



# OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 11 No. 2

*Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today*

Fall 2004

## Conservancy Adopts Wetland Restoration & Flood Control Plan

*A seemingly impossible dream became a reality in 2003 when the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy was awarded \$1.15 million by the California Department of Water Resources to restore the Ojai Meadows Preserve. One of the first goals for the Conservancy when it was founded in 1987 was to purchase and restore the meadow. Seventeen years and thousands of volunteer hours later, it is all coming true.*

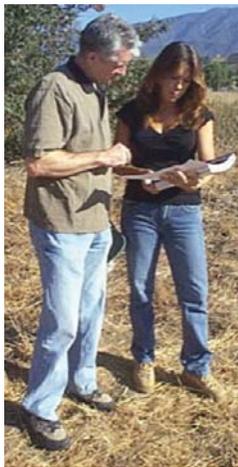
### Days Gone By

Sadly, Ojai and the State of California have lost more than 95 percent of the wetlands that thrived here only 100 years ago. An aerial photo taken in 1929 reveals a large crescent shaped wetland covering the central portion of the 58-acre Ojai Meadows Preserve.

With the construction of the Maricopa Highway north of the Y intersection in the 1930s and the relocation of the high school in the early 1960s, the need to redirect stream courses that fed the meadow resulted in the near extinction of an extensive wetlands ecosystem.

In addition, the rerouting of the natural stream courses in the vicinity of the Nordhoff High School campus did not result in the elimination of flooding problems on the campus. The portion of Maricopa Highway that bisects the former wetlands continues to be inundated by winter rains. This limits access to the Nordhoff gymnasium, which is designated as an emergency command post and evacuation shelter by the American Red Cross.

So with flooding on the Nordhoff campus a distinct possibility each winter, and the once flourishing wetlands largely gone, there was a genuine need for innovative and imaginative thinking.



*Martin Potter, Wildlife Biologist for the Department of Fish and Game, discusses the restoration plan with OVLC Board Member, Sally Coleman*

### From Dream To Reality

In 2001 Matilija Junior High School history teacher Mike Krumpschmidt made a proposal to the Conservancy and the Ojai Unified School District, asking them to join forces and submit a grant to the California State Department of Water Resources.

The two organizations gave Krumpschmidt the nod and early in 2003 the Department of Water Resources awarded \$2.15 million to the School District and the Conservancy to raise the level of the athletic fields, redirect runoff away from the highway and re-establish the wetlands on the Preserve.

### The Plan

In early 2003, the Conservancy's Board of Directors conceived the general concept for restoration that was designed to meet the needs and desires of the community. After a competitive selection process, the Conservancy hired Condor Environmental Planning Services of Santa Barbara to create a detailed restoration plan with the goals of flood control, water quality enhancement, and wetlands restoration.

According to Sally Coleman, the Conservancy board member who is overseeing the restoration, the



*Cattails*

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# Wetland Restoration and Flood Control Plan

continued from front page



*The Wetlands Plan is designed to alleviate the effects of past flooding*

plan Condor submitted is a comprehensive and ambitious one based on solid research. "The plan we've approved is an incredible blueprint for what will happen on the meadow during the next several years," says Coleman.

Condor Environmental's scientists created a restoration plan that will result in a more aesthetically diverse preserve which will support greater numbers of birds and wildlife and increased opportunities for nature appreciation and learning. According to Elihu Gervitz, Principal of Condor Environmental, "This will be accomplished by enhancing existing conditions on the preserve and removing many of the exotic plant species, replanting native species and restoring wetlands functions."

The restoration plan calls for removal of invasive non-native plants such as thistles, non-native grasses and arundo donax prior to the reintroduction of native species. The number of existing eucalyptus trees will also be reduced by about one third in order to improve conditions for wetlands restoration.

Other elements of the restoration include the planting of a val-

ley oak savanna on the northeastern portion of the preserve, where a grove of mature valley oaks is presently in decline.

*The restoration plan that will result in a more aesthetically diverse preserve which will support greater numbers of birds and wildlife and increased opportunities for nature appreciation and learning.*

To enhance access for bird watching and native plant study, the plan recommends that nearly two miles of existing and new trails be created and maintained. Another major goal is to provide opportunities for solitude, quiet nature appreciation and active learning for students of all ages.

## *Nature's Caretaker*

In many ways, wetlands are nature's caretakers. They benefit urban environments by absorbing pollutants and bacteria from storm water runoff. Wetlands will also serve as a flood control devise that will allow storm water to be absorbed into the ground rather than overflowing onto adjacent properties and Highway 33.

Controlling flooding along the Highway will also improve access to the Red Cross shelter in the Nordhoff High School gymnasium during emergencies.

The restoration plan for the preserve also devotes a section to recommendations for dealing with the West Nile Virus. The plan calls for the creation of a biologically diverse habitat across the Ojai Meadows that will provide habitat for natural predators of mosquitoes including birds, bats and other insects. This is expected to keep the mosquito population down.

The plan also recommends that the Conservancy and County of Ventura Environmental Health

Department coordinate regular monitoring of the wetlands for mosquito populations and take action when necessary to eliminate mosquito larvae with a biologically safe pesticide which is not toxic to humans and wildlife.

