



OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 9 No. 3

Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today

Fall 2002

New Preserve Projects Support Protection Effort

“We’re entering a new phase of our work to protect open space,”

said Jim Jackson, Conservancy President. “The next two years will see plenty of activity at the Ojai Meadows Preserve.” Jackson is referring to the Conservancy’s partnership with Ojai Unified Schools to help restore wetlands habitat, reduce flooding problems and improve school facilities. During the coming years, several acres of the Preserve will be transformed to support a seasonal or year-round wetlands and additional plant and animal species. Wetlands have declined dramatically in California and

Ventura County and are home to many endangered and threatened species. The Preserve originally contained wetlands, but dredging, grading and redirection of water over the past fifty years have greatly diminished the quality of the wetlands.

The Conservancy is also planning to hire a Preserve Assistant at the end of August to help with daily operations at the Conservancy’s open space properties, including The Ojai Meadows. The Assistant will be working with existing and new volunteers, who will educate visitors about the Preserve and its rules. Their presence should make it a safer place for everyone to enjoy with family and friends. *For those interested in meeting the Preserve Assistant and hearing*

about volunteer opportunities, see Events Page 3, “Chatting about Open Space.”

Last November’s 5-acre fire at the Ojai Meadows Preserve



Ojai Meadows Preserve

reinforced to Conservancy staff and board members why our fire management efforts are so critical. Since taking ownership, the Conservancy has worked closely with local fire officials to reduce the risk of fire threatening adjacent residences and schools. Mowing is done each May around the perimeter of the 58-acre property, along walking trails and surrounding the Eucalyptus Grove. This year the Conservancy stepped up its efforts by also reducing the amount of leaf litter, debris piles and small tree saplings in the Eucalyptus Grove. “This area is our biggest concern,” said Pete Johnson, former Education Coordinator. “A fire in the grove could be a serious threat to neighboring homeowners. Removing these ‘fuels’ will greatly

reduce this risk.”

A side benefit of this effort is to give young live oaks and other native plants more sunlight, where they were struggling to survive under the fast growing non-native Eucalyptus. During the next five years, the Preserve will undergo a major habitat restoration effort to return native trees and shrubs to the landscape. “We want to protect the few native plants that presently exist and do whatever we can to boost their chances for survival,” explained David Magney, Conservancy Restoration Committee member and environmental consultant.

The Conservancy also became concerned with people sleeping and starting fires in the grove. The brush clearance has increased visibility into the grove and should discourage these activities. This effort will become an annual project.

LAST CHANCE TO R.S.V.P!

Please call now to reserve and make your payment for

Moonlight On The Meadow Fundraiser

Saturday, September 14th • 5pm

\$60/PERSON

advanced payment required

Call 646-0251 or email ovlc@ojai.net



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LAND CONSERVANCY**

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President's Message

Exploring New Vistas

Wow,...the trees are in, the water is running, and the City is working hard to complete the sidewalks and other final tasks at Cluff Vista Park. It has been a delight to watch what was once an eyesore evolve into a place where residents and visitors can enjoy a tranquil moment and a spectacular view of our surrounding mountains.

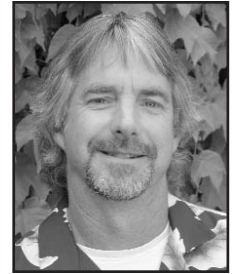
My son Evan I had the privilege of touring Cluff Vista Park not long ago with architect Tom Bostrom. What an experience! At every turn I was impressed by the craftsmanship, artistry and attention to detail that Tom, Andrew Stasse, Susan Van Atta and an excellent crew of men and women have built into the park.

Even more thrilling was to see how much fun my son had during the tour. Everywhere he looked, everywhere he explored there was something that caught his attention—the underground stream, huge boulders, colorful plants and intriguing prints left by visitors from our local animal world. Cluff Vista Park is truly a place for people of all ages!

But Cluff Vista Park isn't the only project we have underway, and the support of our members and volunteers is still the source of our greatest strength. Our mission—which is to preserve and protect open space in the Ojai Valley—becomes more important by the day. Anyone who has driven south lately knows that communities throughout Ventura County are losing valuable open space to large-scale developments at an alarming rate. By itself, the proposed development in Adams Canyon, just over the mountains from upper Ojai, could potentially add 2,250 homes, two hotels and 150,000 square feet of retail space to the City of Santa Paula.

