



OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 9 No. 2

Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today

Summer 2002

Ceremony Highlights Creek Open Space Dedication

Thank you, Betty McCurley!" was a commonly heard statement at the March 24th dedication of the nine-acre parcel, which spans both sides of Creek Road. Her generous donation and willingness to cleanup the site made the project possible. Allan Jacobs, a Conservancy Board Member, presented her with a plaque that expressed the Conservancy's "greatest appreciation for the incredible gift to the residents of the Ojai Valley." Guests also had the chance to explore the property and ask questions of Conservancy staff and board members.

McCurley's gift also helped launch the Conservancy's new San Antonio Creek Watershed Project. This initiative is focused on working



Allan Jacobs and Betty McCurley enjoy a moment together before the ceremony where her 9-acre San Antonio Creek Property was transferred to the Conservancy.

with other San Antonio Creek landowners, who are interested in protecting their land through conservation easements, land donations and other conservation tech-

niques. "Land donations are not always an option, so we encourage the use of conservation easements as an alternative," remarks Jim Engel, OVLC Executive Director. Easements protect conservation values (scenic, ecological or agricultural), while allowing the landowner the flexibility to control management of their property and future ownership. "Easement holders can sell their land or pass it along to their children with the knowledge that it will always be protected," adds Engel. For more information about conservation easements and protecting your land, call the Conservancy at 646-7930 or visit our website at www.ovlc.org.

Earth Day Walk Benefits Conservancy

Oak Grove School students, parents and staff came up with a great idea- to sponsor an Earth Day walk from downtown Ojai to Oak Grove School while raising money for open space protection. The inaugural walk, which coincided with their annual Spring Art Festival, was



Earth Day Walkers Enjoy The Ojai Meadows Preserve.

successful beyond anyone's expectations. In total, the event had over 120 participants and raised over \$3,500 for land acquisition. "We are so appreciative of the School's efforts," said Carl Thelander, Conservancy Board Member and Oak Grove parent. The walk followed Ojai Avenue to the "Y" then turned north on the Maricopa Highway before crossing the Ojai Meadows Preserve. "It was such a success that we are hoping to make this an annual event with the Conservancy," stated Gregg Kravitz, one of the event's coordinators.

Construction Alert!

Due to the Arcade Plaza Renovation, access to the Conservancy office will be through *Local Hero Books* until late September. Regular bookstore hours are 10am until 6pm. If you need to come to the Conservancy office before or after these hours, please call us before your visit. Deepest thanks to the owners and management of Local Hero for allowing us to use their store for access.

**OJAI VALLEY
LAND CONSERVANCY**

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Supporting Open Space

What Is That Funny Envelope?

The Save Our Open Space (SOS) envelope found in each issue of the *Open Spaces* newsletter is designed for supporters wishing to make an extra gift in addition to their regular annual membership contribution. Why make an extra gift? Maybe you wish to help a specific program like education or habitat restoration.



A beautiful view of upper Ojai.

Or maybe you just want to show your appreciation for our successful efforts to protect the Ojai Valley's vanishing open spaces. Whatever your motivation, your generosity today will provide us with the resources and tools necessary to be ready for the next great opportunity tomorrow.

Thank you!

Leave A Legacy

Give A Gift For Future Generations Of The Ojai Valley

Please join the eighteen families and individuals who have 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 Preserve
- 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 or email us at: ovlc@ojai.net**.

Upcoming Events

CONSERVANCY CALENDAR

Wild About Ojai

**Field Program Finale • Ojai Meadows Preserve
Saturday, June 1 • 9am-noon**

The last in this series of family learning programs. This program is now free.

The Pratt Trail Hike

Saturday, June 8 • 8:30am

Meet at the Pratt Trailhead. This is a moderate, steadily uphill hike that will take approximately 3 hours. Beautiful views of the Ojai Valley from the top. Bring water, hat, sturdy shoes and a snack. Hike leader Rich Handley can be contacted at 646-4505 for further information.

Ecology of Intelligence

Environmental Learning Series

Wednesday, June 19 • 7pm

Ojai Retreat, Top of Besant Road
Dr. Christine Johnson, of UCSD will explore the question, "How intelligent are animals relative to where and how they live?" Discover the answer at this program that will fascinate the whole family!

Fish Bowls Backpacking Trip

**Saturday and Sunday,
July 13 and 14**

An overnight backpack trip to Fish Bowls campground in Mutha Flats, located above Lockwood Valley. This is an easy 2 day, 12 mile roundtrip hike to a secluded campsite in the pines with a nearby stream. Call Rich Handley at 646-4505 for more information about car-pooling and preparation.

