

OPEN SPACES



OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY NEWS

volume 15 number 3 | fall 2008

June 17, 2008 ~ A Happy Day!
The Ojai Meadows Restoration Project
is dedicated to the community



Friends, neighbors, benefactors, city and school district officials gathered together and took part in a blessing of the land by Chumash elder Julie Tumamait (above).

OVLC executive director Fred Fox (far left) thanks the community for all it has done to help make the dream of a restored wetlands on the Ojai Meadows Preserve a reality.



Neighbors and friends (left to right) Ruth Matthews, Frankie Anthony and Marqui Bury. Ruth Matthews was honored for being the largest individual donor for the acquisition of the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

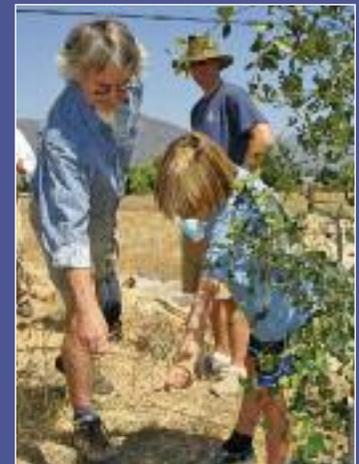
Shown at right, City and OUSD officials (l to r) Jere Kersner, Mayor Sue Horgan, Steve Olsen and Tim Baird enjoy a moment. Also present, were Mike Culver, Rae Hanstad, Glenn Hawks, Susie Mears, Carol Smith, Alan Rains and Katrina Rice-Schmidt.



Mayor Sue Horgan and others help plant a tree in dedication to the community.



Participants leave offerings at the base of the oak tree while project manager Derek Poultney (above) prepares the tree for planting.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

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A Moment on the Meadow ~



2008 Members & Friends Picnic

In spite of a brutal heat wave and a flurry of wind wreaking havoc with decorations, about 100 dedicated OVLC friends enjoyed a lovely picnic dinner together on the Ojai Meadows Preserve. As Alan Thornhill offered his melodic interlude, the sun began to set, the weather calmed, and everyone had a great time. We would like to

thank all who braved the heat, as it turned out to be a great experience, even without the tablecloths!

Special thanks to TOPA Group artists, especially Christine Golden who helped organize the exhibition, and Marsha MacDonald who donated her painting for the invitation and raffle. TOPA Group artists generously donated 30% of sales to the OVLC. Carolee Tibbits donated 100% of the proceeds from her painting. Thanks so much to all the artists who helped make this a very special Member Picnic on the Meadow.



A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who helped, and especially Stefanie Coeler for flower arrangements, Larry Rose for bar tending, Cari Guerrero and Roger Essick for set up help, Sue Williamson for sharing her electricity and Alan Thornhill for his soulful sounds.



Upcoming Hikes

Fall Native Plant Hike with Lanny Kaufer
Saturday, September 27th, 8:30-11:30am

home remedies, first aid, crafts, landscaping, ceremony and more. Lanny will return to the Preserve for a Fall Native Plant Hike focusing on the seeds, nuts and fruits maturing at this time of year and what the Chumash may have harvested.

Restoration Project Coordinator, Sheri Mayta will lead a native plant seed collection hike on the VRP. Learn first hand how OVLC restoration staff and volunteers cultivate the many plants needed to restore native flora on the preserve and how to apply these methods in your landscape. Participants will have a hands-on seed collection experience focusing on which plants are best propagated from seed, and when and how to harvest seed. Learn how to successfully start seeds at the future site of the Preserve's propagation greenhouse. Enjoy the satisfaction of helping to harvest seed for VRP restoration and take some seed samples to start at home.

Native Plant Cultivation Hike with Sheri Mayta
Saturday October 4th, 8:30 - 11:30am



Both of these moderate 3 hour hikes on the Ventura River Preserve begin at the Riverview Trailhead on Rice Road. Please wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water, a snack, sunscreen and a camera if you like. OVLC members are invited to join hikes for FREE as a member benefit. Cost is \$10.00 per person for all others. Join the OVLC to enjoy this and future informative hikes for FREE. For reservations, contact the OVLC at 649-6852 or email ovlc@ovlc.org.

