Providing a sense of wonder since 1987
Anyone who has been out to see our oak plantings on the Ojai Meadows Preserve and the Ventura River Preserve may have noticed a familiar planting pattern; that circular zones are planted with oaks and shrubs. We call them oak nodes, or oak circles. We’ve had a few questions on the theory behind these, so here is the brief logic behind the planting method. It is helpful to start with the goal of each node (or circle). The goal of each oak node is to be one day result in the establishment of one oak tree. Because the end goal is rather modest, the nodes do not have to be large. The average size of the circle is roughly 15 feet in diameter. The only magic of that number is that it is about the throw-distance of the average lawn sprinkler, which these nodes are then irrigated with. We do not want to move the sprinklers frequently; it is inefficient in maintenance. So, the size is geared toward an efficiency in numbers. Also, this results in all the trees being in the ground longer, so if two of the three die, the third has been in for the same amount of time and has progressed toward full establishment. The hardest time for an oak is the first year, so rather than have two or more “first-years,” we just have one. Again, efficiency.

The next interesting aspect is the contents. Each oak node is planted with three oak trees and five to six companion shrubs. We plant three oaks for every one we expect to survive because oaks have naturally low success rates. Their main challenge on our preserves is the hungry oaks. While gophers can be a pain to anyone trying to grow plants, we do not suppress them on the preserves. Our main gopher strategy is to wait until a tree dies to replace it, we just plant three in the beginning because at that time we are mobilized for planting and the trees can be installed more efficiently in numbers. Also, this results in all the trees being in the ground longer, so if two of the three die, the third has been in for the same amount of time and has progressed toward full establishment.

The companion shrubs are important to the long-term success and vigor of oak trees. Oaks are known to grow at faster rates when they are combined with plant species that are common in their chosen plant community. Oftentimes, these plants may share associations of soil fungi that create a soil biota more conducive to plant growth. The shrubs also protect the young trees from excessive sun and browse by wildlife. The shrubs also suppress weeds that threaten the oaks, and once the shrubs reach a certain size, it is no longer necessary to weed around the oaks. Most of the cost of restoration is in weed management, so if the shrubs can reduce weeding labor, the project is more economical. Most of the oak circles are also mulched to retain soil moisture and prevent weeds as well. The oak nodes are maintained manually until the shrubs suppress weeds, while the areas between them can be managed mechanically for grasses and wildflowers.

When considered all together, the oak circle is a discrete micro-habitat/plant community node that is designed for efficient installation and management, project economy, and to anticipate and remediate for oak mortality. Site visitors may also note some variety in their density. This is because some fields are being planted to create oak savanna habitat (10 trees/acre) while other fields are being planted to create oak woodlands (25 trees per/acre). The different densities attract different wildlife. We try to locate them in random patterns so the resulting single oaks do not look like they are planted in rows.

It’s funny, but this is harder than it seems. From any one perspective, at least two nodes will line up, and the density results in enough trees that any line sighted through two nodes is likely to hit a third. The only way to really see the randomness is from the air. This is why we take some of our monitoring photos with a drone. From the air, the project always looks less linear.

Well, there you have it. The OVLC oak circle.

The Flower Guide Continues

We have been updating our online version of the flower guide from the last newsletter as flowers continue to bloom throughout the valley. You can access the guide online and on your phone at ovlc.org/native-flowers. Here are just a few of the recent additions for you to enjoy!
August 11 – Wild about Ojai: Mother Nature’s Child
Growing Outdoors in the Media Age
A film presentation and panel discussion with Justin Canty from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. David White of Once Upon a Watershed, and Heather King with Ventura Wild.
To RSVP contact Marti at (805) 649-6852 x 2 or marti@ovlc.org

August 21 – Movie Night at the Mob Shop!
vvTelluride Mountainfilm and Topa Topa Brewing Company.
For a list of films and to by tickets, please visit ovlc.org/events. Tickets will also be for sale at the Mob Shop. Last year’s event was completely sold out, so get your tickets early!

