Dear Supporters,

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. And as we look back upon all we have accomplished, we want to take this opportunity to thank you who have played such an important role during the last three decades.

You are the people who have planted oaks and sycamores, picked up litter, prepared membership mailings, volunteered at events, built and maintained trails, served as docents, and generously donated to support the OVLC.

Some of you have been with us since our inception, while others joined just last month. The ever growing number of OVLC members in the pages that follow (1134!) testifies to the loyal and substantial support we have in the Ojai Valley, and represents the largest membership ever for this organization. Support from local businesses (63!) has also never been stronger, and we can’t thank you enough. Make no mistake, you are all part of a growing community of like-minded, forward-thinking supporters who care about this wonderful valley, enabling us to protect open space and expand outdoor recreation.

Going into our fourth decade, we are actively pursuing a set of outstanding conservation projects throughout the Ojai Valley. If and when fully realized, they could add as many as 900 additional acres to the 2,300 acres of open space we’ve already protected, offering the possibility of miles of new hiking, running, mountain biking, and equestrian trails. While these projects will take time, and some may not be successful despite our best efforts, we go into every conservation opportunity knowing that the long-term benefits are worthy of our time and effort. In a few short weeks, you will hear about our newest project that will provide access through 95 acres of natural lands.

Our history of innovative conservation projects tells a compelling story. Just look around you. By securing the Ojai Meadows Preserve, we created a place where people can interact with nature in an area close to schools and homes, and the work we’ve done to restore its natural wetlands has not only done much to encourage native plants and wildlife, but also manage the urban runoff that used to shut down Hwy 33 in rainy years. The Ventura River Preserve shows us that it pays to think big. Its popularity among all manner of users shows how a variety of community interests and values can be realized at a large scale. On the Valley View Preserve, we built new trails (Luci’s) and reopened historic ones (Fox Canyon and Foothill) that had been lost for years. They not only restored access to Ojai’s backcountry, connected existing trails to provide new opportunities for public recreation, but also provided new access to incredible views of the Ojai Valley and protected the hillsides behind Ojai from ever being developed.

When the people of the Ojai Valley got together to create the OVLC 30 years ago, they did so with a long-term vision that has paid remarkable dividends and remains a powerfully effective force today. And as long as there are people like you who care about the outdoors, there will be an OVLC.

As we start a new year, we sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our work together to accomplish much, much more.

Gratefully,

Brian Stark, Executive Director
OVLC and Boy Scouts Make Improvements on the Ocean View Trail

OVLC trail volunteers, along with Boy Scouts and leaders from Ventura’s Troop 111 under the leadership of Craig R. Carey, turned out in force in late November to help reopen the historic Ocean View Trail. Pictured above and right.

The project, led by OVLC in partnership with the US Forest Service and the Los Padres Forest Association, hopes to one day connect the Ventura River Preserve’s Kennedy Ridge Trail to the Camino Cielo Trail leading to the Ocean View Trail. Besides offering unparalleled views, the trail will also enable preserve users to come out at Matilija Canyon—some 20 miles from the Oso Trailhead.

Above: Deborah Ricketts, Rick Bisaccia, and Rob Young “agree to disagree,” while route finding in heavy brush on the Ocean View Trail.

Left: OVLC’s trail crew volunteers are constantly improving our trails by clearing brush, improving tread, and more. Pictured: Volunteers (left to right) Phil Bradley, Doug Reed, Jim Kirchner, Rob Young, and David Ramirez working on the VRP.

On the Trail...

Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2016</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$899,773</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Property and Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Pledges, Inventory, Deposits)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$8,208,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Liabilities and Net Assets** |         |
| **Liabilities** |         |
| Accounts Payable / Credit Cards Payable | $51,353  | $26,220  |
| Accrued Payroll and Related Liabilities | $43,353  | $20,062  |
| Deferred Revenue | $384,214  | $541,136  |
| Deposits | $3,500  | $3,500  |
| **Total Liabilities** | $482,420 | $590,918 |

| **Net Assets** |         |
| Unrestricted | $7,418,888  | $8,541,307  |
| Temporarily Restricted | $7,418,888  | $8,541,307  |
| Permanently Restricted | $7,418,888  | $8,541,307  |
| **Total Net Assets** | $8,208,308 | $9,132,225 |

Sources of Funds

| **Total Funds = $1,191,412** |
| 33.9% – Contributions  | $404,373 |
| 9.0% – Other Revenue (lease income, investments, etc.) | $106,982 |
| 9.0% – Special Events | $44,863 |
| 48.3% – Grants & Project Income | $575,490 |

Uses of Funds

| **Total Funds Used = $1,249,045** |
| 85.9% – Programs & Projects | $1,072,717 |
| 8.6% – Management/General | $107,455 |
| 5.5% – Fundraising | $68,873 |

Net Profit = $-57,633**

* FY 2016: October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016 ** The fiscal year deficit reflects the expense of restricted funds for which income was posted in a prior fiscal year and several urgent, extra-budgetary, safety upgrades at OVLC preserves.
Thank you to our OVLC donors. Your support benefits everyone in the Ojai Valley!
In the OVLG's *new* got a look! In 2016, the OVLG provided 48,000 Muttmitts (dog poop bags) on our trailheads. That's 131 bags used per day! Heads. That's 131 bags used per day!
Protecting your views, trails, water and wildlife

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Covering 12,000 acres, the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Ojai Valley's unique landscape and diversity of plant and animal life. Our mission is to protect the Valley’s watersheds and its natural beauty by acquiring and conserving land. Our work is supported by a dedicated community of supporters who believe in the importance of preserving this special place for future generations. We are grateful for the generous contributions made by the following supporters:

Stewards 250+

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Stewards 500+

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Stewards 1000+

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Guardians of the Ojai Valley

Over 400 people attended our All About Ojai programs and docent-led hikes and tours in 2016.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Over 400 people attended our All About Ojai programs and docent-led hikes and tours in 2016.
Volunteers Plant Donated Valley Oaks

Sixteen, 10-foot-tall valley oaks donated by the late Sandi Ruch last summer, were watered through the hot months by OVLC volunteers. As the trees went dormant, the rotted crates were removed and the roots balled up for moving to the Ojai Meadows Preserve, where they were planted by the same volunteer planting crew, which included Jim Kirchner, Rob Young and Jim Day.

Pictured right: The two Jims, Kirchner (left) and Day (right) slot one of sixteen valley oaks into a restoration area on the Ojai Meadows Preserve. Below: Volunteers Rob Young (left) and Jim Kirchner (right) unload one of the trees for planting on the OMP.

Rehab at Cluff Vista Park

Above: In another partnership effort with the City of Ojai, OVLC recently replaced all the cracked bench slats at Cluff Vista Park. Public Works employees moved stored rocks from OVLC lands to a planting bed in preparation for an OVLC volunteer planting of native plants, including a monarch butterfly way station.

Community Plantings

Ojai Valley Land Conservancy volunteers designed and planted a native plant garden at the Krotona Institute of Theosophy. The plants selected will provide shelter, berries, seeds and/or nectar for native birds. Manzanita Nursery in Solvang generously donated a number of plants for the garden.

Pictured right: Krotona’s Guru assists OVLC volunteers, Stuart Niebel and Jesse Grantham, in planting Krotona’s new California native plant garden.
Welcome to our newest Wild About Ojai partners!

Rowsie Vain

Having grown up in the Ojai Valley, I have uniquely learned to appreciate Mother Nature and to admire its beauty in countless ways. Rowsie Vain products use wild ingredients and botanicals, including natural ingredients natively grown within the Ojai Valley. We seek out items that have the least harmful impact to the user and the environment, and proudly manufacture within our gorgeous and inspiring hometown.

I joined Wild About Ojai to make a difference in my community, to encourage healthy relationships with the earth, and to help protect Ojai’s natural beauty so that my daughter Daisy and generations to come can grow up in the same naturally lush environment. My heart belongs to Ojai and I am committed to being environmentally responsible in sustaining, preserving, and protecting the land I have grown to love.

