In recognition of the importance of land management to the preserves managed by the Conservancy, the OVLC has created the new senior-level position of Stewardship Director. The Stewardship Director oversees all preserve management activity and develops projects that improve the quality of outdoor experiences enjoyed by our preserve visitors. The OVLC is proud to have offered this position to long-time OVLC Preserve Manager, Rick Bisaccia.

The creation of this position comes in recognition that the OVLC has added substantially to our preserve holdings over the past few years, including the Steelhead Preserve and the Valley View Preserve, and that the care and management of these lands needed to be elevated to a top priority for the organization. This position is also important as the implementation arm of the OVLC’s 1% for Ojai program, a partnership with local businesses that facilitates public support for management of publicly accessible open spaces. Funds raised through the program are used to improve and maintain trails, trailheads, and other preserve features, as well as for potential acquisitions of additional open spaces.

Rick has been with the OVLC for 7 years and has singlehandedly managed our growing preserve portfolio. In his new position he will take a leadership role in setting priorities for land management, and bringing tangible enhancements to our preserves. With the added resources from 1% for Ojai, preserve users should see improvements coming soon.

“I can’t think of anyone more passionate about the outdoors than Rick. He has a keen sense of how preserve visitors interact with our lands and the best ways to create high quality outdoor experiences” - Brian Stark, Executive Director

Rick Bisaccia Named Stewardship Director
The OVLC is proud to welcome Jill Taylor to our staff as our new Restoration Program Manager. With Brian Stark’s migration to the Executive Director position, Jill has come to take over management of the OVLC’s restoration projects. She is a biologist/ecologist by training, earning her biology degree from the University of Massachusetts in 2007. Most recently, she spent four years as a fisheries biologist for the California Conservation Corps (CCC) where she developed and managed habitat projects focusing on steelhead habitat improvements, secured project permits, performed project monitoring, and assisted in environmental education programs. Prior to her time at the CCC she was a fisheries technician for the Casitas Municipal Water District.

In addition to her experiences working in local streams, Jill has had formal training in a variety of topics including wilderness signs and tracking, construction oversight training, fish passage design and engineering, environmental compliance, and special workshops on California red-legged frog and western pond turtle habitats.

Jill knows the Ventura River Watershed well and has worked on numerous habitat restoration projects throughout California, making her the best choice for this position. Her focus on steelhead will be beneficial as the OVLC begins planning new restoration projects along San Antonio Creek. She is also an Ojai local, graduating from Nordhoff High School. When not in a local stream, Jill enjoys hiking, backpacking, snowboarding, and spending time with her family.

“There are only a handful of people locally that have the local watershed knowledge and combination of skills to jump right into a busy restoration program. I’ve worked with and consulted Jill on projects over the last few years, so I knew she could be trusted to carry out our current projects and develop new and exciting restoration opportunities,” says Brian Stark, Executive Director.

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### Sources of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Project Income</td>
<td>$1,524,285</td>
<td>$1,333,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>$542,079</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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<td>Total Sources of Funds</td>
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### Uses of Funds

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY 2014</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs &amp; Projects</td>
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<td>Management / General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>Total Use of Funds</td>
<td>$1,126,288</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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For more information about the 1% for Ojai program and how you can participate, please visit: ovlc.org/1percent
Thank you OVLC friends for making such an impact!

- Luci’s Trail (0.75 miles) opened on the Valley View Preserve. The Valley View Preserve now offers miles of hiking routes that didn’t previously exist—all just a short walk from downtown Ojai.

- OVLC was awarded an $843,000 grant from the California Coastal Conservancy and purchased a critical 29-acre property adjacent to the Ventura River Preserve.

- OVLC was the successful bidder at an auction of a 160-acre parcel which is important for the Ojai Valley’s water supply. This property will permanently retire all threats to this part of our community’s water supply, and will be left for the bears and mountain lions.

- Rice Creek, a seasonal tributary of the Ventura River Preserve, saw its first flow down the channel in over 90 years, completing three years of restoration.

- OVLC members and underwriters also made the following contributions to OVLC’s restoration project.

  - Rice Creek, a seasonal tributary of the Ventura River on the left for the bears and mountain lions.

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Welcome to the Newest OVLC Members!

(After 10/20/14 - 1/15/15)

Amani Hishmeh
Arnold Friedman & Ian Decker
Brian Kimball Piddock
Bryn Nordenson
Cherie Beers
Christina Taylor & John Webb
Cindy Kalmenson
Craig Snider
Daren & Erin Sidney
David William Ward
Eric Cross & Carmen Zuniga-Cross
George & Debbie Watson
Jackie Law
Jennifer Pederson & Tom Widders
Jill Taylor & Evan Lasthy
Kevin Barron
Kevin Douglas Cross
Larry & Christel Reger
Lauren Cole
Louise Bennis
Matt Merritt
Merrell Williams
Michael Cross
Michal Mitchell
Mitchel Stone
Neils & Robin Nyberg
Richard & Carol Holloway
Richard Rhone
Robin L. Posin, PH. D.
Roger House
Sarah Ferranti
Scott Triem
Sheil Drifka
Sonia Nordenson
Susan Foster
Susan Cary
Toby Barron

