



OPEN SPACES

The latest news from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Vol. 13 No. 1

Working to Protect The Ojai Valley's Future - Today

Spring 2006

OVLC Celebrates 20 Years of Preserving Open Space in the Ojai Valley

How time flies! We have to pinch ourselves to make sure 20 years have really passed since the founding of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Back in 1986 the concept of preserving open space in the Ojai Valley was just that, a concept. The early 1980s witnessed local government pulling back from acquiring recreational lands and actually relinquishing some holdings that had served that purpose.

Luckily a group of Ojai Valley citizens stepped forward to create an organization that could acquire and manage significant open space for the enjoyment of the public. Brenda Martin, Greg McMillan, Alasdair Coyne, Ellen Hall and Richard Handley invited a broad spectrum of valley residents to join the board of directors and the Land Conservancy grew from that solid base of support.

The Conservancy's first open space achievement came in December, 1990 when the Ojai Valley School board of directors placed permanent open space protection on their two campuses. Then on December 31, 1996, Dr. Joseph Ilvento and his family donated a pristine 80 acre parcel adjacent to Thacher School. Next was the successful \$1.2 million campaign to acquire the 58 acre Ojai Meadows Preserve. Cluff Vista Park, the Betty Jane McCurley Preserve on Creek Road, the Ventura River Preserve and the Confluence Preserve followed in quick succession. Each open space campaign required tremendous effort from Conservancy staff, board members and volunteers. But it was the overwhelming generosity of hundreds of donors along with

support from the California Coastal Conservancy and other municipal agencies that made these acquisitions financially possible. To date the Conservancy has permanently protected nearly 2,000 acres of scenic vistas, greenbelts, wetlands, wildlife habitats, 20 miles of recreational trails, 3 1/2 miles of the Ventura River, 4 miles of tributary streams, and over 300 species of plants and animals.

Phil Moncharsh was the Conservancy's president from 1988 - 1994 and recalls the helpful board members who supported his efforts such as Michael Hermes of the Ojai Valley School, former Ojai Mayor and Councilwoman Nina Shelley,

Councilman Steve Olsen, and board members Patsy Eaton Norris, Carl Huntsinger, John and Ginger Wilson and Michael Shapiro. Phil says he is proud to have been board president in those formative years and to have played a role in getting the Conservancy to where it is today. Phil recalls hoping and dreaming that the Conservancy's efforts would prove worthwhile in preserving Ojai's open space for future generations.

John Broesamle, who served as Conservancy president from 1997-1999, says that, "simply put, the Conservancy is the best single hope

See OVLC Celebrates 20 years page 2

Cluff Vista Park Wins Top Design Award

Ojai's Cluff Vista Park has won top honors from the American Society of Landscape Architects, Southern California Chapter.

The prize is a first place honor award in parks and recreation design. It recognizes the park's designers, Bostrom & Associates Inc., of Ojai, and Van Atta Associates, of Santa Barbara. "This is a wonderful success story," said Tom Bostrom, the lead landscape architect of the project. "This award is recognition and affirmation of the vision expressed by the park's creators."

Partners in developing the park included the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, the City of Ojai and dozens of private donors, most notably Don and Sheila Cluff, for whom the park is named. The park was funded entirely by community donations, and augmented by public works construction provided by the City of Ojai. "The driving force behind this project was the Land Conservancy and a group of dedicated people including Don and



See Cluff Vista Park page 6

One of the beautiful views from Cluff Vista Park

Welcome New Faces to the OVLC

The New Year Brings New Faces New Executive Director and Board Members join OVLC

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is pleased to announce that **Chris Woods** has accepted the position of Executive Director.

Chris, a native of England but now a U.S. citizen, has worked in the non-profit world for over twenty years. He started his career at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew where he worked as an apprentice horticulturist and has worked in a number of gardens in the U.K.

He came to the U.S. in 1981 and was, until April 2003, Executive Director of the Chanticleer Foundation, a public garden in Wayne, PA. In 2003 he moved to California to work as Director of External Operations for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

He has been a member of the Board of the Fairmount Park Conservancy, the largest city park in the United States, a Board member of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, and was a founding member of the Business Advisory Board for the Flora of North America Project. The board members and staff are thrilled to have Chris join OVLC.