September 25 – Telluride Mountainfilm - A Fundraiser for the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
Get ready for a movie night—Telluride Mountainfilm style. The OVLC is teaming up with Mountainfilm on Tour and Patagonia to bring the original films and the experience of the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival to Ojai.
(See back cover for more details) Tickets: ovlc.org/events

October 3 – OVLC Annual Member Event at the Ventura River Steelhead Preserve
Save the date and watch for an invitation! Tickets will be on sale in September at ovlc.org/events

October 8–10 – OVLC Office Closed
Rally 2014, The National Land Conservation Conference in Sacramento hosted by The Land Trust Alliance

October 17 – Ojai Day
Stop in and say hello at our booth!

All Wild About Ojai Events are free for members and $10 for non-members. Become a member today! A family membership is just $35 per year. Visit ovlc.org/join today, or send in the attached envelope.

For a current list of events and to purchase tickets, visit ovlc.org/events

Leave a legacy for Ojai, forever.

Legacy Giving Made Simple
Just by including the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy in your estate plans, you can help protect the beauty of Ojai for generations to come. A bequest is a simple way to support the OVLC in the future while retaining control of your assets during your lifetime. By making the OVLC a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or financial accounts, you ensure your values will be passed on after you.

The real beneficiary, of course, is Ojai.

You Can Use this Language for Your Gift:
“[insert donor name], by giving to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation, located at PO Box 1092, Ojai, CA, 93024, Tax Identification Number 77-0169682, I give, devise, and bequeath [percentage/amount/description] to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation, located at PO Box 1092, Ojai, CA, 93024, Tax Identification Number 77-0169682.”

For more Information Contact Tania Parker, Director of Advancement (805) 649-6852 x 6 or tania@ovlc.org
You can also visit ovlc.org

This year, the OVLC is excited to announce the creation of the Growing Wild Scholarship Program at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. We also have our first recipient, Callie Little (pictured on the right). Callie recently graduated from Villanova and has been awarded $500 for her continued education at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall.

“Callie was the inspiration for this scholarship when she came to volunteer with us at the OVLC. She is a hard worker, a fast learner, and an unbelievably friendly young lady. We enjoyed having her in the office,” says Brian Stark, Executive Director. Callie is bright, capable, caring and kind, a true joy to be around. “This bright young scholar inspired us here at the OVLC to find a way to not only give back to her and help her as she continues into her next adventure, but to inspire future generations to share their time for causes they care about, and to share their love for the outdoors,” says Tania Parker, Director of Advancement.

When Callie was volunteering for the OVLC, she was asked to write about her favorite outdoor experience. Here is an excerpt from her essay that inspired this scholarship:

“Born and raised in the beautiful Ojai Valley, it’s difficult to not appreciate the mountains that surround us. Some of my very first memories include trudging up Prat Trail with my mom and dog. Although my little legs were sore and my lungs hurt from the incline, I still gazed around with wonder at the beautiful trails and foothills I was walking through. Many years later, I still have this experience of awe while trekking up Gridley or looking down at the valley from Horn Canyon. The experience of climbing up a hill or mountain and being able to look down and see the view from what seems like the top of the world is what makes hiking my favorite outdoor activity.

Not only is hiking great exercise, it provides an escape from the developed world and into the mountains and trails of the wild. Rarely are people able to personally appreciate nature nowadays, but hiking through trails and up mountains gives a glimpse into the past of a land that was once run by the natural progression of Earth instead of human development. One of my favorite hiking trails is on the beautiful island of Catalina, which I have been lucky enough to visit numerous times. Catalina is already an island that seems untouched from the mainland world of human expansion and creation, but the hiking trails at Toyon Bay take you up through blossoming mountains full of wildlife and native plants. Trekking up through the valleys and hillsides gives an untouched glimpse at what California must have been like prior to settlement and gives a sense of peace as you reach the top to find the majestic Pacific Ocean and the surrounding beauty of the island. The very experience of hiking through undeveloped land and reaching the top to see a sight that can only be described as awesome prompts me to appreciate the land and natural world that so often go overlooked…”