Once Upon a Watershed

“Once Upon a Watershed,” a project spearheaded by Sara Benjamin, received two major boosts recently, with grants from Rotary Club of Ojai and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project.

This project targets 4th, 5th and 6th graders for a watershed education and restoration program. Students will learn about restoration and stewardship of local wetland and riparian habitat then participate in a variety of hands-on restoration activities such as native planting, invasive plant removal and creek, estuary and beach cleanups within the Ventura River watershed, primarily on Land Conservancy preserves.



Wherever you find Sara, there will be children nearby, eager to learn

Prior to heading into the field to try their hands at ecological management, the students will participate in an in-school program to tell the story of the watershed and set the stage for their field experience. There also will be a reflective, in-class follow-up activity after the field experience.

This program is modeled after Oak Grove School’s highly successful “Once Upon a Wetland” project, where Sara has taught hundreds of Ojai students about wetlands and ecology, while providing valuable restoration assistance to the Conservancy on the Ojai Meadows preserve.



After nearly a year of sending forth our wish to have an updated film or other media piece created for promotion of our mission to the community, one day in April, as if dropped from above, we received a message via our website from a lovely couple new to Ojai who said that they would be happy to help. Meet Leslie Graham and Vivek Kaliraman.

The perfect team for our project, Leslie works primarily with nonprofits consulting in the areas of marketing and development. She especially enjoys coaching organizations on how to make their case with a good presentation. Vivek, though his “day job” is working for Impact Communications, is an accomplished storyteller through digital media. He enjoys the challenge of weaving people’s individual stories together into a cohesive story of the landscape of our lives using digital technology.

During the OVLC’s early years many members will remember the great promotional film made by Jim Jackson, which

What’s Your Story?



Leslie Graham & Vivek Kaliraman

has served us well for years and provided Vivek and Leslie with inspiration for the story to be told a decade later.

“We are excited to learn about OVLC’s history and get to know the people here who have been responsible for safeguarding the Ojai Valley’s open spaces” said Leslie. Beginning in late August we will be introducing Leslie and Vivek to some of the OVLC family of friends for interviews to hear their stories. If you have a story that you would like to tell about how and why you became involved in supporting the work of the OVLC, we would love to hear from you. Maybe it’s about your connection to the land as a child, maybe it’s about leaving a legacy for your grandchildren. Maybe it’s just a feeling you get when you realize how special Ojai is. Whatever your story, it’s part of our story so we hope you’ll share it. If you would like to tell it, whether on camera, on paper, or in an email, we would love to hear it. Please give us a call at 805 649-6852 or email ovlc@ovlc.org.

MOONLIGHT ON THE MEADOW



September 20th Come dance the night away ...

Join us for a lovely evening at the meadow's edge. Enjoy local wines and appetizers while marveling over the sites and sounds of the recently restored Ojai Meadows Preserve from the neighboring St. Thomas Aquinas meadow overlook. The new location will afford us a lovely view of the Ojai Meadows Preserve to enjoy during Happy Hour. The popular outdoor silent auction will keep things lively as members and friends enjoy a little friendly sparring over lots of fun items. Enter the raffle to win the lovely hand-painted wooden chest filled with treasures, gift certificates and mystery gifts of all sorts.

Then come on inside where it's warm and comfy and watch the moon rise over the meadow while enjoying a lovely dinner with OVLC friends. Then what? Then DANCING! No long speeches, no live auction, the new and improved Moonlight will just be lots of fun with friends dancing the night away. When it's time to go home, no gopher holes or ditches to fall into while you try to find your car in the dark because it's right outside, in the parking lot. You can even drive right up to pick up your auction goodies!

We hope you'll join us for this magical evening, as it is our most important fundraising event of the year. This year we need to raise \$40,000, a lofty and important goal to enable us to continue our work of preserving open space in the Ojai Valley.

