Nurturing the Spirit
FOR 30 YEARS, AND FOREVER.
The last few months have been busy and exciting. Over 1,500 people came out to our annual Mountainfilm on Tour event under the stars at the Ojai Valley School. I hope the films inspired you to get outdoors and plan your next adventure.

Just two weeks later, we celebrated our 30th birthday with members at the Ventura River Steelhead Preserve. It was a beautiful night to enjoy among new and old friends and supporters of the OVLC. Jerry Dunn thrilled guests with his extraordinary mind-reading and The Townies entertained us with local stories. The solar lights may have gone out in the middle of Noah Crowe’s inspiring talk about a futuristic utopian world, but that just caused us to come together as a community and gather closer.

The OVLC has also been looking to the future to set and confirm our priorities. In July, the OVLC Board held an all-day retreat to review our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We are proud of all we have accomplished and continually look for ways in which we can improve. We decided that we could best support our mission—to permanently protect the open space, natural scenic beauty, wildlife, habitat, and watershed of the Ojai Valley for current and future generations—by taking advantage of our existing talent and by hiring a new Stewardship Director who we hope will deepen and broaden our community of volunteers. We are proud to share that Jill Lashly, our Restoration Program Manager of three years, has been promoted to Conservation Director. Learn more about her accomplishments on page five.

For the past few months the Stewardship Director position has been open, and the entire staff and volunteers have contributed to cover preserve needs. Over 40 people with diverse skill sets and experiences applied for the position. One applicant regularly herded wayward bison back onto a game reserve with a helicopter, while another managed the maintenance of 500 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Among the long list of certifications held by our candidates were Certified Trail Master, Leave No Trace Master Educator, Wilderness First Responders, and certified sawyers. Skill sets included community organizing, construction, and education. After initial interviews, we brought our two top candidates into the office and out into the field for day-long interviews with our entire team.

At the time this newsletter heads to press, we have an offer out to fill the position. We know that many of our members are looking for more volunteer opportunities at the OVLC, so we chose someone who has strong experience managing large volunteer crews. We are confident that the OVLC will be stronger with our new Stewardship Director and we look forward to welcoming and introducing him soon.

Despite a few changes around the office, two things remain completely unchanged—our dedication to the protection of our open spaces and the appreciation we have for the community that supports our work. We are sincerely grateful for all our members. You make possible what we simply can’t do alone, and your partnership makes all the difference.

Please join me in welcoming the 161 new members who recently joined the OVLC and our conservation community. Together, we make Ojai a better place to live, work, and play.

Brian Stark, Executive Director
The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy is a community-based nonprofit organization working with partners to permanently protect the open space, natural scenic beauty, wildlife, habitat, and watershed of the Ojai Valley for current and future generations. The program combines a science curriculum, hands-on learning, problem-solving, and community service to instill a deep appreciation and understanding of the natural environment of California and to inspire individuals to become guardians of their local resources.

The next California Naturalist training will be held on Friday evenings with Saturday field trips March 31 - May 6, 2018. Early Bird registration is $375 and runs from December 10 - January 31. Registration after January 31 is $425. Registration includes a copy of the required textbook “The California Naturalist Handbook.” Two limited scholarships of $375 are available for qualified applicants. For more information contact Marti Reid at (805) 649-6852 x 2 or marti@ovlc.org.

The OVLC is hosting an Open House featuring the California Naturalist Certification Program that will be offered in Spring 2018. Drop in and meet the class instructor, Professor Don Rodriguez, as well as several California Naturalist graduates who will share their experiences and show their Capstone Projects.

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2017 Mountainfilm Wrap-up

Wow – what a night! Thank you to the 1,500+ people that came out to our Mountainfilm on Tour event and made it such a success! I had an amazing time and I think you all did too!

It was fun to see so many familiar faces in the crowd as well as welcome many new members to the OVLC. As the sunset cast its famed pink glow on the Topa Topas, friends and family gathered to share in picnics and conversations. Everywhere I turned there were smiling faces—the experience created was a true community gathering in our beautiful Ojai.

I want to send a big THANK YOU to Patagonia – your sponsorship helps make this event happen. Many thanks go out to Daniel Patrick Finley (@danpatfin) and Mariana Abaroa (@easyytobreathe) for photographing our event this year (see pictures on right page), to all our Wild About Ojai partners and Business Sponsors who came out to support us and entertain the crowd before the films started (California Solar Electric, Char Man Brand, The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company Inc., Parker Jellison and Awhai Pottery), and REI for providing great prizes for those who played their giant Jenga.

Vaughn Montgomery and the chillz rocked it again this year. Thank you to Topa Topa Brewing Company and OBC for donating so much beer—and Salmon Creek for sponsoring the wine. I am so grateful for your continued generosity and I know all of the attendees were grateful for the good beer and wine in the beer garden. Thank you to the food trucks for coming out and supporting the OVLC. Pro Outdoor Movies and MTS Audio, your projection, sound, and giant screen were outstanding. We can’t wait to have you both back next year!

To our volunteers, we could never pull off an event like this without you. This year there were more than 80 of you helping the day of our event. You made everything run so smoothly. Thank you for all the hours of dedication you put in to helping the OVLC not just for this event, but throughout the year. Ojai Valley School, thank you for welcoming us to your campus and providing a fabulous venue and another perfect Ojai night. We look forward to returning next year!