While there is less of a threat here in Ojai, there is still a need to balance preservation against development in a way that promotes a responsible stewardship of our remaining open space. I thank you for being a part of that effort, and I look forward to seeing you at our annual "Moonlight on the Meadow" event on September 14th.

Jim Jackson



Special Thanks

Pat Hartmann for preparing a series of informative press releases regarding our annual event.

"The Quail Crew" lead by **Joyce Greene**, who put together our elegant *Moonlight On The Meadow* invitations.

Marqui and **Bob Bury** for providing all the tasty food and drinks for July 4th volunteers.

Jeff Brinkman, For The Sake Of Salmon, for providing a biological evaluation of Steelhead Trout habitat on the middle reaches of the Ventura River.

Janet Mahon, Bank Of America, for securing a \$2,500 grant for the Conservancy's ongoing education and land protection efforts.

July 4th Volunteers for keeping the Preserve safe. **John** and **Kathy Broesamle**, **Terry** and **Kathy Chaffee**, **Jon Dieges**, **Dawn Engel**, **Roger Essick**, **Rich Handley**, **David Intner**, **Vickie Peters**, **Scott Silver**.

Terry Chaffee for answering the call for Office Volunteers. Terry has offered to help in the office on a weekly basis.

Leticia Ortiz for working, two days—all day—with the annual event support team assembling invitations. Also, Leticia is volunteering time on a weekly basis to help in our office. We are very grateful for her enthusiasm and commitment.

Merrill Williams and **Thad Hyland**, Ojai Valley Inn & Spa, for their \$2,500 Moonlight On The Meadow sponsorship

Upcoming Events

CONSERVANCY CALENDAR

Art Reception For Open Space Friday, September 6 • 5:30pm-7pm The Oaks at Ojai

Artist Bob Larkin has chosen to donate 30% of the proceeds from the sale of his latest collection of still life oils to the Conservancy. The reception will honor his works and his generosity. RSVP to Elizabeth Horton at 805-646-5573 or elizabeth@oaksspa.com

Fuelbreak Road Hike Sunday, September 8 • 9am-noon Meet at top of Gridley Road

Hike the Conservancy's trail easement and enjoy the deep chaparral forest and distant valley views with former Conservancy President, John Broesamle. Call 646-5948 for more information.

Moonlight On The Meadows Fundraiser Saturday, September 14 • 5pm-9pm

Food, drink, beautiful scenery, live music, great auction items and all your friends will be there to celebrate open space and raise funds for the Conservancy. \$60 per person.

Chatting About Open Space Tuesday, September 24 • 5:30pm-7:00pm Dawn and Jim Engel's House

Come meet the new Preserve Assistant and hear about the latest plans for our Preserves and volunteer opportunities to become involved in protecting open space. Refreshments will be served.



3rd Annual Song Dog Ranch Campout Saturday and Sunday • October 12-13

Come join us for good food, drink and conversation under the big sky of the Cuyama Valley. We'll have music and storytelling too, plus hiking and nature study. All the cooking is taken care of by our hosts. Tents and other camping gear are available for rent. \$35/adult and \$20/child.



All programs require pre-registration, except where noted. Call 646-0251 or email us at ovlcevents@ojai.net

**Cluff Vista Park Dedication
Friday, October 18 • 5:30pm-7:00pm**
Come celebrate the "Blight to Beauty Campaign" and all those who contributed to the creation of the park.

Preserve Dedication Ceremony Saturday, November 16 • 11am-12:30pm

Come celebrate and honor those who contributed to the protection of the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

Sisar Creek Hike Saturday, November 16 • 8:30am-10:30am Meet at upper end of Sisar Canyon Rd.

The hike is moderate uphill on a fire road with beautiful views of the Topas. Call Gabriele Lashly at 646-9958 for more information.