**CONTINUED ON INSIDE BACK COVER**



*Volunteers Sue Bee and Jon Dieges have helped identify many of the bird species found at the Ojai Meadows*

# How You Can Help

## Special Year End Giving Opportunities: Something Solid To Stand On

As we begin to reflect on another successful year, please consider a special gift to support the future of open space and the quality of life in the Ojai Valley. Your generous gift will be used to provide our board, volunteers and staff with the tools necessary to protect open spaces such as the Ventura River and Confluence Preserves.

### PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

#### 1. BECOME A FRIEND OF THE OJAI VALLEY -

A combined membership and annual contribution of \$1,000 or more will help assure the protection of the Ojai Valley's open spaces for your family and future generations. Unrestricted gifts made earlier in the year do count toward your Friends of the Ojai Valley membership total.

#### 2. AN EXTRA GIFT MEANS EXTRA REWARDS -

A combined membership and annual gift that equals \$200 or more will be rewarded with a copy of the beautifully illustrated, Wildflowers of California book and a Michael McFadden 2005 Color of Ojai Calendar. Unrestricted gifts made earlier in the year will count toward this program.

#### 3. APPRECIATED ASSETS -

Donate a gift of appreciated stock, real estate, individual retirement plans or mutual funds. Avoid capital gains and receive a tax deduction. These gifts also count towards becoming a Friend of the Ojai Valley and other rewards.

#### 4. EVERY GIFT WILL BE MATCHED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CHALLENGE-

Every year-end annual fund gift will be matched dollar for dollar. For example, every hundred dollars donated by you, will be matched with a hundred dollar gift from Jim Engel, the Conservancy's Executive Director and his wife, Dawn. Please make your gifts this Fall, so we can fully realize our mission to protect Ojai's vanishing open spaces.

## Special Note

### *Special Note From Jim Engel, Executive Director*

This is the first time in many years that the Conservancy has not had an open space capital campaign and the Moonlight On The Meadow live and silent auctions. In the past, these activities have allowed you to contribute several times during the year. This year is different without these opportunities, but fulfilling our open space mission still remains a vital goal.

If you have never made a year-end gift to the Conservancy, please give this year's request a special consideration. If you have given before, please be as generous as possible. Your reward is the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will benefit something solid-something you can stand on, see, touch with your hands and experience again and again.

In the next week you will receive a request in the mail for a year-end contribution. Your generous gift will help us seize new open space opportunities during 2005 and build on our 1,900-acre open space legacy.

*From Jim Engel*

**Considering a gift but need more information?**

**Contact Jim Engel at (805) 646-7930**

### *Who Are The Friends of the Ojai Valley?*

The Friends of the Ojai Valley is a small group of visionary conservationists who generously contribute an unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more over a period of one year. Members of the "Friends" understand that safeguarding our vanishing open spaces requires a proactive organization that has the resources necessary to respond to once-in-a-lifetime opportunities and develop long-term relationships with conservation-minded landowners. Friends receive tours of future open space protection efforts, gatherings at local ranches and estates and personal updates on Conservancy projects. In addition, there is the satisfaction of knowing that their gift is helping to secure a better future for the Valley and all of our community. **Become a FOTOV supporter for a minimum of \$83 per month, \$250 per quarter or \$500 twice a year.**

# Upcoming Events

**Walk On The Wild Side:  
Ventura Riverbed**  
Date: Friday, October 1  
8:00am  
Location:  
Rancho El Nido  
Preserve-Riverview  
Trailhead



Hiking the wilds of Wills Creek

Hikers will have a chance to explore the wild side of the Ventura River away from trails and learn about the challenges the Conservancy faces in restoring native habitat. Good hiking shoes, water and experience off trail are a must for this once a year, two and half hour exploration.

**Environmental Learning Series:  
Rick Ridgeway,  
World Adventurer**  
Date: Saturday, October 9  
Time: 4:30pm  
Location: Ojai Playhouse  
See Page 5 for more information.



**5K Run For Open Space**  
Date: Saturday,  
October 16  
Time: 8:30am  
Location: Rancho El Nido Preserve -  
Riverview Trailhead  
See page 5 for more information.

**Preserve Bird Walks**  
Saturdays, October  
16, November 20

and December 18  
Time: Call for time  
Location: Call for location

Join our birding enthusiasts to learn more about the many colorful and interesting birds on our preserves. Beginner and experienced birders welcome!

**Preserve Hikes With Jim Engel**  
Fridays, November 5 and  
December 4 • 8am  
Location: Rancho El Nido  
Preserve-Riverview Trailhead

Join our executive director, Jim Engel for a walk through the Ventura River Preserve-Rancho El Nido. Learn about the Conservancy's latest open space protection efforts. Bring water and your open space questions.

**New Year's Eve Party**  
Date: Friday, December 31  
Time: 8pm  
Location: The Rainforest at the  
Oak View Community Center  
See below for more information.

**San Juan River Rafting  
Adventure**

Date: April 4-9, 2005  
Location: Bluff, Utah  
See page 5 for more information.



Ancient Indian ruins, petroglyphs and incredible scenery await raft trip participants

Photo provided by OARS

**All programs require pre-registration.  
Call 646-0251 or email us  
at [ovlcmembership@ojai.net](mailto:ovlcmembership@ojai.net)**

## New Year's Eve Party

**P**lease save the date for the Conservancy's New Year's Eve Party: Shangri-La in Ojai, December 31, 2004. Ring in the New Year as we enjoy a tropical paradise, dance to music by the renowned Nordhoff Jazz Band Quintet, and enjoy sumptuous food and drink. The party takes place at the easily accessible Oak View Community Center and begins at 8:00 pm.