A new year at the Conservancy means thanking outgoing board members, while welcoming new board members and officers to the organization. This year the OVLC has invited Larry Rose and Vicki Breen to join our Board.

Larry lives in Mira Monte with his wife Lisa Larramendy and son Peter. Larry and Lisa are both 4th generation Ventura County residents. Larry is sales manager at Brokaw Nursery in Saticoy and has been a long-time supporter of OVLC's mission. He has served on OVLC's agriculture committee for several years. Vicki Breen is the owner of Derby & Derby and resides in Ojai with her husband Dan. She is a registered investment advisor and is another strong believer in our vision. Vicki's strong background in finances will be a great addition to our organization.



Chris Woods,
OVLC Executive Director



Larry Rose



Vicki Breen

OVLC Celebrates 20 years

continued from page 1

for preserving the beauty and open space that are so central to the unique experience of living in the Ojai Valley." John and his wife Kathy became active in the Conservancy in 1994, contributing untold volunteer hours to the cause of open space preservation. John, with former Executive Director Jim Engel, guided the Conservancy through key acquisitions that required fundraising in excess of \$2 million.

Jim Jackson, board president from 2002-2004 says that the most exciting event during his tenure was when the California Coastal Conservancy unanimously approved the Ventura River Preserve project, providing a \$3 million grant to purchase the property. Equally gratifying for Jackson was the success of the public campaign that raised over \$800,000 within the valley to maintain the preserve. Jackson adds that, "my hope is that the spirit, teamwork and wherewithal that made this acquisition possible resonates through future efforts to preserve and protect our beautiful valley."

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's future success lies squarely in the hands of its members, volunteers and the citizens of Ojai. As a community based non-profit organization with the goal of preserving Ojai's precious open space, the Land Conservancy will continue to flourish as long as its mission is valued and supported. Let us hope that the next 20 years will prove as successful as the last.



To Gift or Not to Gift

In the past the Land Conservancy has given members gifts as a thank you for their generous contributions. The IRS requires that charitable organizations indicate the retail value of these gifts and deduct that amount from the donors' tax-deductible donation. A number of our members have indicated that they want the full amount of their donation to go to preserving open space. If you prefer not to receive gifts from us, please indicate on your donation and we will see that your wishes are honored.

WISH LIST

- ▶ Network or personal Printer
- ▶ 4WD Work vehicle, small tractor, or quad that could haul a water buffalo/portable water tank
- ▶ Steel rakes, hand weeders
- ▶ Ergonomic office/desk chair
- ▶ GIS software
- ▶ Latest/full version of Adobe Acrobat for PC
- ▶ Latest version of Photoshop for PC

Saturday Morning on the Ventura River Preserve

Date: Saturday, February 11

Time: 8am

Location: Riverview Trailhead

Join botanist Ken Niessen for an informative native plant walk on the Conservancy's Ventura River Preserve. Learn about our unique chaparral plant community. Good hiking shoes and drinking water are recommended for this 2 1/2 hour exploration.

Saturday Morning in Wills Canyon

Date: Saturday, March 25

Time: 9am

Location: Riverview trailhead

Join Preserve Manager Rich Handley on a wildflower hike through Wills Canyon on the Ventura River Preserve. Enjoy the pristine oak forest in Wills Canyon and the many varieties of spring flowers and plants. This is a 3 hour hike. Drinking water and a snack are recommended.

Wildflowers of the Ilvento Preserve

Date: Saturday, April 22

Time: 9am

Location: Meet at Fox Street Park and Ride

This is a once a year opportunity to experience the amazing variety of wildflowers on the 80 acre Ilvento Preserve. Enjoy views of the entire valley from this east-end ridge top property. This 2 1/2 hour hike is of moderate difficulty.

All programs require pre-registration.

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

Open Space is Good for Ojai and Good for Business

The OVLC is renewing annual sponsorship opportunities. This unique sponsorship program will let our conservation-minded community know that you and your business support our successful efforts to protect the Valley's vanishing open spaces.

Please visit <http://www.ovlc.org> or call us at 646-7930 to learn about the many benefits of this program.

