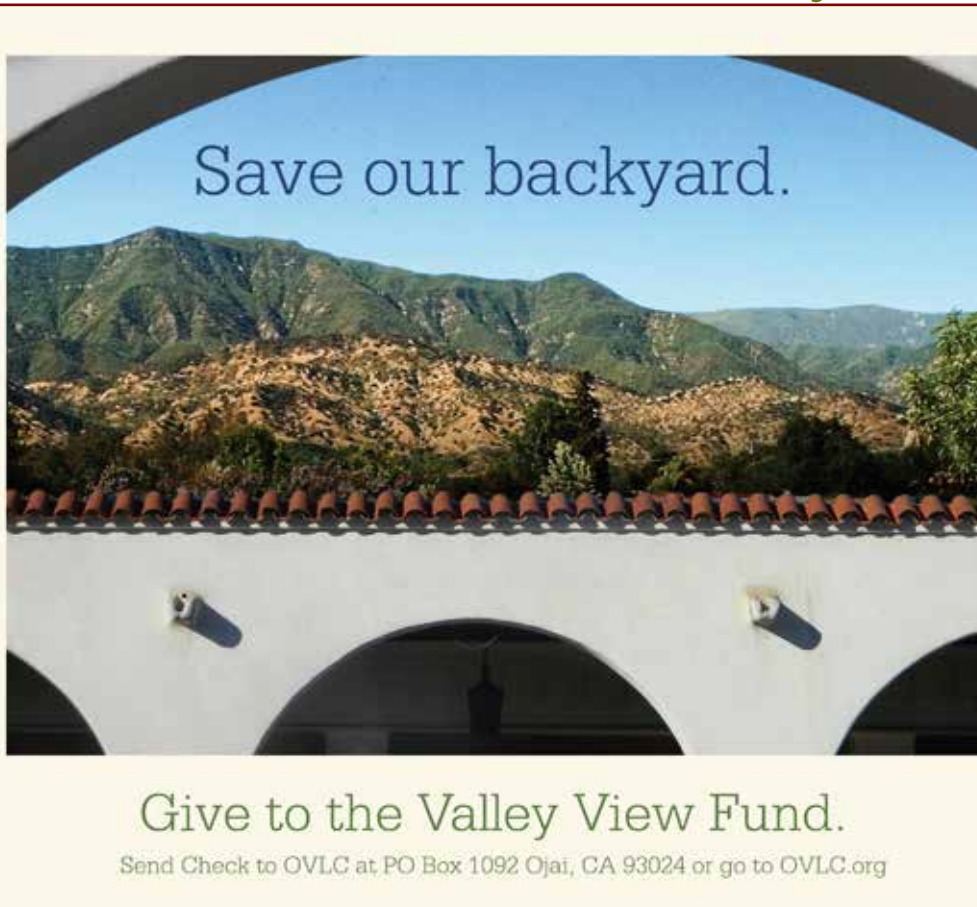


# OPEN SPACES

## The Proposed New VALLEY VIEW PRESERVE – It's Our Backyard!



The proposed Valley View Preserve is the backdrop of downtown Ojai. This property is north of Shelf Road, the golden colored ridge in the photo above. Photo By Gene Berry.

In December, after two years of negotiation, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy signed an agreement to buy and permanently protect as publicly accessible open space the largest, most visible private parcel remaining in Ojai. The proposed "Valley View Preserve" measures almost 1 mile east to west, and is roughly ½ mile deep. It is a significant part of the northern backdrop of our community and includes most of

the golden colored ridge lying up-hill of Shelf Road, the most used recreational trail in the Ojai Valley. At 195 acres, this proposed preserve encompasses 7% of the land within Ojai's city limits.

If OVLC is able to raise the \$500,000 needed to complete the acquisition, two historic trails on the property will be reclaimed. One travels north from Shelf Road and connects with the historic Foothill Trail. Ultimately these

trails connect to the Pratt and Fuelbreak Road Trails via unmaintained U.S. Forest Service trails, creating dozens of miles of new hiking routes because of the new trail "loops" that would be created. Access to the trails on this property will be permanently protected for the benefit of the community.