The rainforest décor will be apparent as soon as you enter the party, with living plants and centerpieces and other tropical scenes. Food provided by the Conservancy's fabulous cooks, drinks by Regals of Ojai, and myriad surprises will make this an evening not to be missed. This is a wonderful and fun way to make a year-end contribution toward open space while you ring in the New Year with Conservancy friends, old and new.

Tickets will be \$75 per person, and tables may be reserved for up to ten for \$700. Reservations can be made conveniently online at our website, [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org) or by email or phone. On-site babysitting will be available in an adjoining room for \$10 per child, with special children's activities included.



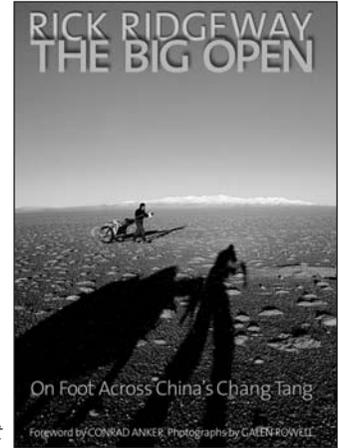
# Upcoming Events

## Rick Ridgeway Brings World Adventures To Ojai

Come hear the amazing stories from Rick Ridgeway's latest book about crossing Tibet on foot on Saturday, October 9 at 4:30pm at the Ojai Playhouse. Ridgeway, a famed mountain climber and explorer, will narrate this one-hour multimedia presentation. Rick will sign books after the talk. Books purchased at the event and ticket sales will benefit the Conservancy. Rick's talks always draw a capacity crowd, so make your reservation now. A book signing is scheduled immediately following the presentation at the Ojai Library. Our website, [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org), offers convenient billing or you can call or email us.

Advance purchase is \$15 a person or \$40 for the whole family. Cost at the door is \$20 a person and \$50 per family.

Photo provided by Galen Rowell/Mountain Light



## 5K Run and Walk Planned At Rancho El Nido Preserve

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy will hold its first annual 5K Trail Run/Walk on Saturday, October 16th, 2004 through the beautiful Ventura River-Rancho El Nido Preserve.



A runner previews the route for the 5K Run for Open Space

This is an extraordinary time of year to experience the scenic 1,600-acre open space preserve that was acquired through the hard work and generous donations of many local residents. We encourage you to join us for the Run/Walk, and bring your children, we'll include

them with a Kid's Run!

The \$15 early registration fee helps the Conservancy keep the preserve healthy. (\$18 registration on the day of event). Registration and payment can be conveniently made online at [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org). Each participant will receive a beautiful t-shirt featuring a picture of the Preserve. There will be fun prizes in each category.

- 8:15 am - Kids 1/2 mile run for all ages - Parents may run/walk with younger children. (prizes for each child participant)
- 8:30 am - 5K Run
- 9:30 am - 5K Walk

If you don't walk or run - Please volunteer to help with the race. We'd love to see you there. Please phone 646-7930 or e-mail [ovlcevents@ojai.net](mailto:ovlcevents@ojai.net) to volunteer.

This event has been sponsored by: Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe, Whyte House Productions and Patagonia. Other Supporters are: Balance Bar, Friends Orchards and Stables, Culligan Water, Road I.D., Gallaz, World Industries, Globe Shoes and TimBuk2.

## San Juan River Raft Trip Benefits the Conservancy

The Conservancy is sponsoring a 6-day raft trip in Utah, and you are invited to participate. The trip will occur from April 4-9, which coincides with Ojai Unified School District's Spring Break. The San Juan River flows through some of the world's most splendid wilderness. Located in Southeast Utah, this calm and congenial river offers a relaxing float trip livened up by Class II rapids.

Terrific hiking amid Pueblo archeological ruins and rock art, glorious spring vegetation, majestic colorful convoluted river walls, breathtaking buttes, mesas and pinnacles await our 24 adventurers. Children as young as 5 will enjoy this family-friendly, 83-mile trip. Sumptuous meals and tents are provided; the work is done for you by the friendly O.A.R.S.' staff! And, friendships will flourish as Ojaians who love nature share this once-in-a-lifetime experience, while benefiting our open space mission. The Conservancy will receive 20% of the proceeds from the trip.

Costs are \$940 for adults and \$853 for children under 18. Transportation to the departure point will be on your own, with travel suggestions provided. For further information, call the OVLC office at 646-0251 or [ovlcmembership@ojai.net](mailto:ovlcmembership@ojai.net) for a trip packet. Information is also provided at the O.A.R.S.' website [www.oars.com](http://www.oars.com). Reservation deadline is January 31, 2005 and the trip is limited to the first 24 participants who register.



Rafting on the San Juan River

Photo provided by OARS

# Membership

## New Members

**T**hank you to our 59 new members for their exceptional support. The Conservancy's success in the last year is due to the generous financial and volunteer support of our members.

