

OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY

Post Office Box 1092 • Ojai, California 93024

STREET ADDRESS: Arcade Plaza • 250 E. Ojai Ave. #B

Tel. (805) 646-7930 • Fax (805) 646-0253

Events Hotline • (805) 646-0251 • www.ovlc.org

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STAFF

Stevie Adams, Associate Project Manager
stevie@ovlc.org

Fred Fox, Executive Director
fredfox@ovlc.org

Richard Handley, Preserve Manager
rich@ovlc.org

Lynn Malone, Member Services Director
lynn@ovlc.org

Sheri Mayta, Project Coordinator
sheri@ovlc.org

Derek Poultney, Project Manager
derek@ovlc.org

New OVLC Board President



Roger Essick

Roger Essick, an Ojai resident for 36 years, was recently elected as OVLC's new board President. Roger is an avocado and citrus farmer and has enjoyed raising his family of two grown children and four grandchildren in the Ojai Valley. He has served on the OVLC board of directors over the years since its beginning days. His wife Pat, a Topa Topa school teacher, shares his love for the Ojai Valley.

New and Returning OVLC Board Members



Jan Blakslee

The OVLC is pleased to welcome **Jan Blakslee** to the OVLC board. Having been focused on nature and sustainable resources for years in Chicago with "Friends of the River," assisting with US Forest Service conservation efforts in Idaho, and an active member of The Nature Conservancy, it was only natural that Jan would join the OVLC. Now retired from a successful career in executive recruitment and development systems, Jan enjoys organic gardening, antique collecting and international travel. He and his wife Mary enjoy preserving the beauty of natural resources.

Carl Thelander returns to the board of directors after a two-year hiatus. He has served on the OVLC Board since 1999, including a term as Vice-President. Carl is the owner/founder of BioResource Consultants, Inc., an environmental consulting firm offering professional consulting and research services related to conserving and managing sensitive natural resources. Before forming BRC, he spent nearly two decades as a founding Principal and CEO of BioSystems Analysis, Inc. For 11 years Carl has enjoyed living in Ojai with his wife Katie and their two daughters.



Carl Thelander

The OVLC Welcomes Three New Staff Members



Stevie Adams Sheri Mayta Lynn Malone

Stevie Adams, Associate Project Manager, will be managing restoration projects on the Confluence Preserve (CP) and the Ventura River Preserve (VRP), and assisting with restoration of the Ojai Meadows Preserve. Stevie has an MS in Biology from CSUN and has been developing and managing restoration projects in the Ventura River watershed for nearly three years.

Sheri Mayta, Project Coordinator, will be supervising a project to restore coastal sage scrub and grassland vegetation on 1.6 acres of the VRP impacted by the Ojai Valley Sanitation District's Meiners Oaks Sewer Relocation Project. Sheri has a background in ecology and rare plant monitoring. She lives in Ventura with her husband and 2 children.

Lynn Malone, Member Services Director, will be providing administrative and logistical support services for OVLC members, volunteers and Board of Directors. Lynn has lived and worked for Ojai non-profits and city government for many years. She looks forward to working with a lot of old and new friends at the OVLC.

Classroom on the Meadow



OVLC's Project Manager, Derek Poultney recently gave a tour of the Ojai Meadows Preserve restoration project to students of Topa Topa elementary school as part of a service learning program that funds school field trips to the outdoors. The students brought lots of good questions about the project. 4th grade teacher Barbara Brown was excited to see how rapidly the preserve has changed in just 2 years. In fact, she plans to bring her students twice a year so they can observe some of the subtle changes.



OVLC is happy to provide tours to interested parties and is seeking volunteers to be trained as docents to lead the tours. Please contact lynn@ovlc.org for more information.

CALL TO ACTION

RODENT POISON KILLS BIRDS OF PREY



Dead barn owl recently found on Ojai Meadows Preserve. Suspected cause of death: rodent poison.

When poisoned, weakened rodents are eaten by raptors, who also ingest the poison, sometimes in large enough doses to kill. In the past few months, 5 dead raptors have been reported found in the Ojai Valley, apparent victims of rodent poisoning.