**Ojai Meadows Preserve and
Newest Park Dedications
August • TBA**

A time to celebrate and honor donors for the protection of two of

Ojai's special places.

Exploring San Antonio Creek

Saturday, August 17 • 9am

Explore our newest open space property on San Antonio Creek, get your feet wet and learn about the animals and plants that live there. Contact the Conservancy office for more details.

*All programs are free,
but require pre-registration.*

*Call 646-0251 or
email us at
ovlcevents@ojai.net*

SAVE THE DATE

F O R T H E A N N U A L

Moonlight On The Meadow Event

*Saturday,
September 14th
5:00 pm*

*Join us again for this
fun, important, and
tasty tradition!*

2002 Moonlight on the Meadow Sponsors...so far

Meadowlands Sponsors

NAL Capital
David Kaplan

Ventura Rental
Party Center

Wildlife Sponsors

RAINS Department
Store

Coldwell Banker
Property Shoppe



Wetland Sponsors

Waite, Jacobs &
Atkinson, Attorneys
at Law

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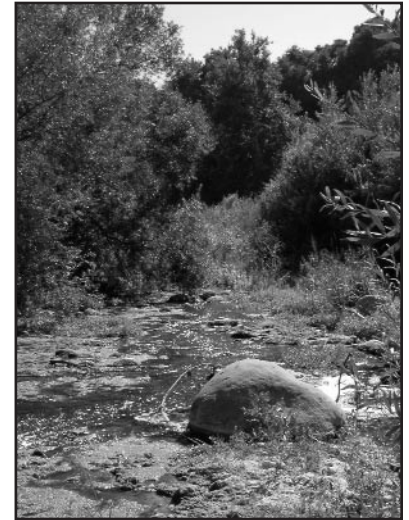
Morgan Stanley
Grove Care, Inc.

Conservancy News Briefs

Interest Grows In Watershed Project

“Since we sent information packets to San Antonio Creek Watershed landowners in April, we’ve had several landowners contact us for more information on how conservation easements and land donations work,” explained Jim Engel, Conservancy Executive Director. “I’ve had the pleasure of touring several wonderful properties and discussing these options.” The Conservancy is working to link conservation properties throughout the watershed to protect critical wildlife corridors and scenic viewsheds.

For landowners interested in learning more about the benefits of conservation easements and land donations, please contact Jim Engel at 646-7930. All conversations are confidential.



San Antonio Creek Open Space

Police Patrols At Preserve

Dogs and their owners have been a common sight at the Ojai Meadows Preserve since it was established in November 1999. Conservancy staff and board members would like to keep it that way as long as people are willing to keep their dogs on a leash and the pets are not harassing people or wildlife. The Preserve which was purchased through local donations to protect scenic views and wildlife habitat has also become a recreation destination for people to enjoy hiking, bicycling and walking their dogs.

“We welcome dog owners,” said Pete Johnson, Preserve Manager, “but we also expect people to respect the rights of others to enjoy the Preserve without being bothered and threatened by people’s pets. The vast majority of dog owners are very cooperative, but a few individuals have started to ruin it for the rest of us. Even though it is needed in the Ojai Valley, this property is not designed to be a dog park for free roaming dogs.”



Leashed Dogs Are A Must At Preserve

Reports of people being approached by aggressive, unleashed dogs have increased over the last six months. The trend prompted the Conservancy to contact local law enforcement for assistance. Ojai Police Chief, Gary Pentis, worked with the Conservancy to come up with a strategy to address these and other safety issues at the Preserve. In response to the request from the Conservancy and an increasing number of complaints from the public, local police have started patrolling the property to educate dog owners about city and county leash laws. Citations will be issued for those who are warned repeatedly or refuse to cooperate. Patrolling officers will also be looking for other activities that threaten public safety. Preserve visitors are also encouraged to report aggressive dogs to the police. After three months of police patrols, the Conservancy

will then review their policy on dogs at the Preserve, to see if further changes are necessary. Presently, leashed dogs are also allowed on the Conservancy’s Ilvento Preserve.

Naming Of Newest Park

On April 23rd the Ojai City Council ratified the recommendation of the Conservancy and the City’s Park and Recreation Commission by naming the park at the corners of Ojai Avenue, Rincon and El Paseo, “Cluff Vista Park”. The Cluffs were honored for their incredible generosity of time, spirit and financial support. “The project has been made possible by over 230 donors, but without the outstanding support of the Cluffs, we would still be looking at a weed infested, eyesore,” said Jim Jackson, Conservancy President. The dedication of the Park is expected in late July.