Tommy & Nanette Benbrook	Ingrid Martin
Tara Blassco	Wayne & Cynthia Matthews
Lyra & Bret Buyan	Steve Matzkin
Will Castanga	Heather McKenzie & Tanya Barber
Sara Cloud	Tom & Nancy Michali
Robert Coit & Barbara Landan Coit	Everett & Susan Murdock
Sally Coleman & Kenton Shank	Riley & Valarie Neel
Jean Colonomos	Ron Romero
Frederick Dewey	Robert & Katrina Schmidt
Don & Gwen Fraser	Penny & Bill Seachrest
Jeffrey & Theresa Ferguson	Greg Sherrow & Deborah Cooper
Armen Vartian & Candice Foss	Larry Sorensen
William & Debbie Fox	Bill & Elizabeth Tallakson
Mrs. Phyllis Glenn	Diane Thackeray
Pamela & Adam Harmon	Frank & Nicasia Ugolini
Lynne W. Kada	Dorothy & Anthonie Voogd
Cyril & Rebecca Kormos	Sarah White
John & Margaret Logan	Ollie & Kaarina Wilson
Sister Francis Mary	

## ANNUAL FUND GIFTS

Anonymous	Donald & Ruth Hauser
The CREW	Steve Matzkin
Robert & Carole Adams	Ronald & Linda Phillips

## CORPORATE MATCHING

### Amgen

Nancy Kochevar

### Patagonia

Sandy Buechley  
Tom Lowe

## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

### Given by

#### Wendy Lockwood:

Jean Colonomos  
Don & Gwen Fraser  
Diane Jaffe  
Ron Romero  
Greg Sherrow &  
Deborah Cooper  
Chris Woods

### Given by

#### Joan Roberts:

Tara Blassco  
Will Castanga  
Ingrid Martin  
Wayne & Cynthia  
Matthews  
Heather McKenzie &  
Tanya Barber

## Renewals

**E**very year, more than a thousand 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 April. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated.

Anonymous	Kent & Camille Houston	Rodney Thompson
Michael & Marjorie Ambarian	Betty Izant	Whit & Kay Ulrich
Brooke & Ev Ashworth	Allan Jacobs	Milton D. Van Winkle
George & Amanda Ball	Waite, Jacobs, & Atkinson	Gil & Carolyn Vondriska
Gary & Catherine Barnhart	Diane Jaffe	Linde Wainwright
Troy & Jeri Becker	Contempo Hair Design	Barbara & Deric Washburn
Susan Bee	Chris & Pete Johnson	John & Nancy Whitman
June & Shed Behar	Anne Johnstone	Laura Whitney
Chris & Karen Birbeck	Denise & Brett Kantrowitz	Bill & Sue Wilmer
Sharon Booth	Gerald & Anne Kaplan	Eric & Catherine Zacher
Caryn & Charlie Bosson	Niall & Jennifer Kelly	Tom & Martha Zeiher
John & Kathy Broesamle	Tanya & Timothy La Prelle	Brian & Chris Zeiner
Alex & Kristin Brodie	Jordan & Sandra Laby	
Ulrich Brugger	Jonathan & Linda Lambert	
Ron & Julia Bruns	Julian & Susan Lange	
Robert Burco	Marc & Phoebe Larson	
Marqui & Bob Bury	Stanley Lazarus	
Heather Shoup & James Calkins	Ojai Village Pharmacy	
Ben Engle & Nancy Cane	Anne E. Littler-Brown	
Peter & Cynthia Cattle	Wendy & Eric Lockwood	
Claire Clark	Dottie Loebel	
Alan & Leslie Connell	Maren & Phil Long	
Thomas & Dorothy Crossman	Drew & Claudia Lurie	
Kevin & Stacy Davis	Glenn True &	
Margaret Dieges	Kathleen McCann True	
Mary & Rene Diets	Barbara & Dave McCarthy	
Cathy Diorio	Ojai Café Emporium	
Paul & Patricia Doody	Jeff & Debra McComas	
Marjorie Emerson	Nila Rae McKinnon	
Roger & Pat Essick	Pat & Julie McPherson	
Jim & Tina Evans	Jerry & Char Michaels	
Franceen Fallett	Mr. Charles W. Millard III	
Ray & Sylvia Faulstich	Robert & Denise Miller	
Mike Fealy	George & Cheryl Moore	
Jerry & Dixie Fullerton	Stephen & Anne Morris	
Jack & Jody Fullerton	Darrell Nelson	
Carol Garramone	Fruit Growers Laboratory, Inc.	
Dean & Cheryl Geiser	Jennifer Phelps &	
William Girvetz	Richard Niles	
Anthony & Kathan Glassman	Jo O'Connell & Byron Cox	
Phyllis Glenn	Australian Native Plants Nursey	
Helene Gordon	Al Stroberg &	
Linda & Frank Granat	Betsy Patterson	
David & Andrea Grant	Nancy Pepper	
Bart's Books	Joan Peters & Peter Passall	
Jesse & Trina Grantham	Ronald & Linda Phillips	
Joyce & Roderick Greene	Marty & Barbara Pops	
Barbara & Stan Greene	Shlomo & Sylvia Raz	
Dennis & Jennifer Guernsey	Ernie & Julie Rischar	
Richard Handley & Ellen Hall	Joan Roberts	
Marti & Niki Harder	Fred & Ila Rothenberg	
Don & Julie Heath	Dietrich & Valerie Schmidt	
Leo & Yvonne Hammerschmitt	Dewey Val Schorre	
Eve M. Hawkins	David Selby	
Ruth Hemming	Dan & Olga Singer	
Ed Henke	Edward B. Smith	
Chetco Trading & Publishing, Inc.	Bill Spellman	
Michael & Elizabeth Hermes	Howard & Rita Stup	
Priscilla C. Hickman	Doris Swift	
	Carl & Katie Thelander	

## Friends of the Ojai Valley

**T**hank you to the following members who have provided generous unrestricted membership gifts of \$1,000 or more since May 2004. In total, the Friends of the Ojai Valley now include 27 families and individuals.