2006 SPONSORS TO DATE ARE:

VENTURA RIVER LEVEL (\$5,000)

- Mid-State Bank

OJAI MEADOWS LEVEL (\$2,500)

- Bart's Books
- Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe
- Ojai Valley Inn

SAN ANTONIO CREEK LEVEL (\$1,000)

- The Ranch House Restaurant
- Waite, Jacobs & Atkinson

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN LEVEL (\$500)

- Tottenham Court
- The Village Florist

Volunteer Training Program Offered

Are you interested in learning more about your local environment while helping protect valuable wildlife habitat and open space on the Ventura River Preserve? The Conservancy will launch a comprehensive volunteer training program this March with a lecture and field trip series designed to provide knowledge in native plant identification, local Chumash history, geology, and watershed awareness. The lecture series will begin on Wednesday, March 8th at 7 p.m. with botanist Ken Niessen sharing his knowledge of the local



Volunteer Mike Inada leading our recent mushroom hike

chaparral plant community and the native plants most commonly found on the Conservancy's Ventura River Preserve. Ken has worked extensively with the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service on a variety of native plant surveys and he is an active member of the California Native Plant Society.

On Tuesday, March 14th at 7 p.m. Chumash historian Julie Tumamait will provide a background on Ojai's Chumash history and archaeology. Julie is a direct

descendent of a Native American group that formerly inhabited Santa Cruz Island and she has been active for many years in Native American education. She is currently on the board of directors of the Ojai Valley Museum and serves as the museum's expert on Native American artifacts.

On Wednesday, March 22nd at 7 p.m. Preserve Manager Rich Handley will provide an overview of Ojai's spectacular geology and other aspects of the natural environment surrounding our valley.

The Program will also include a Saturday morning field trip on Saturday, March 25th at 8 a.m. that will familiarize participants with the history, geology and flora and fauna of the Ventura River Preserve.

Participation in this training program is open to anyone interested in helping patrol the Ventura River Preserve, leading guided hikes and/or helping educate the public concerning the natural wonders of Ojai. All lectures will be held at the Conservancy office. Please call 646-7930 to sign up.

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LAND CONSERVANCY

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Website • www.ovlc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mansfield Sprague
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President's Message

Looking Ahead to 2006

A belated glorious New Years' salutation to you all. I wish you peace and prosperity in 2006.

While 2005 was a year of many changes for all of us at OVLC, I can honestly report that these changes have been revitalizing and productive. Our staff is now complete with the addition of Chris Woods, Executive Director, as of early November. Even at this early stage, he has proven to be an excellent leader whose grasp of our mission will yield significant results.

Our focus for 2006 is to acquire, or place into easement, new properties. While Derek and Rich continue the increased pace of wetlands habitat recovery at the Ojai Meadows preserve (see updates on page 6), Chris and I will continue our contacts with valley land owners. Tremendous strides have been made in the past few years in conveying the advantages of easements or outright selling of agricultural or river-side lands. Our busy Land Committee has evaluated over a half dozen properties and has prepared the early paperwork, so that when we see opportunities or when prospects come to us, we shall be ready. State monies, through various agencies, are a possible source of support, yet we continue to exist and thrive due to your extraordinary generosity.

This brings me to my many thanks for all who gave or volunteered for us in 2005, and prior. We are working wonders with your gifts; securing and maintaining beautiful lands that are of benefit to all. Our Moonlight on the Meadows fund raising event will return in September, as well as other events and surprises throughout the year. Thanks again, and please, know that your continued involvement, philanthropy and support is appreciated by us all.



Larry Ragan

FRIENDS OF THE OJAI VALLEY

*Make a difference by
joining today!*

An annual, unrestricted gift or pledge of \$1,000 or more will:

- Help provide the resources necessary to respond to once-in-a-life time open space protection opportunities;
- Receive special tours and updates; and
- Have the satisfaction of knowing your gift will help secure the future of the Valley and our community.

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 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 visit www.ovlc.org/wills_trusts.asp.

NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to our new members for their exceptional support. The Conservancy's success is due to the generous financial and volunteer support of our members. The following persons have joined since December 31, 2005.