Art Benefit For Open Space



This September The Oaks Gallery at The Oaks in downtown Ojai is pleased to be showing "Chosen Objects: 10 new paintings" by the San Francisco artist Robert Larkin. A reception honoring the artist is scheduled for Friday, September 6th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Robert Larkin will be contributing 30% of all proceeds to the ongoing efforts of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. This will be the second time Larkin has contributed proceeds from the sale of his paintings to the Conservancy. "Chosen Objects: 10 new paintings" is a series of still life oil paintings that give emphasis to objects found in the background of photos from the pages of interior design magazines. "For this body of work I looked for the overlooked and gave it center stage. The importance is not so much in the object painted, but in the time and efforts taken to understand it.," says Larkin.

Beverages and light hors d'oeuvres will be served. The Oaks Gallery is open to the public seven days a week. RSVP for the art reception is appreciated but not required: Elizabeth Horton at 805-646-5573 or elizabeth@oaksspa.com. To view these and other works by Robert Larkin please visit www.robertlarkin.com.

Conservancy News Briefs

Thanks Pete

Pete Johnson, the Conservancy's Education Coordinator, has left his position after a year and a half. During that time, Pete succeeded in expanding the *Wild About Ojai* program to include students throughout Ojai Unified Schools. In addition, he secured several grants to make "Quilly's Crew" marionette program a reality. His work with at-risk students from Chaparral High School and mentors from California Institute for the Arts was widely respected. Pete's other duties included overseeing the management of the Ojai Meadows Preserve. We wish Pete the best on his new adventures!



Conservancy staff Carole Cascio and Jill Greene Silver with former Education Coordinator Pete Johnson

Ojai Valley Inn Sponsorship

The Inn, who has been a long time Conservancy supporter, has again agreed to be an event sponsor for the *Moonlight On The Meadows* fundraiser in September. This year's \$2,500 gift is the largest event sponsorship ever received by the Conservancy. Event sponsors help to offset event expenses and increase the amount raised that can be used directly for open space protection. "We couldn't have such a wonderful event without their support," said Carole Cascio, Events Coordinator. Other generous event sponsors include: Ventura Party Rental; David Kaplan, NAL Capital; RAINS Department Store; Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe; Waite, Jacobs and Atkinson, Attorneys at Law; Tottenham Court; Morgan Stanley; Meiners Oaks Ace Hardware; Grove Care, Inc.; Jill Greene Silver and Scott Silver, Silver Construction; Mailboxes Etc.; and Ojai Stitchworks.

Bank of America Provides \$2,500 Grant

Bank of America and local Bank President, Janet Mahon's generosity will be used to further the mission of the Conservancy by providing the tools and resources necessary to complete more successful open space projects. Mahon presented the check at the Conservancy's June board meeting. "We were very excited when Janet called us regarding our grant request," said Jim Engel, Executive Director. Volunteers, Kathy Broesamle and Michael Shapiro, worked closely with Mahon to prepare the successful proposal.

Open Space Committee Makes Headway

"Now the tough work begins," explains Jim Engel, Conservancy executive director and co-chair of the County's Open Space District Advisory Committee. The 41-member committee comprised of representatives from environmental, agricultural and other business groups from throughout the County has been directed by the County Board of Supervisors to develop a series of recommendations on how the Open Space District will operate and be funded. The committee has already determined a series of guiding principles for the committee and has funded a facilitator to guide the group towards a final report next Spring. A ten-person working committee will gather pertinent information on a governance structure, criteria for ranking projects and the percentage of funds to be allocated to agricultural and wildlife habitat protection and urban recreation projects.



New Members

Thank you to our new members for their exceptional support. The Conservancy's successes in the last year are due to the generous financial and volunteer support of our members.

Bank Of America	Joanne & Richard McFerron
Blatz, Pyfrom & Associates, L.L.P.	Elizabeth Morgan
Patricia Burton	Christine & Richard Osborne
Pearl & Roy Hammerand	Denise & Greg Stafford
Betty McCurley	

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS GIVEN BY WENDY LOCKWOOD TO

Barbara Bowles
Cathy Cogan Hawkins
Lockwood Brothers Construction
Linda & Manuel Nunez
Kent Millar & Yoko Kuboto

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF DR. CAROL SALTZMAN

Joanne and Richard McFerron
Denise and Greg Stafford

DONATIONS MADE IN HONOR OF SYLVIA AND DR. SHLOMO RAZ

Barbara & Charles Blander M.D.