George Berg  
Barry Betlock  
John & Kathy Broesamle  
Sally Coleman &  
Kenton Shank  
Paul & Patricia Doody  
James & Dawn Engel  
Roger & Pat Essick  
Dennis & Jennifer Guernsey  
Don & Julie Heath  
Jim & Susan Jackson  
Wendy & Eric Lockwood  
Dottie Loebel  
Ann & Harry Oppenheimer  
Ronald & Linda Phillips  
Ernie & Julie Rischar  
Dewey Val Schorre  
Carl Thelander  
BioResource  
Consultants  
Gil & Carolyn Vondriska  
Barbara & Deric Washburn

New Member Form available online at [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org)

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LAND CONSERVANCY

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Street Address:  
250 E. Ojai Ave. #B • Arcade Plaza  
Website • www.ovlc.org

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Carl Thelander • Vice President  
Larry Ragan • Treasurer  
Allan Jacobs • Secretary

John Broesamle  
Sally Coleman  
Roger Essick  
Jim Exon  
Ellen Hall  
Marc Larson  
Wendy Lockwood  
David Trudeau  
Barbara Washburn  
Merrill Williams

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Alan Rains  
Michael Shapiro  
Nina Shelley  
Spencer Silver  
Mansfield Sprague  
Pat Weinberger  
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Wendy Riegert • Membership Services  
ovlcmembership@ojai.net

# President's Message

## Wow, Time Flies!

It doesn't seem possible that I've been writing these newsletter columns for three years. And since my tenure as president of this great organization is just about complete, this will be the last column I write, this decade anyway.

By at least two important measures, the past three years have been a huge success. First, the OVLC preserved and protected nearly 1,700 acres of open space. We acquired the Ventura River Preserve/Rancho El Nido, the Confluence Property, and nine acres along Creek Road. In addition, we completed Cluff Vista Park and embarked on the historic and ambitious wetlands restoration and flood control project on the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

Second, and just as important for me personally, is the fact that I made many new friendships and acquaintances. These are friendships based on shared values and a respect for community service. I've been amazed by the generosity of the folks who call this valley home, and at how much people give not just to the OVLC but to other organizations and causes as well.

If there's a lesson I've learned the past three years it's how much a group of dedicated people can accomplish when they put their minds to it and work together. It's one thing to write cantankerous letters to the editor; it's quite another to roll up one's sleeves and work to make this valley a better place to live.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is particularly blessed with a dedicated staff and cadre of volunteers. Our Board

of Directors and the volunteers who work so hard behind the scene are nothing short of amazing. Our incredible staff—Jim, Rich and Wendy—has open space in their blood. Their commitment to our organization and principles is one of the reasons we've been so successful. I am thankful to have been part of such a wonderful team.



Jim Jackson

My greatest thanks, however, goes to my family, my wife Susan and my two boys, Evan and Ryan. It wasn't just my time that we donated to the Conservancy it was their time with me, too. Their great gift was enabling their husband/dad to get involved and stay involved. I am truly grateful for their shared love of open space and the environment. They are the loves of my life.

As a way to say goodbye, I invite you to explore our preserves and the mountains and valleys that surround Ojai. Open space is more than an idea or philosophy or a cause—it is hiking a remote trail, mountain biking through a glorious oak woodland, watching a youngster spot his or her first deer in the wild. In essence, open space is about human experience—the experience of recreation, rejuvenation, and discovery. It's not so much about space as it is about our relationship with that space. Go and enjoy!

*Godspeed.*

## Leave A Legacy

### Give A Gift For Future Generations Of The Ojai Valley

Please join the more than twenty 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 Ventura River 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.*

# Thank You

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## State Coastal Conservancy: A Great Open Space Partner

**K**ey areas along the Ventura River and California coast have been protected thanks to the diligent efforts of the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC). The SCC, unlike most Conservancies, is a governmental organization.



*Coastal Conservancy officials, Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer and Peter Brand, Senior Project Manager tour the Rancho El Nido Preserve*

Formed in 1976, the agency has worked with non-profit organizations, such as the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC), successfully protecting more than 100,000 acres of coastline and watersheds including three and a half miles along the Ventura River.

"We never could have realized our

goal of protecting Rancho El Nido and the Confluence Preserves without the SCC," explains Jim Engel, OVLC Executive Director. "Now they are helping us to revitalize recreational trails, develop management plans and restore critical habitat."

This successful partnership also requires the OVLC to raise private donations and recruit volunteer assistance. "We only enter partnerships with local groups who have the capacity to safeguard these properties," says Peter Brand, SCC Senior Manager. "OVLC's excellent track record and strong membership base shows us that they have a long-term plan to secure local donations for care of these open spaces."

The SCC is comprised of an appointed, seven-member board and a staff led by Executive Officer, Sam Schuchat. SCC funding comes from a variety of sources but most of it originates from conservation bond acts passed by California voters.

Both Conservancies are continuing to work together with willing landowners to protect other key open space parcels along the Ventura River. Stay tuned!

## Special Thanks

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*Ren and Victoria Adam* for donating a full page of advertising space in the Ojai Valley Directory.

