

# OPEN SPACES



## BLAZING TRAILS FOR YOU

### PUTTING YOUR DONATIONS TO WORK FOR OJAI

#### Volunteers Make it Happen

*Mike Gourley, Leon Pahle and Marty Mellein (pictured top, left to right) have dedicated many long, hard days helping with trail clearing on the Ventura River Preserve.*

*Mike Gourley and Mark Tolkmitt (not pictured) recently helped with trail clearing on Fuelbreak Road.*



*Linde Wainwright, Leanne Campbell and Mary Jo Davy help repair a trail on the Ventura River Preserve.*

2010 has been the year of the trails for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. With the help of many volunteers, generous benefactors and grant funding, we've been putting your membership dollars to work on the trails of the Ventura River Preserve, the Ojai Meadows Preserve, Fuelbreak Road and the Ilvento Preserve.

These trail extensions and improvements are great examples of how every membership dollar can be multiplied to provide projects that benefit our community. By securing grant funding and working with the help of our dedicated volunteers we can accomplish projects far beyond what we could do on our own.

#### NEW AND IMPROVED TRAILS ON THE VENTURA RIVER PRESERVE

As of this month, over three miles of new trails have been cleared on the Ventura River Preserve, and the new

Baldwin Road trailhead will begin construction in November. Funded by a grant from the California River Parkways program, this trailhead will provide trail access to the southern end of the preserve. The Baldwin Road Trailhead will feature an equestrian friendly parking area, interpretive signage and nearly one-half mile of paved trail for wheelchair access. Be sure to watch for an announcement of the grand opening this spring.

On the north end of the Ventura River Preserve, a new trail has been cleared extending the reach of the Rice Canyon trail up to the Kennedy Ridge where spectacular views can be seen. Though this trail is now only open on the Ventura River Preserve, it is our hope that by working in partnership with the Forest Service, one day it will pave the way to a connection with

## The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Welcomes Two New Board Members



**NATHAN WALLACE**

Nathan has been an Ojai resident for most of his life and has grown strong

roots here. He spends the majority of his time with his wife Rebecca and their baby boy, Archer. He also enjoys having extended family members to visit right here in Ojai. An avid hiker, camper, and skier, he enjoys doing just about anything outdoors. What better place for him to call home than Ojai?

Nathan is a financial consultant for Grasswood Partners, a consulting firm based in Malibu, California.

Nate is happy to join the board of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and looks forward to helping protect and preserve the lands that he and his family enjoy here in the Ojai Valley.



**DEBORAH WHORF**

Deborah is a converted transplant from the east coast who has happily adapted

and totally immersed herself in the Ojai community and culture.

She came to Ojai in 1998 to assist with the completion of the Ojai Valley Inn's new spa and became the Project Coordinator for the Inn's vast \$90M renovation. Deborah is currently the Engineering Manager overseeing general maintenance and projects at the Inn.

Deb spends most weekends enjoying her horse Winston, while riding throughout the Ventura River Preserve. Additionally Deb and her husband Bill, enjoy exploring California whenever they can find free time and visiting family on the east coast.



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Brian Stark, *Conservation Director*  
Tom Swetek, *Restoration Technician*

## JIM AND DAWN ENGEL COME TO TOWN



On a recent trip to Ojai Jim Engel, former OVLC Executive Director, and his family joined a few old friends for a picnic at Hermitage Ranch. As she stood

watching Jim, Dawn and Abbey play with friends near the pond, Carol Bishop said "Jim is like an old shoe, no matter how long it's been, he always fits perfectly." Jim reminded us of that as he and Greg Gamble, current Executive Director played a game of OVLC trivia.

Jim expressed his excitement about how far we've come and what's still to come on the road ahead. He reminded us to always seize an opportunity to tell a neighbor about the importance of OVLC's work. Jim's roots grew deep in the time he was here, it's good to know how much he still cares.

Many thanks to Roger Essick for hosting a picnic to remember.

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Forest Service trails to the north.

We're excited to announce that OVLC has been awarded a new grant which will fund long-needed trail improvements on the Wills Canyon trail.

Unlike common grants that provide cash, this grant will come in the form of crew time by the California Conservation Corps (CCC). The OVLC will receive 5 days of crew time that will be put to use repairing two eroding sections of the Wills Canyon Trail. Each crew consists of 12-15 members, so we will have a lot of people power.

The grant program is a partnership between the California Council of Land Trusts and the California Conservation Corps, both long-term partners of the OVLC.

See details about the project in the green callout box below.