– Whitney Smith Morales, founder of Rowsie Vain

Together, our community will help protect Ojai’s open space for everyone to enjoy, forever. Visit a participating business today and take part.

Are you Wild About Ojai? We are.

Gift Memberships
To Cowles Clan
Larry Cowles
To Mike & Sue Pherson
James & Tina Little
To The Vick Family
James & Tina Little

In honor of Ann and Harry Oppenheimer for their 20th anniversary
Lynn Abrahamson & Bill Crowley
In honor of Bert Carter’s birthday
Alice Barnwell
In honor of Barry Barrett & Gergy Fisher
Maria & Tyler Barrett
In honor of Juliana Farley & Will Leith
Suzan Farley
In honor of Lou & B) Adams
Brittany Gilliam
In honor of Sharon McCormick, “Merry Christmas to Sharon!”
Margaret Gordon
In honor of Patricia Weinberger and her legacy of leadership on behalf of the Ojai Valley
The Vondriska Family
In memory of Michael D. Hermes
Elizabeth Hermes
Shauna Hermes
Alex Matranga
Lisa Matranga
Meredith Matranga
Leslie Waggoner
Jenny Hermes Whitsitt & Taylor Whitsitt

In memory of our grandpa Michael D. Hermes
Warren & Ava Whitsitt
In memory of Will Reed
Nicola Bennett
In memory of Andy Bisaccia
Sharon Bisaccia
In memory of Laurie Kelley
Bob Velez & Michele Kostenuik
In memory of Robert and Margaret Miller
Peter & Barbara Bonsignori, “Thank you for the work you do. Our grown children use the trails throughout the year and it is a pleasure to donate for the continuation preservation of the land and the surrounding areas of the valley.”
In memory of my dad, Hank Stoutz
Wild Oak Pottery
In memory of Bob and Silvia Emhardt
James Emhardt, “Thank you for all you do and the joy you bring to the Ojai Valley”
In memory of my great grandfather, Bob Andrews, he cared deeply for the Ojai Valley
Michelaina Johnson
In memory of John Daniel Resnik
Christie & Harry Mattull
In memory of Tyler Overstreet White
Susan Curran White

Parker Jellison, Realtor

I believe that real estate and environmentalism can work in harmony. I am committed to blending my love for the outdoors with my passion for real estate by donating 1% of my commission from every transaction I complete to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

I joined Wild About Ojai to make a difference in my community, to encourage healthy relationships with the earth, and to help protect Ojai’s natural beauty so that my daughter Daisy and generations to come can grow up in the same naturally lush environment. My heart belongs to Ojai and I am committed to being environmentally responsible in sustaining, preserving, and protecting the land I have grown to love.

– Parker Jellison

Special Acknowledgments

To learn more about our participating businesses, visit our website ovlc.org; there you will find a page about each one. These local businesses are playing a vital role in protecting and stewarding the open space you love in the Ojai Valley. We invite you to learn about each of them, support them, and thank them for making this commitment to your open space and the trails you love.
On the Cover - Purple owl’s-clover and other wildflowers blooming at the Ojai Meadows Preserve last spring. We are looking forward to another spectacular wildflower show soon!

Photo by OVLC Restoration Program Manager Jill Lashly

Upcoming Events

January 28 - Free guided bird walk on the Ventura River Preserve led by John Pavelko

February 4 - All About Ojai: Working Dogs in Conservation and Restoration with Robyn Powers

February 18 – Free guided hike with Perry Van Houten at Valley View Preserve

February 25 - All About Ojai: Dirt Time with the Ventura County Wildlife Trackers

March 4 - Free guided wildflower walk at the Ojai Meadows Preserve with Stuart Niebel

March 11 - All About Ojai: Matilija Dam Restoration Project with Paul Jenkin

March 31 – May 6 - California Naturalist Certification Class Early bird registration ends January 31!

April 15 - Free Guided Wildflower Walk at the Ojai Meadows Preserve with Bettyanne Sessing

April 22 - Native Plant Sale at OMP Nursery

May 6 - Annual Stewardship Director’s Hike

Legacy Giving Made Simple

By including the OVLC 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:

“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.”