



OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 7 No.1

Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today

Spring 2000

Thank You Ojai!

Campaign To Preserve Ojai Meadows Is A Success

In less than three months, local residents exceeded the \$525,000 necessary to acquire, preserve and protect, the 32-acre parcel located between Nordhoff High School and the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. "The overwhelming community support for this project was beyond our greatest expectations," exclaimed John Broesamle, OVLC Board President.

Local donors responded enthusiastically by helping the Conservancy beat both the campaign goal and the December 31st deadline. These additional funds will be

"The overwhelming community support for this project was beyond our greatest expectations!"

used to help with the long term care for Ojai Valley open spaces like the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

The 32-acre Preserve is now open to the public and can be accessed from the Maricopa Highway. During the coming years, the Conservancy hopes to restore the wetlands and oak woodlands habitats to provide a site for outdoor education and better habitat for wildlife. See pages 5 and 6 for more information about the Ojai Meadows Preserve.



photo courtesy of the Ojai Valley News

It's Official! Supporters celebrate the acquisition of The Ojai Meadows.

Cluff's Gift Helps Acquire Key Downtown Parcel

The holiday season brought another 'open space present' for the Ojai Valley. A generous \$200,000 gift from Sheila and Don Cluff enabled the Conservancy to lead the acquisition effort of a half-acre site on the corner of Ojai Avenue, El Paseo and Rincon Road. The Cluff donation is the largest individual gift ever received by the Land Conservancy. The acquisition was finalized on December 28th, thanks to other outstanding contributions by the Ojai Civic Association and the City of Ojai Redevelopment Agency.

The former gas station property, which has commanding views of Topa Topa Mountain and the surrounding Los Padres National Forest, will be developed into a community park which reflects the character of Ojai. The design phase for the project will occur during the first six months of the year with input from the community. Once the plan is completed, OVLC will help raise the funds necessary to develop and maintain the park site. "Years from now, when people have forgotten the past history of this site, we want the park to stand

on its own as a positive reflection of the Ojai Community spirit," says Jim Engel, OVLC Executive Director.

The Redevelopment Agency has taken temporary ownership of the property to enable final clean-up of the site from past contamination and the elimination of potential liability. The past contamination which occurred in the ground water table below the site is not expected to have any impact on the development of the site as a community park.

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

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A Message From Our President

We Did It!

Between October 10 and December 20 the Conservancy raised \$535,000, including a lead gift of \$200,000 to purchase the Palmer Property just north of Nordhoff High School. On October 10, 130 people gathered under a scorching sky and renamed the site, the *Ojai Meadows Preserve*. On December 11 volunteers began the process of returning the land to its natural state.

Our success with the Meadows Preserve Campaign required years of preparation and the combined efforts of scores of Conservancy members. Our Board of Directors alone have contributed \$70,000 towards the *Campaign to Preserve Ojai's Special Places Forever*.

That campaign continues. On the last day of 1999, thanks to a stunning \$200,000 lead gift from Sheila and Don Cluff, the City of Ojai, the Ojai Civic Association, and the Conservancy were able to close escrow on the half-acre triangle at Ojai Avenue and El Paseo Road. Within the next twenty months, this will become a gem of a park for the entire community to enjoy.

Meanwhile, our rehabilitation of the Meadows Preserve is gaining momentum. Right now we need many volunteers with a variety of skills who are willing to join our "open space team" that will educate the public about the property, oversee it, and keep it clean. With 786 members--over 100 new ones since the capital campaign began last October--abundant talent should be available. Please help, won't you?

John Broesamle

Leave A Legacy

Give A Gift For Future Generations of the Ojai Valley

Please join the seven families and individuals who in 1999 included the Conservancy in their will or trust. Consider the lasting impact of an estate gift for the preservation of the natural and agricultural heritage of the Ojai Valley. Your contribution will be used for:

- Preserving critical open spaces like the Ojai Meadows
- Restoring important natural habitats
- Educating our youth and community to be better stewards of our open spaces

If you have already named us in your estate plans, let us thank you for your generous gift and welcome you to the *Conservation Legacy Circle*. For a confidential inquiry about helping to protect the future and beauty of this valley, please **contact the Conservancy office at 646-7930**.