## TRAIL CLEARING ON THE ILVENTO PRESERVE

In an ongoing partnership between the OVLC and The Thacher School, Preserve Manager Rick Bisaccia met with Thacher faculty Bo and Julie Manson, Brian Pittick and a group of students to work for the second time

this year on the Ilvento Preserve trails. In an April talk before the faculty and students of the school, the OVLC Preserve Manager enlisted a core group of student volunteers to work on the



trails several times a year. Out of this has grown a new club called the Thacher Conservancy Club spearheaded by student Chasen Smith of Santa Barbara. The club and the OVLC have had two successful trail work days followed by donuts and orange juice generously provided by the Mansons.

The next trail work day is scheduled for Saturday, December 4th from 9:30am -12:30pm. Anyone interested in helping should contact Rick Bisaccia, Preserve Manager at rick@ovlc.

## VIEWING BENCHES AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNS FOR THE OJAI MEADOWS PRESERVE

Thanks to the generosity of a local family of consummate birders and nature enthusiasts who love spending time on the Ojai Meadows Preserve, visitors will soon enjoy two new viewing benches and a self-guided tour via three new interpretive signs.

While taking a stroll on the Ojai Meadows is always a delight, now there will be two places to sit among nature's wonders and enjoy the many sights and sounds of wildlife.

In addition to the new kiosk sign that was recently installed, three new interpretive signs will help inform visitors about the Ojai Meadows wetlands restoration project, how the wetlands of the Meadow impacts our watershed, and what wildlife has returned since the restoration project began in 2007.

"We're so pleased to be able to help this project come to life for visitors" said one of the donors. "It's such a special place, and hopefully this will help to bring about a better understanding of what is being done here."

## WILLS CANYON TRAIL WASH-OUTS TO BE REPAIRED

The CCC project in Wills Canyon will repair two gullies that have formed along the banks of Wills Creek. Drainage off the trail, combined with water flowing in the creek have created gullies that threaten to wash out the Wills Canyon Trail. OVLC's solution is to modify the drainage on the trail to prevent erosion, and to stabilize the lower stream banks to keep excess sediment from entering Wills Creek.

The stream bank repair will be done using live willows and coconut fiber netting in a design called a "soil wrap". A soil wrap is built by wrapping soil in erosion control netting in the shape of a taco with the closed end facing the creek. (see illustration) These wraps are stacked on top of each other in a terraced pattern to create a natural bank slope. Between

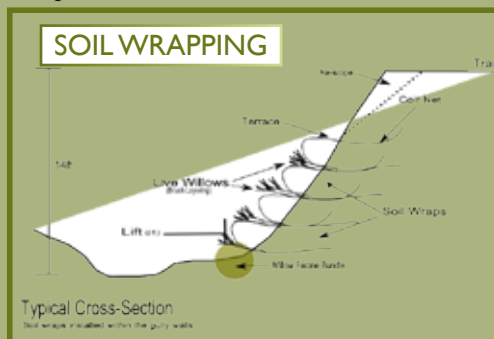
each wrap live willow branches are layered which will ultimately root into the bank and result in a naturally stabilized bank. The netting holds the soil until the willows grow, then biodegrades in a few years.

Methods that use natural materials to create structural protection of stream banks are called "bioengineered" structures. Experienced OVLC staff will use this

opportunity to train CCC crews on how to build soil wraps so this natural approach to stream bank repair can be used on other sites throughout the region.

The young men and women of the CCC work throughout the state on projects to improve the environment and respond in emergencies such as fires and floods to help protect the public. With a motto that reads "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions... and more!", we know they're up for the challenge.

The California Council of Land Trusts represents 150 small land trusts throughout California providing legislation tracking, support and training opportunities for local land trusts. We are grateful for the support of our partners, they make great things possible.



## NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE SERIES AT CLUFF VISTA



This fall, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, Bostrom & Associates Landscape Architecture, and the City of Ojai are co-hosting a native plant gardening series at Cluff Vista Park.

Cluff Vista Park, a project of the OVLC and the City of Ojai was made possible by Don and Sheila Cluff and many community partners. It is a treasure in the heart of downtown Ojai featuring California native plants in several themed gardens.

Many thanks to the participants in the program who have gained insight into the care and steward-

ship of a native plant garden while helping care for the community park. Participants are also helping to plan for the future evolution of the gardens, with a focus on reducing water consumption and maintenance.

"It's so great that so many people learned while weeding and planting too. I noticed the difference when I visited Cluff Vista Park today. Thank you all" said Sheila Cluff.