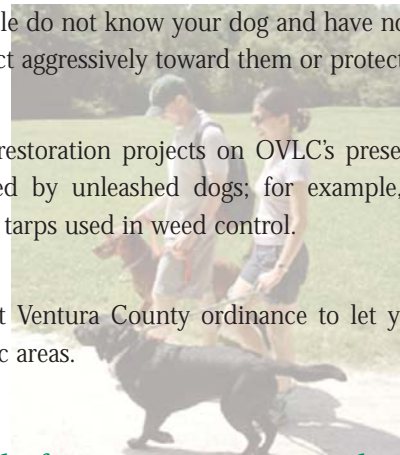
Owls and other raptors (birds of prey) serve as effective natural controls of rodent populations

- The most lethal poison for raptors is brodifacoum, the active ingredient contained in poisons such as Dcon
- The best way to deal with rodents is the old-fashioned baited mouse, rat or gopher trap, available in any hardware store
- If you must use poison, choose one that does not contain brodifacoum, such as Quintox or Rampage, which is less harmful to raptors

Thanks for your help and please spread the word!

5 REASONS TO LEASH YOUR DOG On Ojai Valley Land Conservancy Preserves

- Encounters between unleashed dogs and wildlife often result in injury or death to the wildlife, and in the case of coyotes, bobcats and mountain lions, can result in serious injury or death to your dog.
- Encounters between two unleashed dogs unknown to each other can result in injury or death to one or both, and/or serious injury to their owners.
- Other people do not know your dog and have no way of knowing if it will act aggressively toward them or protective of you.
- Ecological restoration projects on OVLC's preserves are sometimes damaged by unleashed dogs; for example, new seedling plantings and tarps used in weed control.



- It is against Ventura County ordinance to let your dog be off leash in public areas.

Thanks for your cooperation and support!

ROOTS & SHOOTS VOLUNTEERS

Help on the Ventura River Preserve

Roots & Shoots is an international youth organization founded by Dr. Jane Goodall that engages and inspires youth through community service and service learning. As part of their mission to inspire individuals to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment, the group came out to the Ventura River Preserve in January to help with a restoration project. Earth Hawks, the Ojai Valley chapter of Roots & Shoots, made up of Ojai youth aged 6 to 12, assisted in spreading black plastic tarps to solarize non-native weeds so that restoration of native plants can follow.



Ojai youth participants included:

Dane Wilson, 11; Quinn Wilson, 9; Teralyn Butler, 8; Casara Butler, 11; Copper McHatton, 10; Callie Stevens, 10; Dallas Stevens, 14; and Bridget Banks, 12.

Special thanks to the adult helpers and mentors who helped, including, John Broesamle, Ernie Rischar, Larry Ragan, John Pavelko, Bill Fox, Angie Heald, and Garrick Thomson.



Filling Sandbags



Securing tarps with staples

Placing sandbags on top of tarps

Arundo Removal on the Ventura River Preserve



Before

OVLC

OVLC received funding from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project's Small Grant Program to eradicate giant reed (*Arundo donax*) from portions of the Ventura River Preserve.

ArundoTech began removing this highly invasive non-native plant in November of 2006. A combination of mechanized and hand removal methods were successfully employed along Rice Creek with only one large stand currently remaining at the mouth of the creek. Funds are presently being sought to complete removal efforts.



After

Patagonia Volunteers Help with Restoration Project

Patagonia volunteers helped plant hundreds of giant ryegrass plants on the Ojai Meadows Preserve on Martin Luther King Day. Giant ryegrass, the largest native grass in California, grows in a variety of habitats ranging from riparian (streamside) to chaparral. As a part of their workplace giving program, Patagonia provides a team of their employees to work for environmental charities every MLK day. We are honored and appreciative that they chose the OMP restoration project this year, and extend special thanks to all of those who participated.



Bioengineering and Riparian Restoration Project Site Tour

On January 22, 2007, OVLC hosted a tour of two restoration projects within the Ventura River Watershed that utilized bioengineer-



OVLC Confluence Preserve river bank restoration project

ing techniques to stabilize creek banks and restore native trees. OVLC staff, along with representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service and California Conservation Corps presented information about the two projects to a diverse crowd of interested parties. Participants included local landowners, city and county agencies from San Luis Obispo County to Los Angeles County, non-profits such as Heal the Bay and The Nature Conservancy, and consulting firms.