DONATION MADE IN MEMORY OF SUSAN TALLYN

Susan and John Bee
Hope Frazier
Pearl and Roy Hammerand

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF DEBBIE FRAUND

Maurya Foy

DONATIONS MADE IN MEMORY OF JANITH PULVER

Dottie & Jim Loebel

NEWEST PARK DONORS: CLUFF VISTA PARK

Christine & Richard Osborne

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

Dawn & Jim Engel
Jill Greene Silver
& Scott Silver
Nancy & Bill Hammond
RAINS Department Store



CORPORATE MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

Double your support for open space!
Many employers will match your contributions to the Conservancy.

Verizon Foundation on behalf of Dawn Engel

Renewals

Every year, hundreds of our members choose to renew their membership. Thanks for your exceptional support! We are happy to recognize the following individuals and businesses who have renewed their membership since early August. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Gael Belden	Ruth Lasell & Bob Bonewitz
Randi & Michael Bennett	Maren & Phil Long
Carol Bishop	Bill & Lucy Lucking, Jr.
Ruth Lasell &	Claudia & Drew Lurie
Bob Bonewitz	Mindy & Stephen Maloon
Caryn & Charles Bosson	Amanda McBroom Ball &
Kristin & Alex Brodie	George Ball
Kathy & John Broesamle	Kathy McCann True &
Donna Tilmont Busch	Glenn True
Claire Clark	Monika & Gerhard Miehle
Bill Clinton & Ginny Smith	Denise & Robert Miller
Barbara & Darrel Crowder	Geraldine & Dean Miner
Ann Crozier & James Duke	Heather Mobarak
Rita DePuydt	Anne & Stephen Morris
Margaret Dieges	Andrea & John Nelson, M.D.
Mary & Rene Diets	Tracy & Chris Oakland
Christine &	Angela & Anthony Ocone
Sanford Drucker	(through the Tides Foundation)
Kim & Jim Exon	Ojai Rexall Drugs
Neal Filer	Carrol & Dutch Atchley
Joan & John Fullerton	Sara & Steve Olsen
Cheryl & Dean Geiser	Randi Orlando
Donn Gladstone &	Joan Peters &
Kelly Newman	Peter Passell
Kathy & Tony Glassman	Nancy Pepper
Patty & Seabury Gould	Linda & Ron Phillips
Linda & Frank Granat	Marilyn & Larry Shames
Trina & Jesse Grantham	Laurel Moore &
Kris & Trent Greco	Arne Schmidt
Barbara & Stan Greene	Valerie & Dietrich Schmidt
Joyce & Roderick Greene	Dave Selby
Carol Wade & Bill Hak	Edward Smith
Mark Halvorsen	Jan Smithers &
Mr. & Mrs. Hammerschmitt	Brett Smithers
Meredith Hart	Alice & Peter Soracco
Elizabeth & Michael Hermes	Susan Speer & Gene Miller
Barbara &	Kale Starbird & Ray King
Dr. Anthony Hirsch	Betsy Patterson &
Rikki Horne &	Al Stroberg
Rudolph Petersdorf	Twila Tate
Camille & Kent Houston	Eve Venturi
Connie & Tom Hunt	Pat Weinberger
Kitty & Johnny Johnston	Joy Wenzlaff
Maggie & John Kaufman	Heidi & Andrew Whitman
Denise & Brett Kantrowitz	Catherine Wilcox
Jan & Marc Key	George Wymer
Julia & Edward Kopta	Chris & Brian Zeiner
Carole & Ken Lakes	

Ways to Help

JOIN THE 'HEART' OF OPEN SPACE

Jill and Jim are looking for a few enthusiastic individuals to volunteer at the office to work on mailings, special projects and other office duties. We'd love to see you a few hours each week or even once a month will do.

LOVE THE OUTDOORS?

Our new Preserve Assistant will be working with *volunteers* to help protect our open space properties. See *Events Page 3*, "Chatting About Open Space."

PARTY!

We are still requesting help for the day of the annual *Moonlight On The Meadow* event and there are a whole series of other events between now and the end of the year, which need your enthusiasm and experience.

SO JOIN US!

Give Carole a call at 646-0251 or email her at ovlcevents@ojai.net and tell us how you can help.



MAKE YOUR PAYMENT & RESERVATION NOW!
MOONLIGHT ON THE MEADOW • SEPTEMBER 14, 2002



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