Tom Bostrom, landscape architect and arborist, who helped design the park and has continued to provide volunteer oversight for the gardens, has generously given of his time and expertise to lead this program. Tom's knowledge and passion for native landscapes has been an inspiration for volunteers as they improve their knowledge and skills with native plant and tree care.

Preparation for the series began in July when volunteers cleared weeds from the gardens to prepare them for planting in the fall. During the first two sessions in September, partici-

pants learned about the needs and growth patterns of native plants, and natural pruning techniques. They put their new-found skills to work to help care for the Cluff Vista gardens. On October 30th a planning session will be held to select plants which will be planted at the final session on November 14th.

To participate in the final two sessions, call 640-6852 ext. 2 or email [info@ovlc.org](mailto:info@ovlc.org) to reserve your spot. The only cost to participate in the series is a commitment to helping out with the ongoing stewardship of the Cluff Vista Park gardens three times during 2011.



### Ventura County Pastel Artists Fundraising Raffle to Benefit the OVLC

The Ventura County Pastel Artists, a group of 20 local award winning pastel artists, are inspired by the incredible beauty of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Preserves. They have decided to raise funds and awareness of OVLC's conservation efforts through the raffle of 4 original pastels depicting their impressions of the OVLC Preserves at their "Fall Festival" Art Exhibit and Show. Paintings valued at \$200 each, will be donated by Bert Collins, Lori Corradi, Emily Goldfield and Kale Starbird. Every \$5.00 donation will receive an entry into the raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Two paintings will be raffled each day. Winners need not be present to win.

The art show will be held on November 6, from 3 - 7pm and on Sunday, November 7 from 11am -3pm, at the West Hills Gallery at 1545 Cuyama Road (at the corner of Hwy 33 and El Roblar), in Ojai.



*Mist on the Ventura River* by Lori Corradi is among the pastels to be raffled.

### SPECIAL THANKS

To Alan Charlesworth and Frank's Rooter Service for their help at the Ojai Meadows Preserve nursery. They went above and beyond!

To volunteer Trevor Marshall for help on many projects on the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

To volunteer Allison Muench for helping in so many ways. It's great to have the support of such an ambitious high school senior.

To Amanda McBroom and Laurel Masse for bringing a beautiful evening of song to benefit the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

To Allegra Roth, thanks for a great summer and welcome to Elisa Neville, new nursery manager.

## GENEROUS DONORS WILL PROVIDE A CHALLENGE MATCH FOR END OF YEAR GIFTS

We're happy to announce that once again, two of Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's most dedicated supporters have generously offered to match your end of year gift.

"We truly believe in the mission of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and we feel that this is the best way we can really make a difference in this valley. Hopefully it will be an inspiration to others to give," expressed one of the donors.

We are grateful to these special supporters and hope that their generosity inspires you, like it does us.

### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEMBERSHIP AND END OF YEAR GIFTS?

**Annual membership dues** are important to keeping the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy financially fit throughout the year, keeping the bills paid and the staff hard at work to protect and restore Ojai's natu-

ral places. We thank you if you have renewed your membership already this year whether in response to our spring membership drive or at whatever time of year works best for you.

**End of year gifts** are an opportunity to make a second gift which will result in a significant impact for the protection of the Ojai Valley. In addition to the fact that your end of year gift will be matched, it will allow us to do much more conservation in 2011.

OVLC staff is currently working on some important conservation projects and your end of year gift increases the likelihood that they will come to fruition in 2011. These projects are exciting and are impactful economic, aesthetic, and recreational contributions to the Ojai Valley.

By investing in our work, your dollars are not only matched but are also



*See your gift multiply by giving generously during this year's end of year matching gift appeal. Show your support for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy and to our generous matching donors. Thanks so much for your support!*

multiplied as we work to secure large grants for land purchases and ecologic restoration projects. Grant funds are strictly limited to these purposes and cannot be used for day to day expenses so we're thankful for your ongoing support.

Look for your annual gift appeal soon for details about this year's challenge match.



Have you ever wished you could explore the Ventura River Preserve with someone who knows the trails and what there is to see? Or learn more about the Ojai Meadows Preserve wetlands restoration?

Join us for a guided walk on the first Saturday of every month at 8:30am at either the Ventura River Preserve or the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

## MONTHLY PRESERVE TOURS NOW OFFERED

For a great chance to get to know your local preserves, come meet our awesome volunteer docents, and take a walk. You'll learn about the history of the land, its ecological significance, plant and wildlife information, how the preserves are important to our watershed and about OVLC's restoration activities. Learn more about trail systems, preserve use and safety guidelines while on the preserves.

