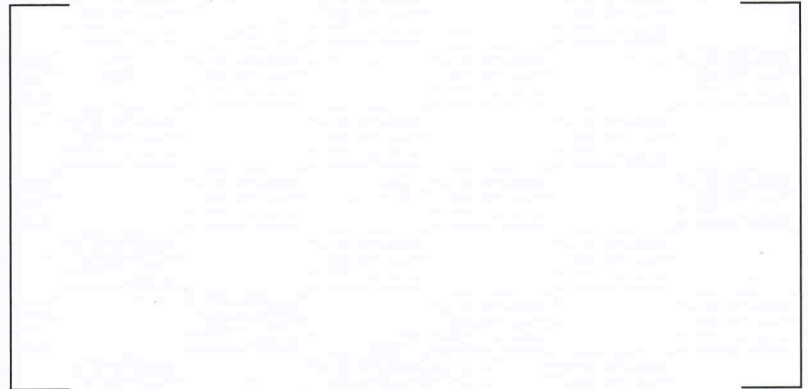


# Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 ~ Phone (707)262-0707

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Lakeport, CA  
Permit #1017

Address Service Requested



**Walks are now open  
every Saturday morning  
at the Rodman Preserve!  
Join us!**



## *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.

### Officers:

President Val Nixon  
Vice-President Bill Lincoln  
Treasurer John Stierna  
Secretary Erica Lundquist

Board Members: Roberta Lyons,  
Catherine Koehler, and  
Merry Jo Velasquez

Finance Director Anne Martin

Executive Director Tom Smythe

### For info contact:

Lake County Land Trust,  
PO Box 1017, Lakeport  
CA 95453 • (707)262-0707

(email)

[lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org)

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

Tax I.D. No. 68-0332712

**A sponsor member of the**



**Lake County Land Trust**