Michael & Heidi Bradbury	Douglas & Dulaine La Barre
Gerold & Joyce Faber	Ian & Virginia MacLean
Barbara Frick & Patrick Finley	Steve & Elaine Miller
David & Sarah Hackel	Warren & Gail Paap
Marguerite Hackett	Paula Power
Greg & Penny Herring	Jim & Joan Sangster
Carl Johnston	

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Rose & Dan Grimm	Stuart Meiklejohn
Carla & Chris Malloy	Joy Brown & Laura Ceppi
Michael & Hannelore Gresser	Todd Metlen & Mary Jo Healy
Dr. Nino & Mrs. Candis Crisafulli	Christie Kelly
Donia Nordenson & Ray Barrena	Bonnie Beedles & Fran Wageneck
Paul Del Signore & Michelle & Marion Murdoch	Jim & Jodie Jewett
Kelly & Rena Randall	Steven Velkei
Wendy Lockwood	Shawn & Ashley Brown
Gay Martin & Pat Cluchey	Wayne & Cynthia Matthews
	Joan Roberts

ANNUAL FUND

Robert & Carole Adams	Steve Matzkin & Melissa Wolfe
Stanford & Eleanor Brown	Deven May
Jim & Myrna Cambianica	Jane C. Murray
Claire Clark	Malchia Olshan
in memory of Walter S. Jordy	Jo O'Connell & Byron Cox
Jean Colonomos	Australian Native Plants Nursery
Kristal & Richard De Villers	Claire & Edwin Paulson
Hugo & Linda Ekback	Martin & Barbara Pops
in memory of Glenn Payton	in honor of Mansfield & Chilant Sprague
William Girvetz	Earl & Alice Ragland
Barbara & Stanley Greene	Alan & Jan Rains
Donald & Ruth Hauser	in honor of Mannie Sprague
Gregory & Valerie Schmidt	Dietrich & Dr. Daniel Silver
Penny Herring	Joseph & Leslie Sohm
David & Deborah Junod	Chromosohm Media Inc.
Howard & Myrna Kayton	Christine & Bud White
in honor of Ojai	Ronald & Helayne White
Wanda Martin	
Heritage Financial	
in memory of Leigh Howard-Ady	

RENEWALS

Every year, more than a thousand of our members choose to renew their membership. Thank you for your exceptional support! Your loyalty is greatly appreciated. The following are renewals since December 31, 2005.