Ilvento Preserve Burns

Approximately 80% of the Conservancy's Ilvento Preserve was impacted by the Ranch Fire in late December. The understory plants and shrubs were burned completely, while the Coast Live Oaks seemed to have survived with very little damage. "This is a good sign for this chaparral plant community which depends on fire for its long term health," says Carl Thelander, wildlife biologist and OVLC Board Member.

The preserve's wildflowers, ferns and other plants were documented last year by local photographer Bob Rene. "These photographs will allow us a special opportunity to record the changes to the Preserve from year to year," states Jim Engel OVLC Executive Director. "Everything looks pretty bleak at this point," adds Engel, "but come spring we should have a spectacular display of wildflowers." *Walking with Fire*, a tour of the Ilvento Preserve will occur on Saturday, April 15. See page 9 for Upcoming Events.



Membership Tops 780

Thanks to an amazing outpouring of community support during 1999, the Conservancy has expanded to 786 members. More than doubling the organization's list of supporters in the last year. Sue and Gary Horgan, who became the Conservancy's 699th and 700th members, stated that they joined because, "You are accomplishing what others simply dream of doing."

Clean Up Day

Several dozen volunteers, young and old, turned out for the *Community Open Space Day* at the Ojai Meadows Preserve on December 10. Participants had an opportunity to hear about the Conservancy's future plans for the site and lend a helping hand. A truck load of trash and other debris was pulled from the property and old growth Valley Oak Trees were cared for with the hope that their health will be improved. See page 4 for more information on how to volunteer at the Ojai Meadows Preserve and for other projects.

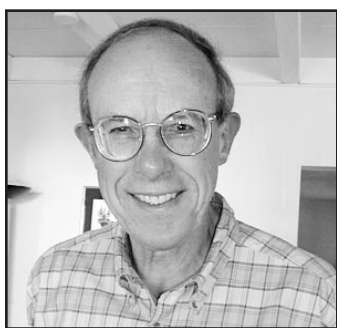


photo courtesy of The Ojai Valley News

Broesamle Named Citizen Of The Year

In early December, John Broesamle, OVLC President was named the *Citizen Of The Year* by the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce. Broesamle, a professor at Cal State Northridge, took a year sabbatical from his teaching to focus on the OVLC's efforts. "John has been a fearless supporter of open space in the Ojai Valley during the past five years," commented Jim Engel. Congratulations John for this well deserved honor.

Conservancy Video Receives National Recognition

The OVLC's 10-minute video about open space and the Conservancy's role in protecting the Ojai Valley has received national recognition at a land trust conference in Aspen, CO during October. The video was highlighted as one of the best examples of what conservancies can do to promote their efforts. Produced and edited by Jim Jackson, a film producer and Conservancy Board Member, the video has captured many beautiful scenes from around the Valley. It is available for \$5 from the Conservancy office.

Volunteer Opportunities



Ojai Meadows And The Ilvento Preserve

Preserve Coordinator

Help train, organize and motivate our volunteers force.

Preserve Hosts

Walk trails and report on Preserve conditions. Contact and educate visitors about the Preserve.

Tree Caretakers

Provide watering and basic care for our old and young Valley Oaks.

Trail and Sign Maintenance Assistants

Help keep our trails in good shape for the public's enjoyment and safety.

Tour Leaders

Help guide nature walks of the Preserve for school groups and individuals.

Do you have other skills? Call us.

Other Opportunities

Event Planners

Want to help plan and implement our next successful and exciting event? A great chance to make new friends and help the Conservancy grow.

Volunteer Coordinator

As our volunteer ranks grow, we need your help to inspire and train new volunteers.

Newsletter

Esitor/Writer/Designer

Have you got the interest and the skills to help us prepare our newsletter or write an occasional article?

Other Ways To Help Ojai's Open Spaces

- Include the Conservancy in your will or trust.
- Honor or memorialize a friend or family member with a gift in their name.
- Use your RAINS Card. We receive 3% of the total purchase.



- Tell your friends about the Conservancy and why our mission is so important to the Valley's future.