*Earl Bates'* informative article on Rancho El Nido in the Summer Visitor's Guide.

*Barry Betlock* for coordinating the Rick Ridgeway talk.

*Marqui Bury, Trina Grantham, Jon Lambert, Dana Lomax, Cookie Miley, Bob and Virginia Unruhe,* for creating the family oriented, butterfly count education program.

*Doug Campbell* and his handy chainsaw for removing fallen oak trees from the Wills Canyon trail.

*Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe, Whyte House Productions and Patagonia* for being generous sponsors for our first ever 5K run at Rancho El Nido.

*Sally Coleman* for joining the Conservancy board, taking over management of the Ojai Meadows wetlands restoration project and along with her husband, Kenton, is donating a SUV for use at our preserves.

*Jim Combs* for volunteering to build beautiful benches for the Rancho El Nido Preserve.

*County Open Space Alliance Members* for dedicating their time to passing Measure A-The Open Space Initiative.

*Kevin Delaney and Crosley Williamson* for their two months of great service as our very first Preserve Interns.

*Hope Frazier* for making an enlarged version of our Valley-wide open space map.

*Friends of the Ojai Valley members* for their generous spirit and concern for the future of our community.

*Generation Communications and Bobbie Balderman* for their excellent design of the Rancho El Nido brochure.

*Sue Gruber* for hosting an equestrian volunteer potluck and training event at her ranch.

*Household Gods, Jim Lashly, JB White, Charlie Bosson, Robert Menna and their friends Peter Cantle and Peter Bellwood* for sharing their musical talent with our members.

*Catherine Lee* for her time and support in the office.

*Susan and Doc Murdoch and Wendy Lockwood* for organizing the 5K Run.

*Barb Muska and the other equestrian patrol volunteers* who keep the Rancho El Nido Preserve a safe and pleasant place to visit.

*Rick Ridgeway* for offering to do a talk on his latest book and donating the proceeds of the book sales to the Conservancy.

*Daniel Riegert* for donating a digital camera.

*Thacher School* for providing their beautiful amphitheatre for the Household Gods Concert.

*Lars and Sanne Wallevik* for hosting an event at their beautiful 250-acre ranch.

*Ginny Winfield and Liz White* for covering phones in the afternoons this summer. This was a great help.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Natural Resource Protection

### Preserve Patrol Hosts

Patrol trails at the VRP and other Preserves. Educate visitors about our preserves, explain the rules, clean up and provide trail maintenance. A great chance to get outdoors!

### Trailhead Information Assistants

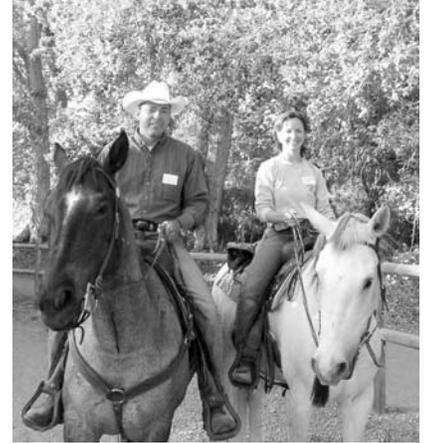
Interested in helping at our Preserves? These volunteers will be located at our trailheads to educate the public and answer their questions. We'll provide brochures, shade and a comfortable chair.

### Adopt A Trail Crews

Adopt a trail and care for it throughout the year. We provide the tools and training. A great opportunity for family, friends or businesses to spend rewarding time together ensuring the public's enjoyment of our preserves.

### G.I.S. Assistants

Help gather data about natural resource and recreation issues and prepare maps to monitor the Conservancy's preserve management. Some G.I.S. and GPS experience is helpful.



*Equestrian volunteers Willi and Stefanie Coeler patrol Preserve trails*



*Marqui Bury and Kathy Broesamle serve appetizers at one of our many events*

### Special Projects

Do you like to build or fix things? We always have a need for benches, signage, fencing and removal of downed trees, to name a few. Put your talents to a good cause.

### Natural Resource Specialists

Do have a professional or personal passion for wildlife, birds, plants, and geography? In many cases, very little is known about the natural history of our preserves. Help us to gather information and report on the rich biodiversity of our Preserves.

***Please contact Rich Handley at 646-7930 or at [ovlcpreserve@ojai.net](mailto:ovlcpreserve@ojai.net) for more information***

## Office



Experience the center of our open space protection effort in the Ojai Valley. We need people to prepare mailings, answer phones and greet visitors, put together information boards, develop flyers, organize files, distribute newsletters and flyers around the Valley, etc.

***Please contact Wendy Riegert at 646-7930 or [ovlcmembership@ojai.net](mailto:ovlcmembership@ojai.net) for more information.***

## Events

So many choices to choose from! (see pages 4 and 5 for more event information). The Conservancy needs volunteers to plan events, oversee other volunteers, check in event participants, decorate event sites, set-up and take down tables and chairs, prepare food, serve food and drinks, and so much more. It's fun, please join us!

***Please contact Kathy Broesamle at 646-5948 for more information.***

## Conservancy Endorses Measure A-The Open Space Initiative

“It’s a very rare occasion that we endorse a ballot measure,” explains Jim Jackson, Conservancy President. “We’re very careful in providing our support for only the most critical of issues.” In fact, the last time the Conservancy endorsed a ballot measure was a decade ago.