Special thanks to our docents, Kathy Broesamle, Anita Cramm, Bill Fox, Trina Grantham, Angie Heald, Ernie Rischar, Cricket Twichell, Art Vander and Barbara Washburn. Each docent brings their own special knowledge and interests to the tours so there is always something interesting to learn.

**The Ventura River Preserve tour...** meets at 8:30am at the Riverview Trailhead on Rice Road just south of El Roblar. This hour and a half walk is on flat land, but wear sturdy shoes, as terrain is uneven.

**The Ojai Meadows Preserve tour...** meets at 8:30am on Maricopa Highway in front of the preserve at the pullout. This one hour walk is on flat, easy terrain. This is a great walk for birders too. For more information, or to inquire about a private tour, email us at [info@ovlc.org](mailto:info@ovlc.org) or call 805 649-6852.

**Join us for the next tour on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th**

# MEMBERSHIP

## THANKS TO RENEWING MEMBERS

Thanks to all of our loyal members who faithfully give every year to help protect your views, trails, water and wildlife. It is only through your generosity that we can do what we do. Even in times like these, you have helped keep the doors open to continue the work that we do. And we do it for you! We appreciate you so much.

In case you haven't yet sent your annual membership renewal, please use the convenient renewal form on the back of this newsletter or renew online at [www.ovlc.org/give](http://www.ovlc.org/give).

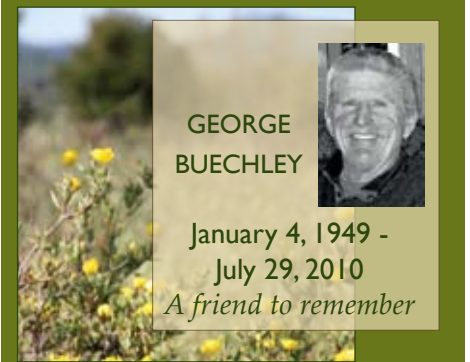
## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

Every year we count on the growth of our membership so remember to tell your neighbors, friends and family about the work we do in the Ojai Valley. Remember, it takes a community!

Recently we heard from Vieva Kendig, a new member who is excited to have joined the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

*"I moved to Ojai recently and have been curious about the different parks and trails in the surrounding hills. Last evening I walked along the Ojai Meadows Preserve trail and was delighted to see the pond, cattails and various birds enjoying this little oasis. When I got home I looked up OVLC and of course I wanted to join. I'm looking forward to receiving the newsletters and to learn of upcoming hikes. What a magnificent place this is--the oaks, the open space and surrounding mountains, the birds, the smell and color of it all. It is a retreat for human and wildlife to be preserved forever. Thank you for your work! Vieva"*

Thank you Vieva for joining us!



Special thanks to all who gave so generously in his memory.

Karen & Gary Bednorz  
Yvon & Malinda Chouinard  
Sarah Clark  
Michael J. Jauregui & Susan Olson  
Harve & Roberta Johnson  
Tom & Rebecca Lowe  
Kyle McIntosh  
Shaun Mueller  
Ann & Harry Oppenheimer

## Thanks to OVLC friends for your MEMBERSHIP contributions received BETWEEN JUNE 15 and SEPTEMBER 15.

### President's Circle

John & Kathy Broesamle  
Frank & Linda Granat  
Stuart Meiklejohn &  
Mary Ann O'Connor  
Ann & Harry Oppenheimer

### Friends of the Ojai Valley

Jim & Susan Jackson  
Marilyn & Alissa Wallace  
Nathan & Rebecca Wallace  
Deric & Barbara Washburn  
Huora L. Williams

### New Members

Gwen E Bell  
Fred & Carol Breneman  
Courtney Cole  
Karen & Craig Harris  
Vieva L Kendig  
Thomas & Erin Rendulic

### Gifts in Honor & Memory

John & Kathy Broesamle  
-In honor of Don & Sheila Cluff  
50th Wedding Anniversary

Harve & Roberta Johnson -  
In memory of Jerry Zutavern

### Renewing Members

Michael Allen  
Lincoln & Sheila Anderson  
Shed & June Behar  
Steve Bennett &  
Leslie Ann Ogden

Cecily Blake  
Barbara Bowman &  
Sol de la Torre Bueno  
Maren Briggs  
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Terry Thompson  
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## BUSINESS SPONSOR PROFILES

Thank you Rabobank and Rains for your support!