Anonymous	Farr & Associates	David Magney	Joe & Leslie Sohm
John & Lisa Adair	Jack & Marge Fay	Melinda & Stephen Maloon	Chromosohm Media Inc.
Wild Ox, Inc.	Karen Fay	Richard & Tony Matthews	Lawrence & Linda Sorensen
Dolli Alexander	Lloyd & Katie Fellows	Wayne & Cynthia Matthews	Paula Spellman
Michael Allen	John Richard Felton	Walter & Frances McClelland	in memory of Baba Yaga
Don & Teri Andre	Frank & Maudette Finck	Roger McDivitt	Jane Spiller
Jill Andre	Frances Fitting	Susan & Robert McMahon	Henry & Sue Stoutz
Patricia & Ross Atkinson	Frederick & Dana Fleet	Tom & Nancy Michali	Kim Stroud
Anna Jacobs Auric & Robert Auric	Dr. William Fox	Steve & Elaine Miller	Anne & Tony Thacher
Barbara Balderman	Donald Garrett	Geraldine & Dean Miner	Friends Ranches, Inc.
George Ball & Amanda McBroom Ball	Jesse & Katharine Grantham	Philip Moncharsh	John & Caroline Thacher
Joanne Bara	Glenn & Kerri Griffiee	Laurel Moore & Arne Schmidt	Victor & Paula Theis
Evelyn Baran	Charley Griswold & Betsy Bland	Sandra Moore & Suzanne Roll	Anna I. Thomas
Jim & Judy Barret	Marten & Niki Harder	Suzanne's Cuisine	Donna Tilmont-Busch
Riverview Ranch	Richard & Velvet Heller	Peter Noone	Sally & James True
James T. & Alicia Beaty	Ed Henke	Tetsuya & Chieko O'Hara	Arthur & Judith Vander
Ojai Valley Podiatry Clinic	Old Ventura River Rats	Warren & Gail Paap	Wendy Varian & Richard Bradley
Steve & Briana Beebe	Carrie Herziger	Dietrich & Jacquelyn Pahnke	Elisabeth & Douglas Vernand
Zoerita & Clark Bowers	Karen Hesli	John & Fran Pavelko	Dr. Mort & Mrs. Julia Vinecour
Stanford & Eleanor Brown	Bruce & Virginia Hibberd	Joel Priest & Marianna Anthonisen	Anthonie & Dorothy Voogd
Ron & Julia Bruns	Bill & Pamela Hicks	Kathleen Richards	Jakob & Marianne Vos
Cynthia & Philip Burton	Gary & Sue Horgan	Scott Robert Ripple	Nancy Voyer
Allen & Marilyn Camp	Trudy Huberman	Joan Roberts	Ruth Walker
James Capito	Norma Hughes	Paul & Kathleen Rogers	Greg Wardle
Charles Casey & Ingrid Boutring	David Intner & Sage Essick	Poly Assoc.Landscape Consultants	Coast & Valley Land Surveying, Inc.
Martha Churchyard	Intner & Janet Jacobs	Larry Rose & Lisa Larramendy	Barbara Watson
Robert Coit & Barbara Landan Coit	Diane Jaffe	Judy Ross	Martin Weiner & Peggy LaCarra
Barbara Landan Coit	Contempo Hair Design	Dick & Teddy Schneider	Richard & Jane Weirick
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Gary & Mackay Crampton	Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Jones	Sespe Farm Management	Elizabeth & J.B. White
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Michael Croke & Amy Dozier	Timothy Kenney & Pauline Mercado	Jill & Bill Shanbrom	Laura Scheerer
Liz Currie & Allen Bertke	Jan & Marc Key	Spencer & Linda Silver	Whitney & James Whitney
Mary Jo Davy	Tod & Carolyn Kuhn	Linda & Charles Simon	Cheryl & Monte Widders
Frederick Dewey	Edward & Barbara Kutchma	Howard Smith & Edie Simone	George Wymer
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in memory of Jeddie & Helen Disco	Ruth Lasell & Bob Bonewitz		
Sanford & Christine Drucker	Beverly Lavenson		
Andrew & Sharon Engel	Jacqueline Lebourveau		
William & Karen Evenden	Dorothy Loebel		
Gary & Brenda Farr	Tom & Rebecca Lowe		

FRIENDS OF THE OJAI VALLEY

Thank you to the following members who have provided generous unrestricted membership gifts or pledges of \$1000 or more since December 31, 2005.

Anonymous	Steve Matzkin & Melissa Wolfe
Dan & Victoria Breen	Bill & Laura Peck
Robert & Liz Dautch	In honor of John Broesamle's retirement from the OVLC Board
Paul & Patricia Doody	Ron & Linda Phillips
Ann Derby Joy	Ron & Judi Polito
Roger & Pat Essick	
Don & Julie Heath	
Richard & Barbara Lowenthal	

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Thank you to the following members who have provided generous unrestricted membership gifts or pledges of \$2000 or more since December 31, 2005.

Sally Coleman & Kenton Shank
Frank & Linda Granat
Winifred Hirsch
Jerry & Kristayani Jones
Oliver Wilson & Kaarina Tienhaara



MEMBERSHIP
continued on page 6

Meadows Restoration

Ojai Meadows Restoration Project Underway

The wetland restoration and flood control project is underway at the Ojai Meadows Preserve. For those of you who haven't been to the meadows in a while, we invite you to see the magnitude of the changes taking place and our efforts to restore the land back to its natural wetland, riparian, and oak-savannah status.



Seen above are Patagonia Employees and at right are Nordhoff High School Students from Becky Beckett's Environmental Science Field Class. Both groups helped with the Ojai Meadows Preserve restoration.

This project is no small undertaking as evidenced by the 20 black plastic groundcovers (and nearly a thousand sandbags holding them down), and the large plowed area between the wetland area and eucalyptus grove. And we're only getting started. Over the course of several field sessions, up to 39 Nordhoff High School students in Becky Beckett's environmental science field class and several volunteers helped fill and carry nearly 20,000 pounds of sandbags. The groundcovers are an effective and environmentally sensitive way to eradicate the non-native grasses and weeds adjacent to the wetland area. This area continues to expand and flourish as a result of a California Department of Water Resources grant that funded the redirection of Nordhoff High School's runoff away from Highway 33 and onto the Meadows Preserve.