If passed by Ventura County voters in November, Measure A will help protect oak woodlands, rivers and creeks, coastline and farms throughout the county by working with willing landowners. The measure will provide \$25 million per year to protect critical open space including along the Ventura River, San Antonio Creek and scenic viewsheds throughout the Valley. The Conservancy will have a distinct advantage in securing these funds for open space protection because of a successful track record over the last seventeen years. Strong financial support from Conservancy members and continued success in receiving state grants will raise Conservancy projects above other groups’ proposals that don’t enjoy this high level of support.

The Measure A ballot initiative was developed through the recommendations from a non-partisan, 41-member committee of community leaders, business members, farmers and environmentalists. The funding will be limited to just ten years, include a fiscal oversight committee and require city approval of any project to ensure local input. More than \$7 million will be set aside annually for the communities of Ojai, Ventura, Santa Paula and Fillmore. The remainder of the funds will be used in other parts of Ventura County.

The County Open Space Alliance (COSA), which is organizing the campaign to pass the measure, has already received significant campaign donations from Conservancy members.

### Nature Notes: Quail

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The California Valley Quail is not only the California state bird, but also the Conservancy mascot. These colorful birds, who are reticent to fly, are found on each of the preserves, but are most common at the Rancho El Nido Preserve. “The combination of chaparral and open meadows makes it ideal for quail,” explains Jon Dieges, local birder and Conservancy volunteer.

The California quail can be found from southern Oregon to southern California and east into Nevada. The male has a gray chest, and brown back and wings. It has a black throat with white stripes and a brown cap on its head. The female has a gray or brown head and back and a lighter speckled chest and belly. Both the male and

the female have a curved black crown feather on their foreheads. The male’s crown feather is larger than the female’s. The California quail is sometimes called the valley quail.

Quail congregate in coveys, which can reach as many as seventy birds. However, in the fall they pair off to breed, producing an average of five eggs per week. Male California quails will perch on a tree or post and call out to claim their territory. The California quail will roost in trees to avoid danger and to rest. The female incubates each egg for twenty-one to twenty-

three days and if anything happens to her, the male will take over. Even if both parents are killed, single male quail may take over chick rearing duties. Despite this strong parenting instinct, only about half the chicks will survive to adulthood.

Quail make their first attempts at flight when they are about 10-days old. They will stay on the ground for about a month and then will roost in trees with the rest of the flock. The female usually has one brood per year.