MEMBERSHIP

Renewing Members

Every year, hundreds of our members choose to renew their membership. Thank you for your exceptional support! Your loyalty is greatly appreciated. The following are renewals from **October 21, 2006 to December 31, 2006.**

Robert & Carolejo Adams	Thomas & Janice McCormick
Dolli Alexander	Michael & Julie McFadden
Jill Andre	Steve & Elaine Miller
Evelyn Baran	Phil Moncharsh
Dr. James T. & Alicia Beaty	Charles & Therese Montag
Shed & June Behar	Kenneth Niessen & Susan Guy
Carol Bishop	Tetsuya & Chieko O'Hara
Caryn & Charlie Bosson	Ojai Valley News
Zoerita & Clark Bowers	-Bret Bradigan & Neva Williams
Michael & Heidi Bradbury	Warren & Gail Paap
Jim & Myrna Cambianica	Dietrich & Jackie Pahnke
Charles Casey	Kathleen Richards
Susan & Peter Cheney	Joan Roberts
Chetco Trading & Publishing Co. - Ed Henke	Poly Assoc. Landscape
Wilma Dasche-Melville	-Paul & Kathleen Rogers
Robert & Liz Dautch	Royal Cleaners
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Glenda & Darrell Jones	Dr. Eve Venturi
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Jan & Marc Key	Ruth Walker
Tod & Carolyn Kuhn	Allan & Joyce West
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Tom & Rebecca Lowe	
Julie & Bo Manson	
Steve Matzkin & Melissa Wolfe	
Jane & Dennis McCarthy	

President's Circle

Frank & Linda Granat	Sally Coleman & Kenton Shank
Margot Griswold	Oliver Wilson & Kaarina Tienhaara
Winifred W. Hirsch	
Ann Derby Joy	

Welcome New Members

Thank you to our new members for their support. The Conservancy's success is due to the generous financial and volunteer support of our members. The following persons have joined from **October 21, 2006 to December 31, 2006.**

Thomas & Thelma Atkinson
Philip J. Fickling
Letitia A Grimes
Angela Heald
Karen F Jenkins
Suzanne Joseph
Kevin Peer
John Wilson

Friends Of The Ojai Valley

Tucker & Phil Adams
Earl & Suzanne Crews
Paul & Patricia Doody
Wyatt & Claudia Harris
Richard & Barbara Lowenthal
Thomas & Barbara Malley
Judi & Ronald Polito
Steven Anthony Velkei
Jane & Richard Weirick
Huora L. (Sam) Williams

Annual Gifts

James & Terri Capito
Austin R. Cline
Jean Colonomos
Debbie & Steve Curry
Farr & Associates, Gary & Brenda Farr
Gary & Judith Girod
William Girvetz
Donald & Ruth Hauser
Deven May
Douglas & Mary Jo McLeod
Joy Mills
Marty & Barbara Pops
Judy Ross
Alan & Carol Saltzman
Santa Barbara County's United Way
Valerie & Dietrich Schmidt
Daniel Silver, M.D.
Carol Smith
Peter & Alice Sorocco
Kathy Underwood

In Honor Of

Dennis Stern & Catherine Gould
In honor of Jessica Stern
Letitia A Grimes
In honor of a kind friend
Dr. Tony & Barbara Hirsch
In honor of Barbara Washburn
Marilyn Clay Noad
In memory of FM. Noad

Special Thanks to our 2006 Business Sponsors

SULPHUR MOUNTAIN LEVEL (\$500 or more)

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Ojai Valley News
- Bret Bradigan & Neva Williams
The Oaks at Ojai Resort Spa - Don Cluff
Tottenham Court - Andrea Bloom
Ventura Rental Party Center
- Heidi Whitcomb
Village Florist - David Mason

SAN ANTONIO CREEK LEVEL (\$1,000 or more)

Behavioral Science Technology, Inc.
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William Shanbrom & Assoc.

OJAI MEADOWS LEVEL (\$2,500 or more)

Bart's Books - David & Andrea Grant
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Heritage Financial - Wanda Martin
Mid-State Bank - Patti Michaels
Ojai Valley Inn & Spa - Thad Hyland
Old Creek Ranch Winery
- John & Carmel Whitman
Venoco, Inc. - Greg Schrage
Wells Fargo Bank, P.C.S.

Volunteer Training Series Offered

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy will launch a comprehensive volunteer training program this March. It will include a lecture and field trip series designed to educate volunteers interested in caring for and leading interpretive hikes on the Land Conservancy's open space preserves and in helping educate the public concerning the natural wonders of Ojai.