The initial focus of the restoration project is to prepare the soil for native plants and trees. This involves removing the non-native vegetation. Since October, students from Oak Grove School and Nordhoff High School have hand-removed thousands of indi-

vidual castor bean and curly dock plants, other weeds and non-native species, and hundreds of randomly disbursed eucalyptus logs from the meadow. To circumvent the labor intensity of hand-weeding the entire preserve, we are plowing and disking the non-wetland areas to kill the non-native grasses.

Acorns and an array of native plants, which were propagated at the Oak Grove School greenhouse, will be planted in the meadow at the appropriate times this rainy season. Included in the mix are white, black, and purple sage, coyote brush, monkey flower, California buckwheat and several varieties of trees including sycamores, cottonwoods, valley oaks, coast live oaks, and willows.

Initial funding is being provided by the Army Corps of Engineers In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program and a grant from the California Department of Water Resources. Additional funding is being sought for the completion of the project.

We continue to need the help of volunteers to remove non-native invasive plants from the Meadows and to plant acorns, sycamore, cottonwood, mule fat, and willow cuttings, among other native plants on the Meadows Preserve. For more information, please contact Derek Poultney at ovlprojects@ojai.net.

Cluff Vista Park

continued from page 1

Sheila, John Broesamle, Jim Engel, Jim Jackson, David Kaplan, Joan Kemper, Manny Sprague, Andrew Stasse and the entire Fundraising Committee" said Tom.

Once a blighted and polluted former gas station, Cluff Vista Park's meandering pathways, public art, fountains and native plants welcome everyone as they enter downtown.

"This park is a little island of wilderness in the heart of Ojai," Bostrom says. "It was designed to reflect the nature of Ojai's rugged countryside and native plant communities, and to offer authentic impressions of the natural beauty of the Ojai Valley, a place unique in the entire world."

Bordered by Ojai Avenue, El Paseo Road and Rincon Street, the triangular park incorporates sustainable landscape design features. The landscape of Cluff Vista Park uses very little irrigation, and the water features are recirculating. No pesticides or fertilizers are used, and permeable, decomposed granite walkways allow rainwater to seep back into the ground, instead of running off into storm drains.

MEMBERSHIP continued from page 5

IN HONOR OF

The Jim Jackson Family
Cynthia & Jim Snell
Christel Statton's Wedding
Laurie Stowe

OJAI MEADOWS RESTORATION

Yvon &
Malinda Chouinard

CORPORATE MATCHING

Patagonia -
For Sandy Buechley
For Kim Stroud

CLUFF VISTA FUND

Don & Sheila Cluff
In honor of
Don & Sheila Cluff
Jocelyne Lussier

ON BEHALF OF

Toby Junkunc
Violetta Villcorta
Anne Matthews
Michael Rubalcalva
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IN MEMORY OF

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Joanne Bara
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Kathy Broesamle
Elizabeth Bugg
Camarillo
Newcomers Club
Ann & Harry
Oppenheimer
Dolores Selby
David & Lacy Selby
Kristen, Alex &
Lela Brodie

SPECIAL THANKS

OVLC *Board of Directors* for their continuing guidance *Our Members and Business Sponsors* for their continued support of open space in the Ojai Valley *Marqui Bury* for her help in the office *Barbara and Deric Washburn* for their help in welcoming Chris *Ojai Valley Directory-Ren and Victoria Adam* for donating a full-page ad in the 2006 Ojai Valley Directory *John Broesamle, Jim Exon and Marc Larson* for their dedicated years of board service and protection of open space *Jerry & Dolores Barnes, and Tonia Wall* at Ojai Nursery for donating planting flats and wood pallets to the Ojai Meadows Preserve restoration effort *Mountain Meadow Nursery* for donating flats to the meadows restoration *Sara Benjamin and her Oak Grove School Class* for volunteering time and effort to the meadows restoration *Becky Beckett and her Nordhoff High School Science Class* for volunteering many hours working on the meadows restoration project *Ellen Hall and the Oak Grove Garden Committee* for the use of Oak Grove's greenhouse to propagate native plants for the meadows restoration *Mark Hatton of Tri-Valley Tree Service* for donating tree work on the Ojai Meadow Preserve *Bill Wilmer* for providing valuable advice concerning the OVLC volunteer program *Harold Glenn* for lending the OVLC his trailer for picking up debris on the meadow *Ernie Rischar* for helping install donor plaques on benches in the Ventura River Preserve *Ed Henke and the Old Ventura River Rats* for their continued support *Nancy Michali of Ojai Culinary Studio* for her wonderful desserts *Kathy Broesamle, Marqui & Rebecca Bury, Leanne Campbell, Stefanie Coeler, Patsy Glenn, Joyce Greene, Glenda Jones, Carol Langford, Cookie Miley, Linda Phillips, Earl & Alice Ragland, Bob & Virginia Unruhe, and all of the angels* who help prepare our newsletter for mailing *Ellen Lockett, Angie Heald, Ann Johnstone, Irene Isgur, Deven May, John Broesamle, Sara Benjamin, Patrick Gorey, Ashle Fauvre, Julian Emmanuel and Heidi and Nathan Rhoades* for their help on the Ojai Meadows Restoration Project *Kathy Broesamle* for the office supplies.