To read the rest of Callie’s essay and for more information on the scholarship program and application information, please visit http://ovlc.org/growing-up-wild-scholarship/
Since the wetlands were constructed on the Ojai Meadows Preserve, local storm water has been directed through those wetlands where some pollutants can be removed or metabolized prior to the water flowing back out to the Ventura River. To date, the project has been a great success. Soon, the meadows will be home to a second storm water cleaning project thanks to a partnership between the OVLC and the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (WPD). The WPD was awarded a grant for the construction of a new storm water bioswale to be located on the Ojai Meadows Preserve near Meiner’s Oaks Elementary School. The project will direct storm water through a bio-filtration vegetated swale that will remove trash, sediment, bacteria, and nutrients from the storm water that flows to the Ventura River. The project will promote ground water infiltration, improve water quality in the Ventura River, and benefit local water users and aquatic species.

This project will serve as a local demonstration for ways that urban storm water can be managed in harmony with natural processes. The swale will look similar to other swales on the preserve, and will be replanted after construction using native grasses, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and wetland species. Construction is expected to begin this July or August. We hope one day this project will lead to future efforts to manage storm water and at the same time create environmental enhancements.

GoOjai.com - Outdoor Adventures with Robert & Susan Evans

“Supporting local nonprofits in fundraising efforts is a major part of our business model. Axxess is proud to partner with 1% for Ojai and contribute to this program that exists to protect the very core of what truly makes Ojai so special!”

- Mindy Easter, Axxess Ventura

Greyfox Investors

“Joining the 1% For Ojai Program is an important step in helping my firm move past the traditional profit-at-all-costs business model, towards a more compassionate model that focuses not only on the success of our clients and our own profits, but also on the wellness of the Ojai community and the protection and restoration of our valley. I am proud that Greyfox Investors can contribute, in a real way, to the profound work that takes place at the OVLC.”

- Nathan Wallace, Greyfox Investors

Agriculture Maria's
A Taste of Ojai
Axxess Ventura
Azu
Bliss Frozen Yogurt

EcoLogic Lifestyle Design
Dogs Fly Design
The Farmer and the Cook
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Healthy Eco Home
Kava Home
Modern Folk Living
NatureSprite.com
Ojai Quarterly

Agave Maria’s
A Taste of Ojai
Axxess Ventura
Azu
Bliss Frozen Yogurt

EcoLogic Lifestyle Design
Dogs Fly Design
The Farmer and the Cook
GoOjai.com
Greyfox Investors

Healthy Eco Home
Kava Home
Modern Folk Living
NatureSprite.com
Ojai Quarterly

Any type of business can join this program! For more information to see how your business can participate, call or email our Director of Advancement - Tania Parker (805) 649-6852 x 6 or tania@ovlc.org - today!

Welcome to our newest participating business. We thank all of our businesses for their dedication and support to the 1% for Ojai program, protecting Ojai’s open space!

“Joining the 1% For Ojai Program is an important step in helping my firm move past the traditional profit-at-all-costs business model, towards a more compassionate model that focuses not only on the success of our clients and our own profits, but also on the wellness of the Ojai community and the protection and restoration of our valley. I am proud that Greyfox Investors can contribute, in a real way, to the profound work that takes place at the OVLC.”

- Nathan Wallace, Greyfox Investors

To date, the 1% for Ojai program has brought in nearly $30,000 in donations—many just pennies at a time. These small donations truly have a big impact. The OVLC has matched these funds with private donations to maximize this impact. With the Pratt Trailhead complete, watch for other trailhead projects and some new upgrades to the Ojai Meadows Preserve to come. Follow us on Facebook for the latest project updates.

New Bioswale Construction to Begin at the Ojai Meadows Preserve

This project will serve as a local demonstration for ways that urban storm water can be managed in harmony with natural processes. The swale will look similar to other swales on the preserve, and will be replanted after construction using native grasses, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and wetland species. Construction is expected to begin in the July or August. We hope one day this project will lead to future efforts to manage storm water and at the same time create environmental enhancements.

Pattie Van Dyke

“Access to open space maintains my sanity!”