Volunteers Needed For New Preserve

The acquisition of the 32-acre Ojai Meadows Preserve brings new challenges and responsibilities. The Conservancy's commitment to public access for this site will help to enrich the lives of Valley residents by providing walking trails, educational opportunities, and a place to relax and reflect. As a result, trails will need to be maintained, trees planted and cared for, questions answered for visitors, and other tasks to keep the Preserve looking its best. We need your help, so if you are looking for an opportunity to lend a helping hand, whether it be weekly or monthly, **please contact us at 646-7930.**

SAVE THIS DATE

Saturday • March 25 • 10am
Volunteer Training Day
at Ojai Meadows.

Those interested in becoming involved should attend this important gathering.

Purchase The Sweet Reality Music CD

Featuring Ojai artists, this CD is a great addition to your music library. Half the profit from the sale of this CD will go to the Campaign to Preserve Ojai's Special Places. **Call the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce at 646-8126** to order this wonderful compilation of music for only \$16.

Preserving Ojai's Special Places Forever

The Ojai Meadows Campaign

Civic Association Makes Strategic Gift

During the late days of November, OVLC received a much needed boost to its open space efforts through a \$130,000 gift from the Ojai Civic Association. The Association made the gift in the spirit of its founder, Edward Libbey, who was greatly concerned with the quality of life in the Ojai Valley during the early part of the 20th century. The gift was split evenly between the *Ojai Meadows Campaign* and the triangle property acquisition at El Paseo Road and Ojai Avenue.



Ojai Businesses Provide Super Support For Ojai Meadows

Ojai businesses have a long history of generous support for local nonprofit organizations and their contributions for the *Ojai Meadows Campaign* was no exception. Bronk-Vreeland Ford donated \$100 for each vehicle sold to a Valley resident during November and December. The result of this outstanding offer was a \$6,100 check to the Conservancy. "We're doing this for people who have an interest in the Ojai Valley," said Dick Bronk, who developed the donation program.

Other business contributors included the Rains Department Store who donated \$1,500 towards the Campaign through the *Evening for Open Space* and *Conservancy Day* events. Rains regularly donates a percentage of each sale for Conservancy members who use their Rains Card.

Campaign Was Successful In Many Ways

In addition to the obvious success of acquiring the Ojai Meadows Preserve, our supporters can also feel good about several other milestones from this community effort:

- Campaign expenses were kept close to 7% (typical campaigns average 10-20%).
- Conservancy Board Members contributed over \$70,000 to the campaign to help cover campaign expenses. This means donations from the community were applied directly to the cost of acquiring and preserving the property.
- The Conservancy added over 100 new members between October and the end of the year, making us over 786 'friends' strong.

See How You Can Continue To Help The Ojai Meadows Preserve. Volunteer Opportunities Are On Page 4.

Opportunities To Make A Difference In The Future Of The Ojai Valley

Gift Naming Rights at The Ojai Meadows Preserve

• \$400,000	Ojai Meadows Preserve	Still Available	• \$ 75,000	Wetlands Trail	Still Available
• \$300,000	Preserve Wetlands	Still Available	• \$ 50,000	Preserve Perimeter Trail #1	Reserved
• \$200,000	Preserve Grasslands	Reserved	• \$ 25,000	Interior Trail	Reserved
• \$200,000	300 year old oak tree	Still Available	• \$ 25,000	Preserve Perimeter Trail #2	Still Available
• \$150,000	200 year old oak tree	Still Available	• \$ 2,000	Old Oak Grove	Reserved
• \$100,000	150 year old oak tree	Still Available		(fifty names)	

The OVLC is offering a limited number of gift naming rights for donors who wish to honor or memorialize family, friends, or mentors. All gifts can be made over a two-year period and will be used for the preservation and care of Ojai's last remaining open spaces.