Participants are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible to benefit from the wide breadth of information presented in the series. All lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings in March at 7:30 pm at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy office, directly behind Rainbow Bridge health food store in the Arcade Plaza. The two guided hikes will take place on Saturdays at 9am and begin at the Riverview trailhead on Rice Road. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring drinking water and leave pets at home.

Wednesday Evening Lecture Series

MARCH 14TH Ken Niessen will share his knowledge of the local chaparral plant community and native plants commonly found on the OVLC Ventura River Preserve. Ken has worked with the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service on a variety of native plant surveys and is an active member of the California Native Plant Society.

MARCH 21ST Jesse Grantham, an OVLC board member and one of the foremost experts on the recovery of the endangered California Condor, will offer a presentation on the resident and migratory birds of the Ojai Valley.

MARCH 28TH Chumash historian Julie Tumamait will provide a background on Ojai's Chumash history and archaeology. Julie is a direct descendent of a Native American band that formerly inhabited Santa Cruz island and has been active for many years in Native American education.

Saturday Morning Guided Hikes

MARCH 17TH Ken Niessen will follow up on his native plant lecture with a plant identification walk on the Ventura River Preserve.

MARCH 24TH Local botanist Lanny Kaufer will lead a native plant hike on the Ventura River Preserve focusing on medicinal uses of local plants and herbs. Lanny is an ethno botanist who has studied under the foremost experts in the field.

All OVLC members and friends are welcome to participate in the hikes whether participating in the training sessions or not.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

or to receive an application for the program, please call 646-7930 or drop by the Conservancy office.

How Can I Help?

BECOME A MEMBER - Support from members gives OVLC the resources to provide its many conservation, preservation, recreation and education activities. Memberships are available for as little as \$25 a year. Members receive newsletters and other benefits.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - Conservation and Restoration activities require the efforts of many. Whether in the office, on the preserves, or leading hikes, we are always looking for good volunteers. If you have a skill or expertise not mentioned that you would like to contribute, let us know. For more info, contact us at 646-7930.

GIVE A GIFT - Your charitable gifts make an important difference in what we are able to accomplish and are in most cases tax-deductible. OVLC accepts gifts of cash, investments, real estate, workplace giving and bequests. And certainly, we always need equipment and supplies. Email lynn@ovlc.org for our latest wish list.

SPECIAL
bITvision for donating technology services

Kathy Broesamle for her help with the new OVLC phone system

Marqui Bury and family for the generous donation of water for the Ojai Meadows Preserve (OMP) restoration project

Charlie Crofoot for removing eucalyptus tree debris and constructing a solar well on the OMP

Brigitte Gregg for her tireless volunteer labor on the OMP

Bob Kilpatrick for his diligent watch over public use of the OMP

Paula Power for her coordination of non-native tree removal efforts

Larry Ragan for his help with the Ojai Meadows and Ventura River Preserve restoration projects

Larry Rose for his wisdom and advice on agricultural practices on the Ventura River Preserve

Ernie Rischar for helping repair a donor bench on the Ventura River Preserve

THANKS!

UPCOMING HIKES

Please bring drinking water and wear sturdy walking shoes. Please leave pets at home.



Saturday Morning on the Ventura River Preserve

Date and Time:
5/26/2007 • 8:00 am

Location: Riverview Trailhead

Come along with Preserve Manager Rich Handley on an exploration of the hidden meadow and perennial spring in Sycamore Canyon on the Ventura River Preserve. This 3 hour hike is of moderate difficulty with some boulder hopping.

Saturday Morning with Cricket Twichell

Date and Time:
6/23/2006 • 8:00 am

Location: Riverview Trailhead

Join Ojai historian and naturalist Cricket Twichell on a fun and informative hike on the Ventura River Preserve. Cricket will share her knowledge of colorful local history and native plants. This is a 2-hour hike.

Saturday Morning in El Nido Meadow

Date and Time: 4/21/2007 • 9:00 am

Location: Riverview Trailhead

Join Preserve Manager Rich Handley for a leisurely hike through the Ventura River Preserve's Wills Canyon to El Nido Meadow. Learn about the flora, fauna, geology and cultural history of the Ventura River Preserve. This is a moderate 3 1/2 hour hike.

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

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