### The Scenic Backdrop of Ojai

Visible above the tree line from most north-south running streets in central Ojai as well as many living room windows and front yards, the golden colored ridge midway up the northern side of the valley is not in the national forest like the green Nordhoff ridge behind it. This land above Shelf Road into which the Ojai

### Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

P.O. Box 1092 • Ojai, CA 93024  
370 W. Baldwin Rd. A-4  
Tel. 805.649.6852 • Fax 649.8913  
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# NEW PRESERVE PROJECT

...continued from cover. community is nestled in private, and most of it is for sale and potentially developable. Having a western edge behind the Foothill Road homes west of Signal Street, and an eastern edge about a ½ mile west of Gridley Road, the proposed Valley View Preserve encompasses most of the land adjacent to Shelf Road on the uphill side. The proposed preserve stretches from Shelf Road to the national forest boundary. By permanently protecting this land as a publicly accessible open space, our community would ensure that what is arguably one of Ojai's most quintessential views – literally the Ojai community's backyard – would remain as it is, forever.

## Miles of New Looping Trail Routes

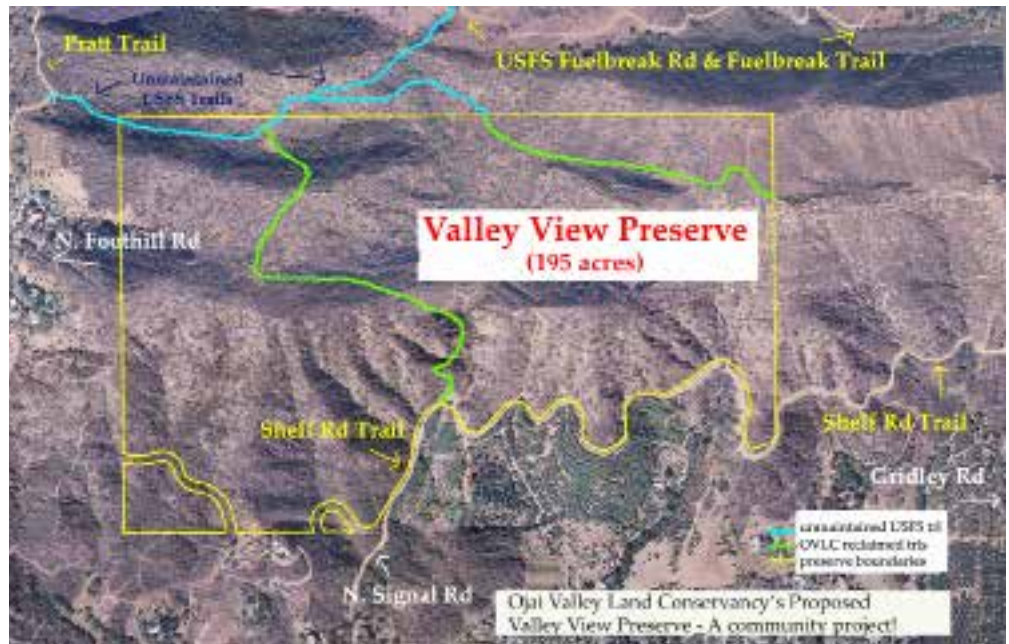
As Shelf Road and Fuelbreak Road Trail hikers know well, if one is traveling east-west on one of these routes and doesn't want to backtrack, there is one option:

Valley view property is the first ridge with the horizontal band of rock. This view from Ojai Ave and Fulton. Photo by Les Dublin.

a six mile plus loop involving the Pratt and Gridley trails. If OVLC creates the Valley View Preserve and reclaims the two historic trails on this property, three intermediate loops 2 to 4 miles in length will be created. This is primarily due to the planned reclamation of the historic trail which travels north from Shelf Road up to the Foothill Trail and on to the Fuelbreak Road Trail.

In addition to the northbound trail from Shelf Road, the

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy would reclaim the historic east-west running Foothill Trail on the proposed preserve. This trail offers spectacular views of the Ojai Valley along the trail as well as at its terminus on the eastern edge of the proposed preserve. Lying well above Shelf Road, the views from the Foothill Trail are grander than those from Shelf Road, yet more intimate than those from the Fuelbreak Road and Nordhoff ridge trails.



Trail map for future Valley View Preserve above. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's acquisition of this property would increase recreation opportunities for the community.



## The Plan

With zoning prescribing a minimum lot size of ten acres, this 195 acre parcel could theoretically be subdivided into nineteen lots if certain conditions are met, including improving a portion of Shelf Road as a city street and building new roads to access the new houses. The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy intends to permanently retire the development potential and designate this land as permanent, publically accessible open space for the benefit of the community. The OVLC would clean up some old water facilities, electrical equipment, and fencing on the property. The OVLC would also work with Ventura County to make minor improvements to Shelf Road



drainage to eliminate the muddy areas that can persist after rain. Finally, a trailhead would be designated on Shelf Road to access the two historic trails to be reclaimed, and a small number of appropriately placed benches and interpretive signs will be installed. To fund the acquisition and this subsequent work, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has launched a campaign to raise by May 2013 the \$500,000 necessary to take advantage of this important opportunity. The grant sources that OVLC has used in the past to acquire Ventura River bottomlands are not available for this upland parcel, so the funding will need to come entirely from the community.