In Memory of Michael D. Harms
Warren & Ava Wirtz

In Memory of Boyd Dron
Robert Auric & Anna Jacobson
Sheil & June Behar

In Memory of Garrett Boehm
Lale Welsh
Scott Nuss & Kevin Kilgore

Amanda Ach
Carol Annable
Jessica Leigh Bachetti
Emma Bailey
Jennifer & Will Bakewell
Jeanette & Joel Berkvitz
Blair Beusman
Margo Buddhett
Peter & Cindy Castle
Kim A Chartendar
Margaret Smith Coffee
Chip & Lori Collins
Mignon Duppee
Meredith Dworkin
Carl Eckert
Eleanorous Fund
Alina Marie Everett
Bos Family
Thomas P. Smith Family
Molly Fox
Trudy Frohlich
Cynthia & Mark Fuller
Stew Fuller
Carolyn M Gaistres
Nancy & Bill Goldberg
Glenn & Kerr Griffin
Giovanina Grigsby-Rocca
Katherine Halsey
Deborah S Hatch
Alex & Mimi Henderson
Lincoln Henderson
Judith Hofmenger Hershenhorn
Bill & Denise Hodges
Trant Edward Hodges
Max Hoffman
Kara & Jeff Hooper
Tommy Hoyt
Kelly & Webber Hudson
Donna Merritt & Robyn Huffman
Jannotta-Pearsall Family
Fund of the Community
Foundation of Jacksonville
Julie & Ned Kennedy
Alexandra Kirkwood
John Kirkwood
Douglas Smith Land
Elise Rowbotham Land
Geoffrey Land
Jennifer Erica Land
Maddy Lawler
Libby & John Lewis
Jay Lincoln
Eric & Wendy Lockwood
Rebecca & Grace Lowe
David & Lisa Luckenbach
Judy Macy
Haley Malichone
Emily Miller

Nomi Morris
Ashley Hemphill Netzky
Rebecca McClain Newton
Shirin Nury
Claire Olvany
Connor Olvany
Kendra Kerr Olvany
Susan William Olvany
Christopher Rodriguez
Omachi
Katie Palmer
Tania & Tobias Parker
Casey Peterson
Lisa & Duff Peterson

A bench will soon be installed on Luci’s Trail on the Valley View Preserve dedicated to Eleanor’s memory in perpetuity.

- Christopher Land
As Ojai’s people welcome the new calendar year, Ojai’s birds are anticipating the upcoming nesting/migration season (February through September). In no other place is this more important than at the Ojai Meadows Preserve. This restored wetland preserve has attracted 187 species of birds, and many of them choose the meadows for nesting or as a stop-over on their migration routes. While the Ojai Meadows Preserve is considered a nature preserve, nesting birds still face real threats that are both natural, and unnatural. One of the biggest threats to bird nesting success could also be among the most easily managed. All it takes is a leash.

In an effort to provide safety for people and birds, the OVLC has declared the month of February as Love Them, Leash Them Month. Dogs off-leash are often seen swimming in the pond, chasing birds, flushing them from feeding areas and potential nesting areas, and in some rare cases, killing them. Some of these birds travel a long way to get here for wintering habitat as well, and the stress of avoiding dogs consumes valuable energy. Some of the birds are also ground-nesting birds, so their nests and eggs are directly vulnerable to loss from roaming dogs. Off-leash dogs may crush or eat bird eggs, and threatened birds may abandon the nests altogether. We know our preserve visitors do not want to see birds disturbed in this way.

We are asking preserve users with dogs to please adhere to posted leash rules. We know most dogs are not troublemakers, but there isn’t a practical way of choosing which dogs can and cannot be left off-leash while ensuring protection of birds and other preserve users. This is why we ask that all preserve users comply with leash rules to ensure the safety of birds, people, and other dogs.

We believe the coming bird nesting season is a good opportunity to try out leashing your dog at Ojai Meadows Preserve. You might find that the experience you share with your dog will be equally as enjoyable with a leash. Other dog owners will appreciate your mindfulness, and our birds can raise their young safely. If your dog really needs to run, there are other appropriate locations where there are fewer people, less-concentrated habitats, and where dogs are permitted to be off-leash. We thank you, and the birds thank you.

Love Them, Leash Them, and Help Save the Birds

Upcoming Events

February 7 & 8 – Wild About Ojai: Chumash History
Talk with Julie Tumamait, Saturday 2 pm OVLC office
Herbwalk with Lanny Kaufer, Sun. 9 - 11 AM Riverview Trailhead

March 7 – Wild About Ojai: Chaparral Ecosystem Talk & Hike
Lead by Rick Halsey from the California Chaparral Institute

April 11 – Wild About Ojai: Ventura County Agricultural History
With John Krist, CEO Ventura County Farm Bureau
10 AM - 12 PM

April 18 – EarthPlay: Ojai’s Earth Day Celebration at Oak Grove School
A true family friendly event celebrating Earth Day.
Come visit our booth from 11 AM - 4PM!

April 18 – Native Plant Sale at the Ojai Meadows Native Plant Nursery
9AM - 12PM
Nursery Manager Ron Singer will be selling some of OVLC’s best stock of natives.

April 25 – First Annual Stewardship Director Hike with Rick Bisaccia

May 2 – Wild about Ojai: Guided Bird Walk with Jesse Grantham
8:30 AM at the Ojai Meadows Preserve

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 today, or send in the attached envelope.

To RSVP for an event, contact Marti at (805) 649-6852 or marti@ovlc.org.

For an updated list of events visit ovlc.org.

Upcoming events.

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.
Leaving a Lasting Legacy for Ojai

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.

For more information contact:
Tania Parker, Director of Advancement
(805) 649-6852 x 6
tania@ovlc.org
Or visit www.ovlc.org

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.”