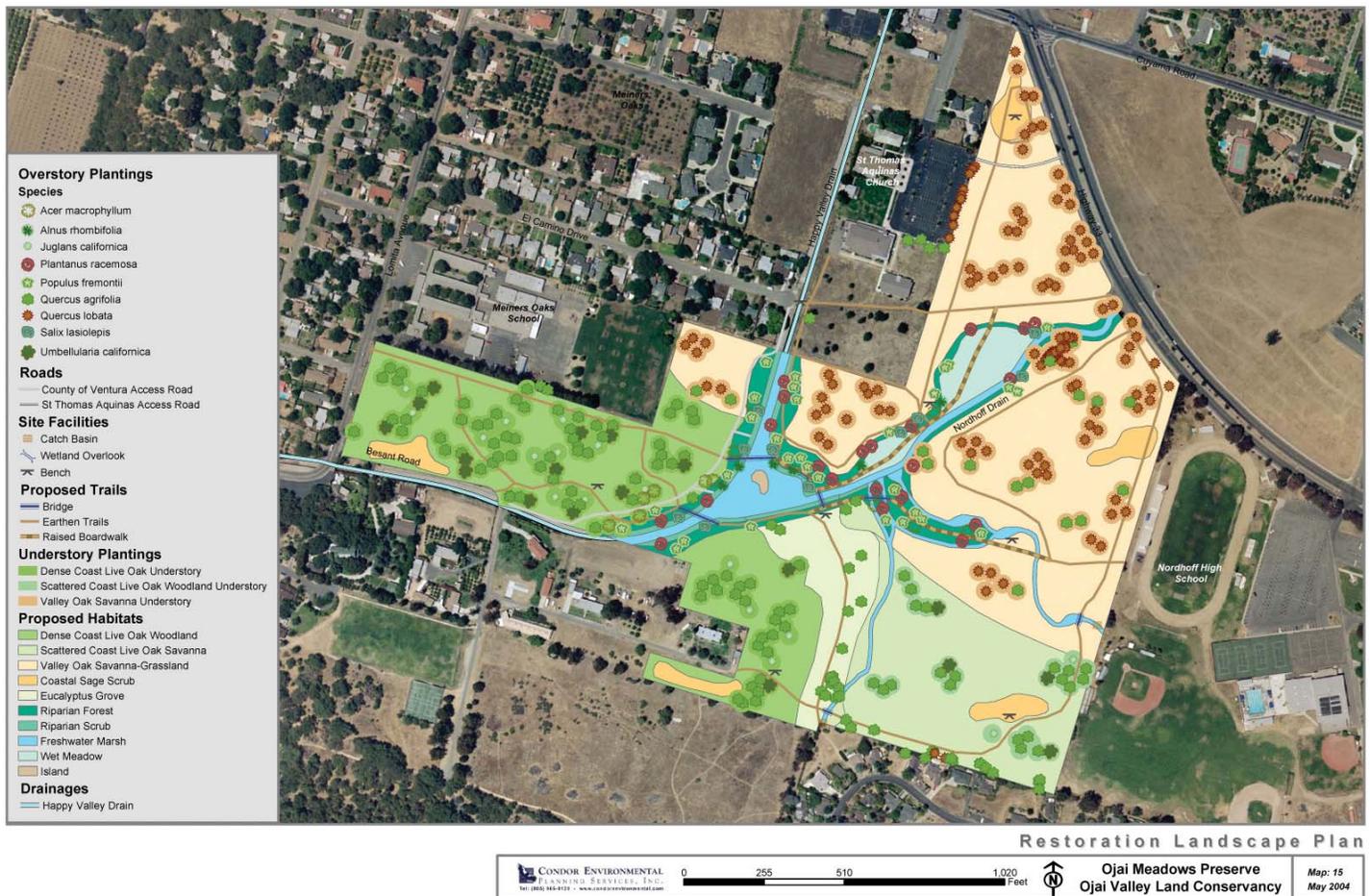


© Milton Moody

California Valley Quail

# Wetland Restoration and Flood Control Plan

## Preserve Restoration Landscape Plan



### An Invitation to Participate

Conservancy President Jim Jackson says that this will be the first ever major habitat restoration project in Ojai and it will show what's possible - that wetlands can be restored along with other habitats in urban areas. He adds that rather than locking people out of sensitive habitat, they will be invited to participate in the project.

A copy of the Ojai Meadows Preserve Habitat Restoration and Flood Control Plan is available for review at the Ojai Library and online at the Land Conservancy website: [www.ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc.org) at the "Projects" link on our home page.

**The Conservancy will host a public presentation of the Ojai Meadows Preserve Habitat Restoration and Flood Control Plan on:**

**Thursday Night,  
October 14<sup>th</sup> • 7:00-9:00pm  
at the Ojai Art Center on  
Montgomery Street.**

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

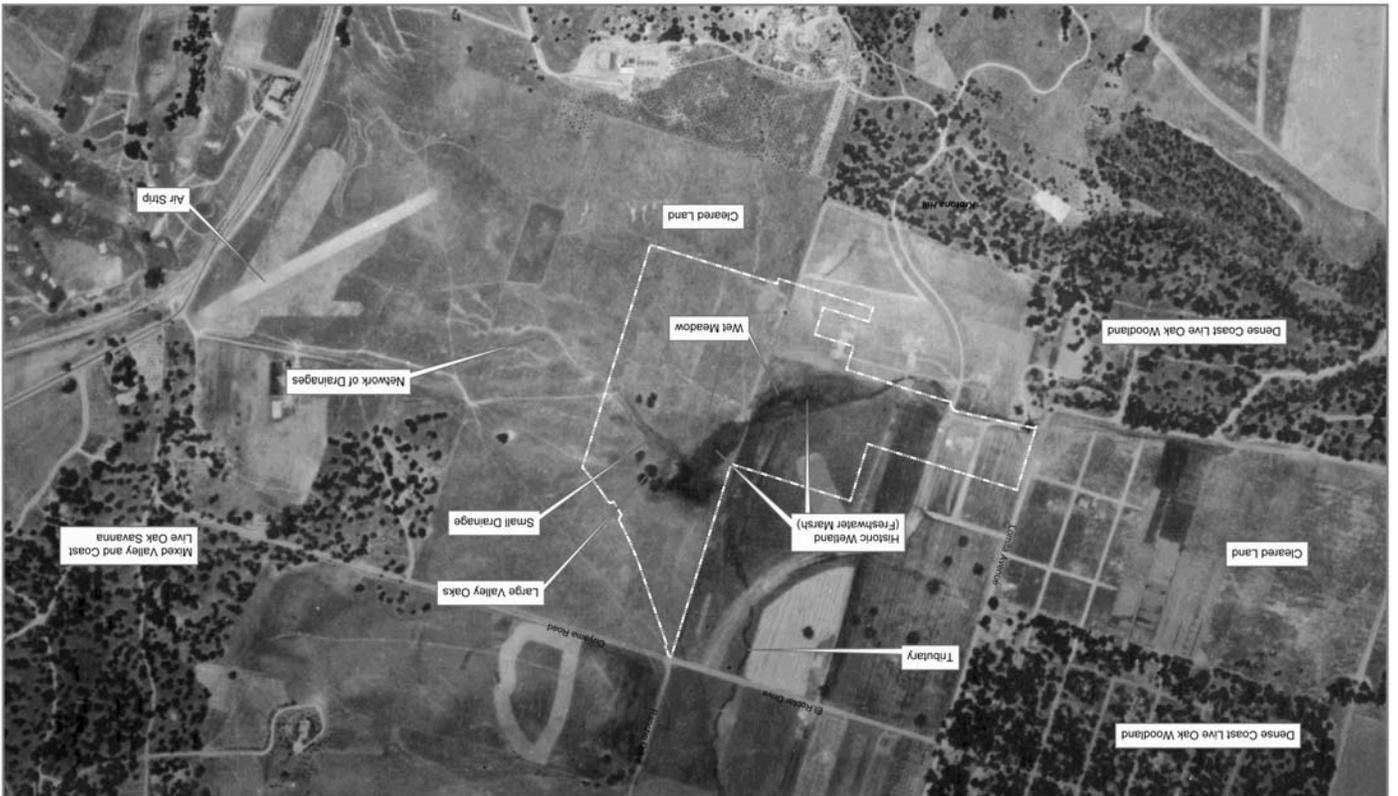
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