Few things in life are permanent. This is one of those rare opportunities for the community to come together to protect forever one of the signature landscapes of the Ojai Valley. In addition to retiring the threat of roads, houses and lights overlooking the valley, the community has the opportunity to gain permanent access to this spectacular property and the breathtaking views it offers from its two historic trails.



The photo above is of the historic Foothill Trail facing east from the proposed new preserve. The photo to the left is of a father and son exploring the historic trails. And the photo below is the view from the northwest corner of the proposed Valley View Preserve. All of these photos are courtesy of Les Dublin.







**T**hanks to all of the volunteers who participated in the supremely successful planting day at the Old Baldwin Trailhead in December. Over 250 shrubs, trees and grasses were installed and bags of native wildflower seed were spread. Cheers to Barbara, Jim, Ted, Pearl, Sarah, James, Riley, John, Emily and Brian for being so generous with their time. Please contact Ron Singer at [singer86@gmail.com](mailto:singer86@gmail.com) to be part of the next nursery planting project.



**W**elcome OVLC's newest restoration technician Nick Auringer. Nick comes to OVLC with experience and passion. He previously worked for the California Conservation Corps (CCC). His strong work ethic was first introduced to the OVLC Preserve Manager when Nick was working on a trail erosion project at the Ventura River Preserve while a CCC member.

## The New Year Brings Changes to OVLC's Board of Directors

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy wishes to thank the following Directors who left the Board at the end of 2012: **Cari Guerrero, Deborah Whorf, and Stefanie Coeler.** The new executive officers are **Don Reed, President, Sandy Buechley Vice-President, Nathan Wallace, Treasurer and Cricket Twichell as Secretary.** We appreciate these Board members stepping forward to take on additional responsibilities especially during these exciting times.

The Valley View fundraising campaign committee has also been established. We would like to announce **Ginger Wilson** as Honorary Chairwoman of the campaign to save the Valley View land. **Alan Rains** is Chairman, and **Terry Twichell** and **Don Reed** are co-Deputy Chairs of the campaign committee. The other campaign committee members are: **Sandy Buechley, Roger Essick, Allan Jacobs, Tom Krause, Ann Oppenheimer, Ron Phillips, and Roger Wachtell.**

## THANK YOU OVLC FRIENDS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

BASED ON CUMULATIVE GIVING FROM OCTOBER 1, 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

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## Conservation Success in 2012

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy **entered into a contract to buy and permanently protect as publically accessible open space the largest, most visible private parcel remaining in Ojai.** The proposed "Valley View Preserve" is a significant part of the northern backdrop of the City of Ojai and encompasses most of the land uphill of Shelf Road and below the Fuelbreak Road. If the property is purchased, two historic trails will be reclaimed, connecting Shelf Road with the historic Foothill Trail and ultimately with the Pratt Trail and Fuelbreak Road.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy also **successfully completed its fundraising for the Steelhead Preserve Education & Conservation Center.** We are projecting that we will ultimately receive \$400,000 to \$500,000. The funds beyond the \$250,000 campaign goal will enable OVLC to improve the educational facilities and offerings for the community and allow execution of the full vision for the preserve.

### Fiscal Year 2012 Financials (10/1/11 to 9/30/12)

#### SOURCES

Direct public support	\$268,703
Restricted grants & contracts	\$367,453
Investment & other income	\$62,923
Transfers in restricted funds	\$149,656
<b>Sources Subtotal =</b>	<b>\$848,735</b>

#### USES

Mission services	\$688,564
General & administrative	\$67,434
Fundraising	\$54,882
<b>Uses Subtotal =</b>	<b>\$810,880</b>
<b>NET PROFIT =</b>	<b>\$37,855</b>

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy had a solid year financially in FY2012. Direct public support for the Steelhead Preserve Education & Conservation Center, **the bridge in the Ojai Meadows Preserve,** and for general operations was very strong. Restricted funds newly arriving in FY2012 and being transferred in from restricted accounts supported robust habitat restoration projects on the Ojai Meadows Preserve and at Rice Creek on the Ventura River Preserve. With regard to uses of funds, 85% of expenditures were for mission related projects and programs, with the balance going to fundraising, general and administrative expenses.