The agricultural heritage of the Ojai Valley is important to its residents and businesses. Rabobank is proud to have roots in agriculture and to be a valued partner to farmers and ranchers throughout California. Rabobank builds long-term partnerships with its customers, understands their businesses, their market, and their unique financial needs. Rabobank has business specialists who combine extensive expertise with Rabobank's resources to offer loan packages for ag and other businesses including equipment loans and leasing, operating credit, real estate loans and more.



Cari Guerrero has been the branch manager at Rabobank since 2007. Cari said, "There is nothing better than to be able to live and work in a place like Ojai.

I am especially fortunate to work for a company that values its clients and communities. As a lifetime resident of Ojai and a mother, it seems natural to me for Rabobank to partner with OVLC. Ojai is a special place. I want my family to be able to enjoy it in the future."

For information about business products or personal banking at Rabobank stop by or call Cari at 805-667-6562.



**Rains Of Ojai**

Rains of Ojai, located in Ojai's historic arcade, is a one of a kind upscale country store and has served the Ojai Valley and been managed by the same family since 1914.



Alan Rains has owned and run the store since 1969. Alan & Jan Rains have been steadfast supporters of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy for over twenty years.

Shop at Rains this holiday season for:

- Free festive holiday gift wrap in November and December
- In-store demonstrations from November 3rd thru 7th
- 20% off everything in the store from November 26th thru 28th
- Great online gift shopping including kitchen accessories, gourmet foods, outdoor living, and more
- Excellent customer service and the content feeling that you are supporting Ojai's economy

Stop by Rains next time you are walking downtown and you will be surprised at the new merchandise you'll find to inspire your holiday shopping.

Located at 218 E Ojai Ave  
[www.rainsofojai.com](http://www.rainsofojai.com)

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**OJAI VALLEY  
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Attorneys at Law  
Wildland Fire Specialists, LLC

**IN-KIND SPONSORS**  
bITvision  
Ojai Phone Book  
Ojai Valley Directory  
Ojai Valley News  
Ojai Vineyard

## Planned Giving Series Slated for 2011

Guess what dad!  
-Spike and I are  
getting married!



"BAD HEIR DAY"

Reason #27 for updating your will

By making the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy a beneficiary of your will or living trust you can help guarantee the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's financial strength to protect the Ojai Valley's views, trails, water and wildlife forever. You can make a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime and that may even produce income for you. Want to learn more?

As a leading non-profit in the com-

munity the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy would like to offer a Peace of Mind Series: Smart Planning for the Future. Speakers and topics for this educational series are currently being planned to meet the needs of the community. We are proud to bring OVLC members this gift in 2011. Please email [darcy@ovlc.org](mailto:darcy@ovlc.org) your interests and your current email address so you don't miss the email communications about this educational series. If you don't use email, call Darcy at (805) 649-6852.

Learn more about planned giving options at  
[www.ovlc.org/make-an-impact/planned-giving](http://www.ovlc.org/make-an-impact/planned-giving)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**WE HAVE A WISH LIST**  
Can you help?

**Our Ojai Meadows Preserve nursery needs a few tables for starting plants. Nothing fancy, they'll be outdoors.**

**We also need a shade structure. A canopy or other framework that we can stretch shade cloth over would be great.**

**Please contact Brian Stark, Conservation Director at [brian@ovlc.org](mailto:brian@ovlc.org) if you can help.**

**Yes! I want to help preserve Ojai's Views, Trails, Water and Wildlife!**

- Here's my end of year gift. Please apply it to this year's challenge match!*
- Please renew my membership*
- I would like to become a member*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Here's my contribution...**

My check is attached, made payable to Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Please charge my (circle one) Visa Master Card American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount authorized \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Levels**

\$35 - \$99	Member
\$100 - \$249	Sustaining Member
\$250 - \$499	Donor
\$500 - \$999	Benefactor
\$1,000 - \$1,999	Friend of the Ojai Valley
\$2,000 - \$4,999	President's Circle
\$5,000 and up	Heritage Donor

*Member benefits are enjoyed at every level. All members receive newsletters and/or e-news and FREE Wild About Ojai programs. Additional benefits apply for levels above the basic membership.*

**Thanks for your support!**

*Please mail with your contribution to:*

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy  
PO Box 1092  
Ojai, CA 93024

*You can also join or renew your membership online at [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org)*

For more information, please call 805 649-6852 or email [info@ovlc.org](mailto:info@ovlc.org)