PLEASE HELP BY JOINING US THIS YEAR
Reservations are available by phone, 649-6852 or online at www.ovlc.org. \$125 per person, \$900 for a table of eight. Please make reservation before September 18th.

Raffle tickets (also available on our website) \$10 each, buy 5 get one free, or save a bunch with a "baker's dozen" for \$90. Need not be present at the event to enter or win the OVLC Hope Chest raffle.

Event parking located at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church on Maricopa Highway.

Become an OVLC business sponsor or upgrade your membership to a business sponsorship and receive complimentary Moonlight tickets for you and your guest(s). Call 649-6852 ext. 202 or email ovlc@ovlc.org for more information.



Susan Guy

We would like to thank local plein air artist and OVLC member Susan Guy for the lovely oil painting featured on this year's Moonlight on the Meadow invitation. Susan is an accomplished Ojai artist who draws inspiration from nature for her impressionist landscapes in oil and watercolor. She feels fortunate to have the Ventura River and Ojai Meadows Preserves nearby and available anytime she wants to get out and paint. "I loved going out to the Ojai Meadows to paint this, it was so peaceful out there at dusk as the sun set and the moon was on the rise" said Susan about the hours she spent painting "Moonlight on the Meadow."

Susan and her husband Ken Neissen have both been OVLC friends for a long time, donating everything from art to hikes. Ken also helps the OVLC as a consulting Restoration Biologist. It's great to have them both as part of the OVLC family of friends.

MOONLIGHT ON THE MEADOW

MOONLIGHT ON
THE MEADOW

www.ovlc.org



ONLINE AUCTION

a benefit for the
Ojai
Valley
Land
Conservancy



This year EVERYONE CAN PARTICIPATE in the Moonlight Auction whether by coming to Moonlight or by bidding on the online auction, or both. Beginning Friday, August 29th, you can take part in the Moonlight Auction before the event from the comfort of your own computer! Bid, donate an item or email our auction link to your friends to help spread the word. “Buy it now” to take items off the event auction table, or even designate yourself as an “absentee bidder” and we’ll keep bidding on your behalf at the event.

You may have already received an email announcing our pre-Moonlight online auction. If not, please visit www.ovlc.org. Preview our auction catalog or donate an auction item online today! Sign the online guestbook or send us an email if you would like us to keep you posted of new items as they become available on the online auction so you don’t miss a thing. Hurry, the auction closes Wednesday, September 17th.

Please help us to reach our fundraising goals in a FUNraising way. Help spread the word, tell (or email) a friend! The more people who bid, the more successful we will be.

FEATURED AUCTION ITEMS

Great getaways including:

- A trip to Yellowstone National Park with a condo in nearby Bozeman, Montana
- 5 nights at Mountain House in Yosemite
- 5 night stay in a Mammoth Condo

Adventures

- A plane ride with aerobatics if you choose
- Horseback ride for 4 & lunch at the Coelers

Artwork and collectables by

- Susan Guy, Patty Van Dyke, and more

Day Trips

- To Santa Cruz Island, the California Condor refuge, Cultural events and more

Much more to come! New items added often!

www.ovlc.org

Online auction ends September 17th

ONLINE AUCTION BIDDING BEGINS FRIDAY EVENING, AUGUST 29th!

More Benefits for Business Sponsors

In addition to complimentary tickets to Moonlight on the Meadow, advertising and tax benefits, this year business sponsors at the San Antonio Creek level and above will also benefit from added visibility on our online auction website. Increase hits to your website with your logo prominently displayed to hundreds of folks visiting our online auction. In-kind donations of goods or services also qualify for business sponsor benefits. Call today for more information. 805 649-6852 ext. 202.

Join our current business sponsors, helping to preserve the future of Ojai-TODAY.

Thank You 2007/2008 Business Sponsors

Ventura River Level

Rabobank

Ojai Meadows Level

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Old Creek Ranch Winery
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Venoco
Wells Fargo Bank PCS

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Bank of America
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The Wharf
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SPECIAL THANKS

A Very Special Thank You!