#### ...CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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# OVLC ANNUAL REPORT

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## OVLC EVENTS

Wild About Ojai events are free for members, \$10 for non-members and are held at the OVLC office unless otherwise noted. Reservations are required for all Wild about Ojai events. For more information or to make a reservation contact Marti Reid at 649-6852 ext.2 or [marti@ovlc.org](mailto:marti@ovlc.org).

March 9- Wild About Ojai  
10AM to 12PM, **Introduction to Wildlife Tracking** with Christine Danko and the Channel Islands Tracking Club - Old Baldwin Road Trailhead

April 6- Wild About Ojai  
9AM to 12PM, **Preserve Manager Hike and Picnic on Ilvento Preserve**, led by OVLC's Rick Bisaccia

April 20- Earth Day Celebration  
10AM to 4PM, **Earth Day celebration at Oak Grove School**, free

May 4- Wild About Ojai  
10AM to 12PM, **Healing Our River: An Update**, by Watershed Coordinator Lorraine Walter

May 11, 18 & 25 -Springtime Bird Tours and Wildflower Walks  
8:30AM to 10:30AM

August 3 - Wild About Ojai  
10AM to 12PM, **Leapin' Lizards and Other Cold Bloodeds** by herpetologist Dr. Lawrence Hunt

September 14- **OVLC Annual Celebration**, details TBD

October 12 – Wild About Ojai  
10AM to 12PM, **Intro to Orienteering** with OVLC Conservation Director Brian Stark

November 3- Wild About Ojai  
6PM to 9PM, **Astronomy: Ojai's Incredible Night Skies** with Professor Hal Jandor

December 7- Wild About Ojai  
8:30AM-10:30AM, **Winter Migration Bird Walk** at Ojai Meadows Preserve

Lisa Smith  
Ron Stark  
Hank & Susan Stoutz  
Erik Beukenkamp & Magui Suñer  
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The Cassin's Kingbird is common in spring, summer and fall, but not in winter. Photo by Robert McMorran. A bird checklist for the Ojai Meadows Preserve online at:

[http://www.ovlc.org/?attachment\\_id=2720](http://www.ovlc.org/?attachment_id=2720)

## There Is A New Club In Town!

OVLC's office at the HELP of Ojai's Baldwin Road campus has a next-door neighbor - the Rotary EcoClub of the Ventura River Watershed in Building A3. Co-founders and steering committee members Jane McClenahan and Stephanie Midgett call this "a new kind of Rotary" which focuses on environmental service projects in an area extending from the mountains to the Channel Islands. The club encourages personal participation by service-minded people. Club members have been good neighbors to OVLC, volunteering in the Adopt-A-Meadow Project on the Ojai Meadow Preserve. The Club is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ojai West, which has a floating classroom project at Lake Casitas. The new Club provides docent training for the Rotary Floating Classroom's environmental education programs

for children. The club's members will also be working with Ojai Trees to maintain and care for newly planted oaks in Libbey Park. The club has also signed on to organize an Ojai Valley site as part of 2013's California Coastal Cleanup. Other Lake Casitas environmental projects are being developed.

Mid-morning meetings (10:00 am) are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month and feature speakers and project planning sessions. The Club is eager to grow in 2013 and anyone interested in environmental service and watershed protection is welcome to attend a meeting to learn more about the Club. For details about membership please contact Jane McClenahan at [janedg0708@rotarysuccess.com](mailto:janedg0708@rotarysuccess.com) or (805) 646-8399.

## Special Acknowledgements 9.29.12 to 1.15.13

Jane Handel gave a membership to  
Ramona Handel-Bajema

Maruja Real gave a gift in memory of  
Frank Real.

Boyd & Karin Dron  
In honor of  
Dorothy Rail

Maria Elena Nava  
In honor of  
Lorenz Challer

Gay & Kathlyn Hendricks  
In honor of Lucy Hendricks

Lynn Schwirtz  
In honor of Michael Reidinger & Allee Stillman

Lucy & Peter Read  
In honor of Oliver T. Wilson and Kaarina Tienhaara

Larry Rose & Lisa Larramendy  
In honor of Peter Larramendy

**New Members**  
Gianna M Cagliano  
Stephen & Sheila Cox  
Kenneth & Louanne Fay  
Halina Garbacz  
Laurel Haas  
Jeanne Kalogridis  
Jim Kentosh  
Jackie Lanum  
Bob & Patty McFall  
Kristopher Moller  
Karen & Ray Morse  
James & Carlito Paul  
Brossy Reina