- Patty Van Dyke

Urban LID Retrofit at Meiners Oaks

New Bioswale Construction to Begin at the Ojai Meadows Preserve

This project will serve as a local demonstration for ways that urban storm water can be managed in harmony with natural processes. The swale will look similar to other swales on the preserve, and will be replanted after construction using native grasses, wildflowers, trees, shrubs, and wetland species. Construction is expected to begin in the July or August. We hope one day this project will lead to future efforts to manage storm water and at the same time create environmental enhancements.

Above: A georeferenced site plan overlaid on aerial photo. Right: A cross-section of the swale landscape plan.
Thank You OVLC Business Sponsors

Ventura River Sponsors
- California Resources Corporation
- Patagonia

San Antonio Sponsors
- Aqua-Flo Supply
- Barnhart & Barnhart Insurance
- Channel Islands Sportfishing
- Derby & Derby, Inc.
- Ojai Cafe Emporium
- Ojai Community Bank
- Ojai Playhouse
- Ojai Valley Inn & Spa
- Riverview Ranch
- Shanbrom, Casey & Associates
- Thomas E. Malley Law Office
- West Coast Air Conditioning

San Antonio Sponsors
- Alco Plumbing
- Bill Johnson, Environmental REALTOR® with Troop Real Estate Inc.
- Dr. David L. Garber, D.D.S
- Euterpe Farms
- Heritage Financial
- Jones & Jones Construction Management
- Meiners Oaks Ace Hardware
- McDaniel Insurance Services
- Ojai Rexall Drugs
- Ojai Valley Trail Riding Company
- John E. Peakes Insurance Agency, Inc.
- Rains
- Phil Moncharsh (Roger, Sheffield, & Campbell LLP)
- Waite, Jacobs & Atkinson Attorneys-at-Law

In-Kind Sponsors
- bitVision
- Frameworks of Ojai
- Ojai Phone Book
- Ojai Quarterly
- Ojai Valley Directory

Thank you to the businesses supporting the protection and care of our open spaces in the Ojai Valley.

Please show your appreciation by supporting these businesses today.

Volunteers

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is now on Instagram. Follow us @ojaivalleylandconservancy and use #ovlc when posting and we will repost some of our favorites.

Double Your Impact

TAKE ADVANTAGE of your company’s matching gift program.

A matching gift means your contribution will go twice as far. Many companies will double (or sometimes triple) the value of their employees’ gifts to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. These matching gifts provide valuable funds as we work to protect the views, trails, water, and wildlife of the Ojai Valley. Some companies will still match your gifts even after you retire.

To see if your company will match a gift to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, contact your company’s human resources department.

Special Acknowledgments

From 4/7/15 - 7/20/15

Thank you to the businesses supporting the protection and care of our open spaces in the Ojai Valley.

Please show your appreciation by supporting these businesses today.

Special Gifts

In Celebration of the Birthday of Kit Willis
- Alice Barnwell

In Honor of Vina Lustado and Cliff Hultgren for their Wedding
- Gary Hirschkron & Dominique Camacho

In Honor of Steve Carter’s 30 Years of Service to Thacher
- The Thacher School

In Celebration of the Marriage of Margo & Christopher Land
- Christopher Rodriguez Omachi

In Celebration of the Marriage of Chris Land & Margo Buddh
- J.B. & Elizabeth White

In honor of Lucy Rose
- Esther Robinson

In Memory of Austin Cline
- Sharon Cline
  “In memory of Austin’s many years of service to the County of Ventura. Austin was really enthusiastic about the work the OVLC does, it’s really grand. Thank you for your hard work and everyone’s support.”
  - Tucker & Phil Adams
  - Patricia Bagley
    “From your friends at the 4th of July Committee”
  - Mike & Joanne Caldwell
  - Patsy & Harold Glenn
  - Judith Klein
  - Terry & Alan Maulhardt
  - Marti & Dan Reid
  - Charley & Sandy Sledd

In Memory of Michael D. Hermes
- Warren & Ava Whitkiss

In Memory of Airrie Polly Martin
- Airdrie Kincaid Family
- Mrs. Airdrie P. Martin Fund