*Every so often someone goes out of their way to help us in a special way that only they can.
We are so fortunate to be the benefactors of their generosity.*

- ❖ *Julie Tumamait* for her blessing of the Ojai Meadows which made the OMP dedication ceremony truly meaningful and memorable.
- ❖ *Roger Dickens, Charles Crofoot, Sr.* and *Alex Lane* for their help with the fallen Valley Oak on the Ojai Meadows Preserve.
- ❖ *Paul Swenson* for taking chain-link fencing no longer needed on the OMP and using it at Quail Springs, a 450 acre permaculture farm in the upper Cuyama Valley. Great recycling!
- ❖ *Sue Gruber* for hosting equestrian friends of the Ventura River Preserve on her ranch, and all those who helped with the event.
- ❖ *Leslie Graham* and *Vivek Kaliraman* for their countless hours and dedication in creating our new promotional multi-media piece.
- ❖ *Lanny Kaufer* for his recent herb and native plant walks on the Ventura River Preserve. These hikes have brought many new members to the OVLC and been a treat to all who participated.
- ❖ *Whitney Cooke* who recently constructed and installed two small kiosks on the Ojai Meadows Preserve to complete an Eagle Scout project. The kiosks will help us post preserve rules and important project information. Whitney also helped install the large kiosk located at the Maricopa Highway entrance near the high school. Many thanks to Whitney for his hard work and generous contribution!
- ❖ *Susan Guy* and *Marsha MacDonald* for donating their talent and superb works of art to benefit OVLC.



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are so many ways

- Membership or annual donations – whether by check or credit card, by phone or on our website at www.ovlc.org, every dollar helps!
- Donate auction items for our online auction, and help spread the word to friends and family about the auction. Anyone can bid!
- Come to Moonlight on the Meadow, our annual signature fundraiser.
- Enjoy the benefits of business sponsorship.
- Donate in-kind goods and services.
- Become a part of the OVLC family of volunteers.
- Leave a legacy to the Ojai Valley. Consider an estate gift of property, funds or stock.

Please call or visit our website at www.ovlc.org to learn more about how you can be a part of this collective effort to preserve open space in the Ojai Valley.
IT TAKES A COMMUNITY, please join us!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MOONLIGHT ON THE MEADOW

Help plan, set up and work at our upcoming fundraiser. We need help with publicity, auction item solicitation, setting up and closing the auction at the event, food and bar service, table setting, flower arranging, mailings, you name it. Any small piece that you can help with checks one thing off the list!

PRESERVE MONITORS

Do you walk or ride the OVLC Preserves? Help us keep an eye out for mischief makers, and get a free shirt to wear while doing so. Call Rick Bisaccia, Preserve Manager to volunteer at 798-0650.

ADMINISTRATIVE HELP

Help with data entry, mailings, filing, writing, and special projects. Whether you can help once in a while or once a week, we would love to have you!

Renewing Members

Each year hundreds of OVLC members renew their membership. We thank the following members for your loyalty and support during the period *from May 16 thru August 1, 2008.*