Hiking Club Hits The Ground Walking

During the last four months, over 90 people have taken advantage of the Conservancy's new Hiking Club. Walks have varied from "survival" walks to an annual wildflower walk at the Ilvento Preserve. "We'll visit a different place each month," said Gabrielle Lashley, Hiking Coordinator. "It's a nice opportunity to get outdoors, meet new friends and enjoy some fresh air."



Hiking To The Ilvento Preserve

Party Animals Spotted At Events

The Conservancy has had party after party, all to let you know how much we value you, our members. On April 22nd, a delicious luncheon and on May 9th, an evening gathering was held at our office for the *Moonlight on the Meadow* Support Committee and others interested in sharing their time, talent and skills in preparing for our most important fundraising event. "This is the most wonderful group of people. We always have such a good time together, laughing as we accomplish what needs to be done", said Patsy Glenn, Chairman of the Food Committee. "There is such great camaraderie in our group."

Then on Saturday April 27, our newest members were treated to the beauty of the gardens, views and home of board member David Trudeau, and his wife Mary. Our hosts were joined by Jim Jackson and Jim Engel in welcoming the guests, who enjoyed drinks and delicious hors d'oeuvres from Rainbow Bridge. "We want our members to know how much we appreciate them and their support of our mission to preserve Ojai's Open Space," said Event Coordinator, Carole Cascio. "These gatherings are another way to say thank you."



Firefighters Battle November 2001 Blaze at Preserve.

Reducing Fire Danger At The Preserve

Last November's 5-acre fire at the Ojai Meadows Preserve reinforced to Conservancy staff and board members why their 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, Education Coordinator and Preserve Manager. "A fire in the grove could be a serious threat to our neighbors. 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 now struggle to survive under the fast growing non-native Eucalyptus.

Engel Named Co-Chair Of Open Space Committee

Jim Engel, Conservancy executive director, has been named co-chair of the Ventura County Open Space District Advisory Committee. Joesph Gibson of the Conejo Recreation and Park District was named as the other chair. The 41-member committee was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to determine how the proposed district would operate, evaluate projects and receive funding. The committee includes representatives from environmental, agricultural and business interests throughout the County.

Ways to Help

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed for a whole range of jobs. Join our great staff and volunteers 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.

There are many ways we can use your special talents. Just let us know what you'd like to do. You'll find a wonderful group of volunteers all pulling together, having fun, working to create a great event.

Moonlight on the Meadow Support Committee

Would you like to meet some great, new people? Would you like to join friends you already know? Would you like to help save open space while having fun? Then join the Moonlight On The Meadow Support Committee.

You can work with us on the auction. Help send out the invitation. Decorate our lovely big white tent. Join in creating our delicious buffet!

Whatever your area of interest or expertise, we will be happy to have you join the fold and create our best event yet!!!

Office Assistants

Experience the 'pulse' of the Conservancy by working at our office. Meet our great staff and volunteers while working on mailings, special projects and other office duties. We would prefer a weekly commitment of a few hours, but once a month would work too.

Preserve Clean-up

Volunteers are needed for monthly meadow clean-ups. If you are interested in helping us keep the Ojai Meadows Preserve clean and beautiful, please join us for one to one and a half hours each month. Dates for clean-ups will be posted on the OVLC hotline at 646-0251.

Wild About Ojai Assistants

Come experience our new and exciting education program. It's a chance to be outside, learn about the natural world of the Ventura River Watershed and help families better understand the importance of protecting open space for future generations. An ideal commitment is three hours, once a month.

Events Assistants

During the year the OVLC sponsors several fundraising events. Each event has a special theme that requires unique talents.

So join us! Come on down to the office. Bring a friend or call Carole at 646-0251 or email her at ovlcevents@ojai.net and tell us how you can help.

Special Thanks

Ren and Victoria Adam provided the Conservancy with a free, full page ad in the 2002 Ojai Valley Phone Directory. **Frank and Maudette Finck** donated a copy/fax machine.

Gateway Title for providing free title reports on conservation properties. **Local Hero Books** for providing access to our offices during the Arcade Plaza renovation. **Oak Grove School** for contributing funds raised on the Earth Day Walk to our land acquisition fund.

Vickie Peters for all her work on our G.I.S. software grant application. The late, **Susan Tallyn** and **Toetie Hogenboom** for all they did to spread an appreciation of the Ojai Meadows Preserve. **David and Mary Trudeau** for hosting our annual new member event at their beautiful home.

Voltage Vehicles, Ferguson, Case, Orr, Paterson & Cunningham, Derby & Derby, Michael & Ellen Shapiro, Swanner Physical Therapy, Dautch Family Organic Farm, Grant Kemp & First Bank, Viking Farms & Patty Waltcher for sponsoring the Earth Day Walk.