In Memory of Dennis Franklin
- Wendy Franklin

In Memory of Kenneth Fay
- The Holden Family

In Memory of Michael Cross
- Judy Pugh

In Memory of Airdrie Polly Martin
- Dorothy Leebi

In Memory of Airdrie Polly Martin
- Mrs. Airdrie P. Martin Fund

In Memory of Kenneth Fay
- The Holden Family

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In Memory of Kenneth Fay
- The Holden Family

In Memory of Michael Cross
- Judy Pugh

To see if your company will match a gift to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, contact your company’s human resources department.
OVLC Member Scavenger Hunt

- Hike some or all of a trail of your choice. Where did you go? _________________________________ Date: __________
- Attend a Wild About Ojai (WAO) event (ovlc.org/events)
- Like OVLC on Facebook at facebook.com/ovlaievalleylandconservancy
- Check if you’ve enjoyed a docent-led walk. Date: __________
- Patronize 1% for Ojai businesses (up to 3 visits can count toward your checklist use) 1 __________ 2 __________ 3 __________
- List three wildflowers you have seen in your yard, at the roadside, or perhaps at the Ojai Meadows Preserve (see wildflower guide at ovlc.org/native-flowers-for-help) 1 __________ 2 __________ 3 __________
- Place a water dish in your yard for the wildlife & keep it filled
- Wear or carry an OVLC logo item out and about (t-shirts, water bottles, coffee cups, free bags, and more available at the OVLC office)
- The OVLC Executive Director, Brian Stark, plays a musical instrument. What is it? __________ (Hint: ovlc.org)
- Take a non-member on a walk/hike on one of the preserves. Date: __________
- Write in the name of your favorite California native plant _____________________________
- Post a picture to Facebook of you taking a hike and tag @OjaiValleyLandConservancy
- Plant a California native plant (we have spring and fall plant sales at the Ojai Meadows Preserve Nursery if you would like to buy one) Date: __________ Plant: __________
- List what mammals you have seen while on the preserves (gophers and ground squirrels don’t count) __________
- Start a bird-watcher’s ‘life list’ for yourself or your family # __________
- “Check-in” on Facebook at one of the OVLC preserves
- Can you find the OVLC office? Come in and say hello!
- The Restoration Project Manager Jill Lashly has a favorite fish. Can you find out what it is? __________ (Hint: ovlc.org)
- Be a preserve all-star! Bring a bag along on a hike and pick up any trash you see.
- Where and what is the latest land acquisition to be protected by OVLC? __________________
- Check if you’ve volunteered at an event since you joined OVLC
- Locate Oso Trailhead and check for water in the Ventura River
- Take a child on a hike/walk. Date: __________
- Ride a horse in the Ventura River Preserve. Date: __________
- Plant a California native plant (we have spring and fall plant sales at the Ojai Meadows Preserve Nursery if you would like to buy one) Date: __________ Plant: __________
- Display your OVLC member sticker on your bike, car, or water bottle
- Post a picture on Instagram of you enjoying time on a preserve and tag us #ovlc. We will repost your favorites!
- Enjoy the view of the Ojai Valley! Enter the Shelf Road Trail from the west entrance and hike to Wilson Point. What is the picture on the bench plaque? __________
- Visit the Old Baldwin Road Trailhead. What animal tracks can you find? __________
- Check-in on Facebook at one of the OVLC preserves
- Look for a wide variety of birds on the Valley View Preserve. Date: __________
- Check here if you have volunteered at an OVLC mailing party
- Visit the Ojai Meadows Preserve pond and count how many different bird species you can find. # __________
- Find the dedication sign for the Riverview Trailhead. Who is it in memory of? __________
- Ride a horse in the Ventura River Preserve. Date: __________
- Patronize one of our OVLC business sponsors (ovlc.org/business-sponsors/) Date: __________
- Check here if you have seen our Restoration Field Crew out on a preserve.
- Mountain bike one of the preserves Date: __________
- Be a member all-star! Encourage a friend or family member to join the OVLC!
- Write a note, email, or draw a picture telling us what the OVLC means to your family (this may be done by a child) (send to tania@ovlc.org or PO Box 1092, Ojai CA 93024)

Welcome to the Newest OVLC Members!