Lou Adams & BJ Legan-Adams	Marilyn Essick	Anne Littler-Brown & David Brown	Rainbow Bridge
Robert & Carole Adams	Karen & Bill Evenden	Liz Gourley	Sylvia & Shlomo Raz
Jake & Kim Ainsworth	Franceen Fallett	Phil & Maren Long	Kay Renius
Patty Albert-Leis	Jack & Marge Fay	Thomas C. MacCalla III & Jean A. Kilmurray	Curt E. Rischar
Laura Alvarez	Lloyd & Kathryn Fellows	Nancy Main	Royal Cleaners - Dan Kurilchyk
Heidi Anderson	Maudette & Frank Finck	Mindy & Stephen Maloon	Valerie & Dietrich Schmidt
Brook & Everard Ashworth	Mark Fox	Keith & Kathleen Manion	Sally & Alan Shampine
Ross & Patty Atkinson	Donald & Diana Garcia	Ruthie Marks & Roger Conrad	Alex Smith & Mike Van Stry
Elizabeth A. Bauer	Carol Garramone & Charles Massaro	Steve Matzkin & Melissa Wolfe	Aryna Swope
Karen & Gary Bednorz	Ann Gassaway	Craig & Mary McDonald	Bob Tallyn & Betsy Bachman
Shed & June Behar	Gary & Judith Girod	Cathy McNease	Linda Taylor
Tom & Nanette Benbrook	Steve & Patti Goldman	Frederick J. & Margaret Menninger	The Ranch House Restaurant
Chris & Karen Birbeck	Nancy & Bill Hammond	Thomas & Nancy Michali	Timothy Teague Photography
Jan & Mary Blakslee	Angela Heald	Charles W. Millard, III	Glenn True & Kathleen McCann True
Mike & Michele Briley	Gay & Kathlyn Hendricks	Robert & Denise Miller	Kay & Whit Ulrich
Marqui Bury	Dr. Tony & Barbara Hirsch	Joy Mills	Wendy Varian & Richard Bradley
Susan & Peter Cheney	Kent & Camille Houston	George & Cheryl Moore	The Vondriskas Family
Alice Chesley	Jane C. Hubler	Everett & Susan Murdock	Anthonie & Dorothy Voogd
Betsy & Aaron Clapp	Naomi & Michael Inaba	Bruce & Linda Nofrey	Ruth Walker
Rick & Victoria Cline	Stefa Kalnins	Peter K. Noone	Stephen & Judy Walker
Sara Cloud	John & Maggie Kaufman	Ojai Valley Directory	Barbara Watson
Eleanor Crilly	Jan & Marc Key	Nancy Pepper	Marvin Werber & Barbara Thornburg
Robert & Greta Davis	Bruce & Patricia Kuebler	Marty & Barbara Pops	Christine & Bud White
Joseph Delatre	Peggy LaCerra & Martin Weiner	Barry & Donna Rabe	Blake & Susanne Wilson
Richard Dusckett	Bonnie LaForge		George Wymer
Laurie Edgcomb			
Linda & Hugo Ekback			

Welcome New Members

We thank all of those who joined during the period of *May 16 - August 1, 2008.*

Ed & Michelle Buchman	Christine & Charles Law	Betty Saunders
Rebecca Calloway	Lyn & Don Luxmore	Megan Shilo
Vera Carbaugh & Judy Duff	Teri MacKey	Heather Shoup & James Calking
Dale & Anne Carnathan	Marilynn Martin	Marg Skupien
Mary Comstock	Warren McConnell	Lynn & Kathe Smothers
Herb & Amber Courtney	Paul & Helen Miller	Barbara Sorem-Hughlett
Daniel Croker	John Millrany	Mary K. Sullivan
Diana Crothers	Zandy Mueller	Kristin Tennant
Sue Crowe	Bethena Nuzback	Jessica Thompson
Helen Crowner	Brett Franklin Offerman	Susan Van Abel
Scott Davis	Jean Pedersen	Tim Vierra
Michael & Linda Foley	Janelle Pendarvis	Mimi Weyrick
Farel Footman	Arlene Pinkerton	Melissa White
Joyce Goldstein	Allison & Michael Reidinger	Deborah Whorf
Courtney Harris	Susan Rice	Todd Wilson
Joanie Kruse	& Larry Wenner	Joy Zou
	Tom & Vickie Robertson	

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Frank & Linda Granat
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Gift Memberships

Kristin Tennant
by John Broesamle

In Memory Of

Rebecca Adams and Luke & Claire Sowa
in memory of Dr. Charles Adams



MOONLIGHT *on the* MEADOW

**Dinner
&
Dance**

~

**Saturday
September 20th**

**New this year
Pre-event
Online
Auction!**



Moonlight on the Meadow by Susan Guy

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION



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