Campaign Contributors

A special thanks goes out to the following community members who helped us to exceed our fundraising goal of \$525,000

Anonymous Donors: 6
Tucker & Phil Adams
Khaled & Sheryl Al-Awar
Kathryn & David Allen
Patty & Ross Atkinson
Linc & Sheila Anderson
Howard & Elizabeth Bacon
John & Susan Bee
Stephen Bennett
Mr. George E. Berg
Carol Bishop
Barry Betlock &
Chris Bjornstedt
Lerie & Arthur Bjornstedt
Julie Bloomer & Scot Rabe
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Jerry & Bronda Colegrove
Yvon & Malinda Chouinard
Betsy & Aaron Clapp
Sarah Clark & Timothy Thomas
Vivian Clarke
Karen Courington &
Dan Lukasiewicz
Creative Endeavors
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Paul Del Signore &
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Thad Hyland
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Hannah Beth Jackson
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Carolyn & Robert Jarboe
Dr. Michael J. Jauregui &
Susan Olson
David & Deborah Junod
Brett & Denise Kantrowitz
David Kaplan & Janet Reineck
Dolores & John Keith
Joan Kemper
Ray King & Kale Starbird
Leonard Klaif
Marc & Dan Komaiko
Mike & Nancy Krumpshmidt
Bruce & Patricia Kuebler
(in memory of
Ken & Esther Kuebler)
Tod & Carolyn Kuhn
Lacey & David Lantz
Linda & Jonathon Lambert
Carol Langford
Jim Lashly
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Ruth Mathews
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Albert Harris
Wilma & John Melville
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Frederick Menninger
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Michael & Adrienne Muller
John & Andrea Muller
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John & Andrea Nelson
Robert Craig Newman
& Nicola Kaftan
Angela & Anthony Ocone
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Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce
Ojai Valley News
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Rosemary & Rick Payne
Nancy Pepper
Barbara & Marti Pops
Prudential Ojai Realty
Robert & Dorothy Rail
Alan & Jan Rains
RAINS Department Store
Frank & Maruja Real
Regal's Ojai Wine & Cheese
Scott Robert Ripple
Sara Sackner & Andy Behar
Alan & Carol Saltzman
Nancy & Nicholas Scanlan
Amy Schneider
Teddy & Dick Schneider
Nina Shelley
Jill & Bill Shanbrom
Ellen & Michael Shapiro
Linda & Spencer Silver
Daniel & Olga Singer
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Linda Solomon-Ploeg
& Kees Ploeg
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Mansfield & Chilant Sprague
Al Stroberg & Betsy Patterson
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Jake & Sandra Stub
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Ventura Rental Center
Helene & John Vachet
Dr. Eve Venturi
Liz & Doug Vernand
Dr. & Mrs. Mort Vinecour
Deric & Barbara Washburn
Guy & Leone Webster
Harriet P. Wenig
Ronald & Helayne White
John & Jo Anne Wilson
Julia Wilson
Milton & Glori Young
Brian & Chris Zeiner

MAJOR GIFT NAMING RIGHTS STILL AVAILABLE • SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE DETAILS

Call the OVLC at 646-7930 for further information

Preserving Ojai's Special Places

Loyal Supporters Help Us To Grow Stronger

Every year, hundreds of our members choose to renew their membership. We are happy to recognize the following individuals and businesses who have renewed their membership since the middle of October. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Dolli Alexander
Arne Anderson and Nita Whaley
Andy Behar and Sara Sackner
Caryn and Charlie Bosson
Julie Bloomer and Scot Rabe
John and Kathy Broesamle
Rowe and Molly Burgett
Fred and Judy Bysshe
Sally Chenault
Alice and Robert Chesley
Malinda and Yvon Chouinard
Aaron and Betsy Clapp
David and Cynthia Cohen
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial
Stacy and Kevin Davis
Sally and David Disco
James and Julie Engel
Rose and Don Engel
Roger and Pat Essick
David and Cindy Garber
Donald Garrett

Harold and Patsy Glenn
Gretchen Greenberg & Keith Buchan
Carl and Marian Greenfield
Gwen and Jerry Gross
Kathleen Hellwitz
Betty Izant
Jim and Susan Jackson
Allan and Janet Jacobs
Ann Derby Joy
Joan Kemper
Ray King and Kale Starbird
Kenneth and Sue Lakes
David and Muriel Lavender
David and Val Lavender
Tom and Rebecca Lowe
Lee and Shirley Lyon
Michael and Julie McFadden
Linda McMillan
Rudolph and Elizabeth Nava
Earl and Alice Ragland
Alan and Jan Rains