Colorful Flora Enhance the Ventura River Preserve

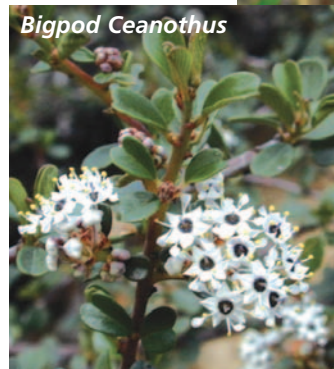
There are approximately six species of California Lilacs or Ceanothus to be found at the Ventura River preserve. They are some of the most fragrant and colorful native shrubs to be found near the river and its surroundings. The species and their cultivated varieties make handsome garden plants for our area as they are evergreen, drought tolerant and require minimal care.

Flowering in early spring the greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*) has pale blue to white flowers. The bigpod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus* var *megacarpus*) has flowers of white to pale lavender with dark almost purple centers. The hairy ceanothus has flowers that are usually deep blue or purple to very pale blue and hairy leaves that are dark green on the upper surface and pale green underneath.



Hairy Ceanothus

Photo courtesy of Michael L. Charters

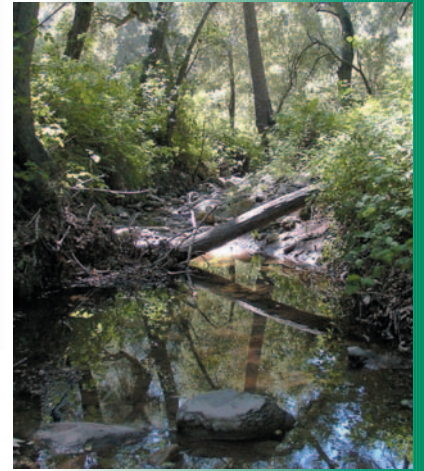
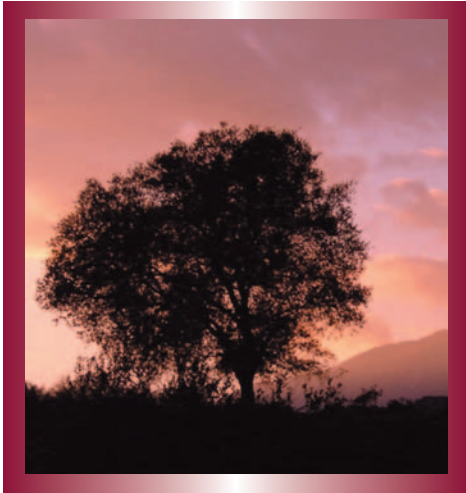


Bigpod Ceanothus



Greenbark Ceanothus

OVLC Unveils Photo Contest



It is time to print new Conservancy note cards and we are looking for new photos of our preserves. Photos are limited to those taken of Conservancy properties, which include the Ojai Meadows Preserve, the Ventura River Preserve, the Ilvento Preserve, Cluff Vista Park, and San Antonio Creek Preserve. Please send an email to ovlcmembership@ojai.net for a copy of the rules.

Entries must be submitted by April 1, 2006

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
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Ojai, CA 93024

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