Newest Park Donors

Kathy Bennett
Sharon Booth
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Teresa Camarillo
Roger & Shelley Dickerson
Maurya Foy
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Tony & Anne Thacher
Villanova Parents' Guild
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Marqui & Bob Bury
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Lyndon & Pamela Pittinger
Mimi Rich
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J.G. Withers

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Elizabeth & John McMahan & Family
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Judy & Dr. William Pugh
Christine & Dr. Larry Simpson
Jessie & Manuel Trevino
Sharon & Alan Wun

Donations made in memory of Debbie Fraund

Kathy Bennett
Corinne Fraund
Villanova Parents' Guild
Villanova Preparatory School



Donations made in memory of Bette Jayne Carelli

Richard Carelli

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.

Teena & Dar Broumand	June & David Ellison	Shirley Ketchum Patterson
Robert Burco	Benjamin Engle & Nancy Cane	Laura & Larry Ragan
Teresa Camarillo	Sage Essick Intner & David Intner	Robbie Sheppard
Richard Carelli	Ruth & David Kille	Dewey V. Schorre & W. Norman Cooper
Ann & Alan Charlesworth	Steve Matzkin	Judy & Bob Stix
Betty Crosby	George & Cheryl Moore	Richard Thompson
Paul Dentzel	Robin & Niels Nyborg	Melony Vance
Shelley & Roger Dickerson	Pamela Nye	J.G. Withers

Renewals

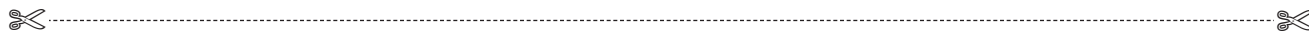
Every year, hundreds of our members choose to renew their membership. Thanks for your exceptional support! We are happy to recognize the following individuals and businesses who have renewed their membership since early February. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Ren & Victoria Adam	Dr. Robert & Rhonda Graham	Debra & Jeff McComas
Sheila & Lincoln Anderson	Kitty Greycloud	Marion & Donald McIsaac
Anna Jacobs-Auric	John Greynald	Wilma & John Melville
Steve Bennett	Peter & Barbara Haggerty	Margaret Nofziger
The Birbeck Family	Kathleen Hellwitz	Jo O'Connell & Byron Cox
Gabriele Blackburn	Ruth Hemming	Ann & Harry Oppenheimer
Susan Broidy	Harriet Herrick	Carol Peterson & Curt Mossestad
Peter & Carla Brooks	Priscilla Hickman	Barbara & Marty Pops
Molly & Rowe Burgett	Cal & Dot Houston	Ronald Rowe
Charles Casey	Jim & Susan Jackson	Amy Schneider
Sheri Ann Cate	Joan Kemper (Match from Northern Trust)	Sarah Schneider
Bert Collins	George Jaidar & Malchia Olshan	Dan & Olga Singer
Karen Courington & Dan Lukasiewkz	Michael Jauregui & Susan Olson	Carol Smith & Larry Yuva
Greta & Robert Davis, Jr.	Patricia Jump	Edie & Howard Smith
Linda & Peter D'Aprix	Nancy & Michael Krumpschmidt	Jane Spiller
Heidi & Peter Di Capua	Sandra & Jordan Laby	John & Helene Vachet
Cynthia Duncan & John N. Hall	Lynn & George Malone	Marguerite & Milton Van Winkle
Bob & Marilyn Essick	Charles Massaro & Carol Garramone	Joan & Bill Vogel
Karen Fay	Mary Jane & Wally McCall	Dana White
Marge & John Fay	Drs. Janis & David McCann	Elizabeth & J.B. White
Katherine & John Felton		Merrill Williams
Dana & Fred Fleet		Susanne & Blake Wilson
Fern & Howard Gilbert		Frank Winfrey & Cynthia Stark Winfrey
Fruit Growers		
Lab, Inc.		

Annual Fund Gifts

Dawn and James Engel	Wendy and Eric Lockwood
Karen Fay	Gay Martin and Patricia Cluche
Jill Greene	Behind the Scenes Catering
Maj and Larry Hagman	Maggie and Bill Mors
Sally and Lamar Hoover	

New Member Form



New Member Form

Yes! I'll help preserve open space in the Ojai Valley • Enclosed is my annual tax-deductible pledge/gift of:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25-\$49 Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$249 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500-\$999 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 Sustaining Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000+ Steward |

MEMBERSHIP NAME(S) _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ HOME PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Please make check payable to: **The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy**, P.O. Box 1092 • Ojai, CA 93024
or contribute through your Credit Card

Name on Card _____ Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Amount \$ _____

**SAVE THE DATE, MOONLIGHT ON THE MEADOW
SEPTEMBER 14, 2002**

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