Sylvia and Shlomo Raz
Robert and Alice Rene
Don and Ann Scanlin
Michael and Ellen Shapiro
William and Dolores Shouse
Lance and Sheila Smigel
Howard and Edie Smith
Mansfield and Chilant Sprague
Glenn and Loise Stubblefield
John and Caroline Thacher
Carl and Katie Thelander
Anna Thomas
Ernest and Barbara Watson
Samuel Weill, Jr.
Richard and Jane Weirick
Allan and Joyce West
J.B. and Elizabeth White
James and Corrie Lassen-Willems
Merrill Williams
Heather Young
Alan and Diane Zusman

A Special Thanks To

All the volunteers for the December 10 Community Day at Ojai Meadows. **David Allen and Company** for donating a copy machine and executive chair. **Susan Bee, Judith Gustafson and Spencer Silver** for their hard work preparing mailers and newsletters. **Bronk-Vreeland Ford** for their very generous donation of \$6,100 to the Ojai Meadows Campaign. **The City of Ojai Redevelopment Agency** for their \$50,000 commitment to the downtown triangle property. **Katie Fellows** for her hard work on the Community Day at Ojai Meadows. **Lee Fitzgerald and April Rogers** for filming the December 10 Community Day at

Ojai Meadows. **Michael McFadden** for donating a portion of the sales of his Ojai Calendar. **Cookie Miley** for the beautiful, hand-made note cards. **The nine donors** who gave gifts of stock or mutual funds during 1999. **Ojai Cafe Emporium** for hosting our monthly fundraising group. **The Ojai Civic Association** for their inspiring \$130,000 contribution towards the Ojai Meadows and downtown triangle property. **The Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce** for agreeing to donate half the profits from the sales of the Sweet Reality music CD. **The Ojai Valley News** for their generous donation of ad space for the Ojai Meadows Campaign and use of photos for this issue of Open

Spaces. **Kees Ploeg** for his handy work around the office. **The seven families** that added the Conservancy in their estate plans and wills during 1999. **Al Stroberg and Betsy Patterson** for contributing a Pentax camera. **Larry Wilde** for his hard work on the Landis Property and Besant Meadows.

EXTRA GIFTS ARE A BIG LIFT

Robert & Amy Dennis
John N. Hall
Pat Jump
John & Peggy Russell
Lorenz Schaller
John & Joanne Wilson

Membership And More

Welcome To Our New Members

We have soared to **786 members**, thanks to your exceptional support. This is more than double the national average for similar land trusts! The Conservancy's successes in the last year are due to the generous financial and volunteer support of our members.

John Adair	Sue Fuhrman & Ronald Hamlen	Ruth Miller
Robert & Carole Adams	John & R. Joan Fullerton	Holly & Dennis Mitchem
Victoria Alexander	Angie Genasci	Judith Mize
Howard & Elizabeth Bacon	Anthony & Kathan Glassman	Deborah E. Moe
Larry Beatty & Sultana Parvanta	Stan Hakes	Curt Mossestad & Carol Peterson
Steve Bennett	(gift membership from	Virginia Moyer
Barry Betlock	David Goldstein)	Adrienne & Michael Muller
Rick Bisaccia &	Marty & Niki Harder	Michele Murdoch &
Tara Jeffery-Bisaccia	Albert Harris &	Paul Del Signore
Mr. and Mrs. R.M. Bogart	Rosa Lee Measures	Elaine Needham
Robert & Roberta Boschan	Anthony & Barbara Hirsch	Robert Craig Newman &
Donald Brosnac	Laura Hagen	Nicola Kaftan
Stanford & Eleanor Brown	Lamar & Sally Hoover	Muriel S. Parfitt
Rinaldo & Lalla Brutoco	Harry & Sue Horgan	Alice & Earl Ragland
David Byrne &	Carolyn & Robert Jarboe	Robert & Dorothy Rail
Vickie Carlton-Byrne	David Kaplan & Janet Reineck	Scott Robert Ripple
Peter & Cynthia Cattle	George Keenen	Larry Rose
Charles Casey	Leonard Klaif	John & Peggy Russell
Mardel Cason	Debbie Knudstrup	Teddy & Dick Schneider
Sheri Ann Cate	Mike & Nancy Krumpschmidt	Pegi & Jeffrey Skoff
Sarah Clark & Timothy Thomas	Bruce & Patricia Kuebler	Jan Smithers
Vivian Clarke	Tod & Carolyn Kuhn	G.S. Stuart
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Jerry & Bronda Colegrove	Eric & Wendy Lockwood	Paula & Victor Theis
Thomas & Dorothy Crossman	Bent & Else Lundbye	Carl & Nan Tolbert
Jon Dieges	Lee Lyon & Shirley Katz-Lyon	Eve Venturi
Patricia Ellison	Ian & Virginia MacLean	Liz & Doug Vernand
Dellen Enge	Ruth Mathews	Marion Warth
Vicki & Michel Etchart	Bob Matthews	Duane & Margaret Westrom
Marty Fast	Delee Marshall	Julia C. Wilson
Jeff & Theresa Ferguson	Jeff & Debra McComas	Terry & Cindy Wright
Frances Fitting	Linda McMillan	Brian & Chris Zeiner
Leni Fleming	Susan Miley & Scott Hadly	Sheila & Jerry Zutavern