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**Prizes & Rules**

*Open to all members—new and old and young—join us this summer for an OVLC Member Scavenger Hunt! Check off 25 out of these 41 boxes and bring your form to the office to be entered in a raffle at our October 3rd Annual Member Event. The first 20 people to bring in their sheets will receive their choice of a piece of OVLC merchandise,* 2 free tickets to the Annual Member Event on October 3, or 2 free tickets to the OVLC’s Telluride Mountainfilm event September 23. Good luck and we look forward to seeing you all at the office! **

*Merchandise includes: Mug, T-Shirt, Water Bottle, Picnic Blanket, Canvas Bag, or Hat. **Limit one entry per family. (We will have extra prizes for kids.)

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**Board of Directors**

- Don Reed – President
- Sandy Buechley – Vice President
- Cricket Twissell – Secretary
- Nathan Wallace – Treasurer
- Mary Bergen
- Allan Jacobs
- Bill Brothers
- Ann Oppenheimer
- Roger Eassick
- Larry Rose
- Margarita Wulf
- Roger Wachtell
- Brian Holley

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**Staff**

- Brian Stark – Executive Director
- Tania Parker – Director of Advancement
- Kirk Bisaccia – Stewardship Director
- Jill Lashly – Restoration Program Manager
- Marci Reid – Office Manager
- Lorraine Walter – Watershed Coordinator
- Ron Singer – Nursery Manager
- Kimo Ellison – Restoration Field Crew

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** OVLC Member Scavenger Hunt**

- Hike some or all of a trail of your choice. Where did you go? _________________________________ Date: __________
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- Like OVLC on Facebook at facebook.com/ovlaievalleylandconservancy
- Check if you’ve enjoyed a docent-led walk. Date: __________
- Patronize 1% for Ojai businesses (up to 3 visits can count toward your checklist use) 1 __________ 2 __________ 3 __________
- List three wildflowers you have seen in your yard, at the roadside, or perhaps at the Ojai Meadows Preserve (see wildflower guide at ovlc.org/native-flowers-for-help) 1 __________ 2 __________ 3 __________
- Place a water dish in your yard for the wildlife & keep it filled
- Wear or carry an OVLC logo item out and about (t-shirts, water bottles, coffee cups, free bags, and more available at the OVLC office)
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- Locate Oso Trailhead and check for water in the Ventura River
- Take a child on a hike/walk. Date: __________
- Ride a horse in the Ventura River Preserve. Date: __________
- Plant a California native plant (we have spring and fall plant sales at the Ojai Meadows Preserve Nursery if you would like to buy one) Date: __________ Plant: __________
- Display your OVLC member sticker on your bike, car, or water bottle
- Hike either the entire Rice/Wills Canyon loop in the Ventura River Preserve, or the Fox/Luci’s Trail loop on the Valley View Preserve. Date: __________
- Check here if you have volunteered at an OVLC mailing party
- Visit the Ojai Meadows Preserve pond and count how many different bird species you can find. # __________
- Find the dedication sign for the Riverview Trailhead. Who is it in memory of? __________
- Ride a horse in the Ventura River Preserve. Date: __________
- Patronize one of our OVLC business sponsors (ovlc.org/business-sponsors/) Date: __________
- Check here if you have seen our Restoration Field Crew out on a preserve.
- Mountain bike one of the preserves Date: __________
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- Write a note, email, or draw a picture telling us what the OVLC means to your family (this may be done by a child) (send to tania@ovlc.org or PO Box 1092, Ojai CA 93024)
Current OVLC members, look for your password to access your discounted tickets in your email soon. Can’t find the email? Not sure if you are current? Contact tania@ovlc.org, or (805) 649-6852 x6.

Not an OVLC member? Join today and receive two free tickets! Please type “Mountainfilm Tickets” in the comments section of the donation form and we will send you two tickets when you join.

Get ready for a movie night—Telluride Mountainfilm style. The OVLC is teaming up with Mountainfilm on Tour and Patagonia to bring the original films and the experience of the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival to Ojai.

Tickets: ovlc.org/events

Bring your blankets and low-back chairs and stake out your spot on the lawn.

There will be live music, food trucks, and a beer garden with Topa Topa Brewing Company.