Off To A Great Head Start

Even though a campaign to develop a park on the recently acquired downtown property is several months off, we want to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the purchase, development, and long-term care of the site:

Don Brosnac	Ojai Civic Association	Mansfield & Chilant Sprague
City of Ojai	Ann & Harry Oppenheimer	Allan & Joyce West
Redevelopment Agency	<i>in honor of</i>	Merrill Williams
Sheila & Don Cluff	<i>Bob & Janith Pulver</i>	
Ian & Virginia MacLean	Regal's Ojai Wine and Cheese	

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Conservancy Events

Late February	◆ TBA	Conservancy Legacy Circle Annual Event <i>(see article below)</i>
March 25	◆ 10am	Volunteer Orientation Day at Ojai Meadows
April 1	◆ 10am	Wild About Ojai
April 15	◆ 9am	Walk with Fire/Ilvento Preserve Walk
May 6	◆ 10am	Wild About Ojai
May 6	◆ Evening	Annual Open Space Celebration

Mark your calendar for the evening of
Saturday, May 6
Annual Open Space Celebration

.....
*Look for your invitation in early April
to this always popular event*

Legacy Circle To Meet Again In Late February



OVLC will again be hosting a *Conservation Legacy Circle* event to recognize supporters who have made significant contributions through annual donations, bequests, and volunteerism. Over 50 people attended last year's event at Lois Rice's beautiful home and heard about several proposed projects which are now a reality, including the acquisition of the Ojai Meadows and downtown triangle properties, and the launch of the *Wild About Ojai* and *Living with Agriculture Education Programs*. Details and dates are still being determined for this year's event. Invitations will be sent out in early February.

Education On The Wildside

Wild About Ojai

After taking a short winter break, *Wild About Ojai*, the exciting education program for families, will start again on the first Saturday of April and continue once a month until the end of the year. Each month participants will have a hands-on opportunity to learn more about the wildlife, plants and landscapes that share our local environment.



The program is \$8 per individual and \$12 per family. Space is limited and advanced registration is required.

Walk With Fire

This spring wildflower walk will be our first opportunity to see what changes the Ranch Fire brought to the *Ilvento Preserve*. This is a rare opportunity to see what should be a spectacular wildflower display. Wear boots and bring water and a snack. The *Environmental Learning Series Program* is free but you must register in advance. Come join us on Saturday, April 15 at 9am for this great adventure.



Call 646-7930 to register or for more information about OVLC's education program.

Our Wish List

Conservancy Will Move Forward With Your Help

As the Conservancy grows, so does our need for additional resources. One way you can help is through the donation of new or used stewardship tools, reference books, and office equipment. Please call us if you can donate any of the items below or if you know of anyone who might like to contribute to the needs of the Conservancy.

- Auction items for members' annual celebration
- 35mm regular or digital camera • *donated!*
- Shovels and other trail maintenance tools
- Stacking chairs
- Laptop computer
- V.C.R. • *donated!*
- Executive chair • *donated!*
- Copy machine • *donated!*



Other items that you think would be useful? Please, let us know • 646-7930

NEWSLETTER DESIGN BY • GRAPHICS UNLIMITED BY OLGA

**Mark The Evening Of May 6, 2000
For The Annual Open Space Celebration**

printed on recycled paper



Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
 P.O. Box 1092
 Ojai, CA 93024

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