Sincerely,

Tania Parker, Director of Advancement

Upcoming Events

December 2
All About Ojai: Winter Migration Bird Walk with Jesse Grantham

December 2
Jes MAHarry Trunk Show benefiting the OVLC, Ojai Flagship Store

December 9
California Naturalist Open House

January 20
All About Ojai: Chumash History & Culture by Julie Tumamait-Stenslie

January 21
A Very Special Herbwalk with Lanny Kaufer - Limit 25 people

January 27
Free Guided Birdwalk at the Ojai Meadows Preserve with John Pavelko and Art Vander

February 10
All About Ojai: Tales of the Condor with Debbie Parisi and Jill Forman

February 24
All About Ojai: Dirt time with the Ventura County Wildlife Trackers

March 10
All About Ojai: Matilija Dam Removal Project by Paul Jenkin, Matilija Coalition

Visit ovlc.org/events for the times, locations, and the most current event information.

Save the Date!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

OJAI

Mark your calendars now for next year’s Mountainfilm on Tour stop. You won’t want to miss the event of the year! Also, watch for upcoming details about a special VIP ticket package including dinner and films on Friday night, September 21, at the Caravan Outpost.
Are you Wild About Ojai? We are.

“Hopping from riverstone to riverstone through Matilija Canyon is where I found my sense of home as a youth growing up in Ojai. Ojai is a rare paradise, and I think we all have a part to play to keep it that way.”

- Noah Crowe, Home Solar Consultant for Sunrun

OVLC welcomes our newest Wild About Ojai partner Noah Crowe

“Together, our community will help protect Ojai’s open space for everyone to enjoy, forever.”

- OVLC

Welcome to our 161 New Donors!

New Donors
8/23/2017– 11/19/2017

OVLC.org/

“A Taste of Ojai
Anhui Pottery
Be Calm of Ojai
Boozy and Delicious
California Solar Electric
Chamber on the Mountain
Charlie’a Hot Sauce
Dogs Fly Design
Erik Wilde, Coldwell Banker
Gabriela Cesena, Berkshire Hathaway
The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company
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Greyfox Investors
Jennifer Keeler, Hair Stylist
Lorraine Lim Catering
Mary Nelson Skincare & Massage Studio
Mary’s Cheese Shop
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Tobias Parker, General Contractor
Tonya Peralta Real Estate Services, Inc
Watercolors by Patty Van Dyke
West Winds Landscape
Celebrating a Life Dedicated to Conservation and Helping Others

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy lost a dear friend, dedicated volunteer, and conservation champion with the passing of Allan Jacobs on October 8. Allan led a life dedicated to helping others, including an extended tour with the Peace Corps in Bolivia, decades as an estate attorney, and his involvement with the Rotary Club of Ojai Education Foundation. He was a long-time volunteer at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy where he served 15 years as a board member and many more as a committee member and volunteer. Allan always promoted the community of Ojai and the OVLC. When he was outdoors, which was often, it was common to see him sporting his OVLC hats in their various states of wear. He probably wore out more OVLC hats than anyone in the valley.

Allan was a passionate hiker, always celebrating his birthday with a hike up to Norhoff Peak. These hikes always attracted a diverse group of hikers and new community connections would be made during these outings. Bringing people together to experience the land was something that was natural for Allan. When the OVLC was raising funds for the Valley View Preserve Allan led hike after hike to show prospective donors the magic of the property and its views of the valley. For Allan, it was always about the land and the community. He never sought the limelight. Instead, he worked behind the scenes offering sound guidance and advice, and instilled strong ethics in our work.

Most community organizations have a select few people that play outsized roles in their growth and development—Allan was one of these people for the OVLC. The OVLC is working on plans to honor Allan’s contribution to local land conservation, and we look forward to sharing these with you in the near future.

Pushing Up Poppies honors, thanks, and recognizes those who have included the OVLC in their estate plans. If you have included the OVLC in your estate plans, please contact Tania Parker today. You can let us know if you would like your legacy giving to be anonymous or if you would like to be recognized and included in the Pushing Up Poppies Legacy Giving Club.

Tania Parker, Director of Advancement; (805) 649-6852 x 6 or tania@ovlc.org. You can also join or update your preferences online at ovlc.org/pup.

In Memory of Allan Jacobs

Catherine Lee
Danielle & Melvin Willis
Friend’s Ranch
Huora S. Williams
Jerry & Anne Kaplan
Jill & Bill Shanbrom
Jim & Myrna Cambianica
Jim & Susan Jackson
John N. Hall
Judy Pugh
Larry Rose & Lisa Larramendy
Leonora Deferrios
Leslie, Glenn, & Alex Paxton
Lisa & Robert Meeker
Marti & Dan Reid
Mary & Les Baker
Nancy Kochhar & Michael Lurie
Peggy Spellman
Rod & Joyce Greene
Sandy & Libby Treadwell
Sheila & Donald Cluff
Theodore & Claudia Gall

We can confidently say it is because of Allan Jacobs that so many people who love Ojai have included the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy in their estate plans. He was a firm believer in including non-profits in your estate plans and the legacy you can leave after you pass on. Allan was part of the formation of the new Pushing Up Poppies Legacy Giving Club. He realized the importance of a legacy giving program to a non-profit. It offers a powerful means to enhance and diversify a charity’s fundraising efforts. Legacy gifts enable organizations to achieve long-term financial stability and sustainability.

Thank you to all of our Business Sponsors for your generosity!

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Leaving a Legacy

In Memory of Allan Jacobs

Catherine Lee
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Jim & Myrna Cambianica
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Thank you to all of our Business Sponsors for your generosity!
FOR 30 YEARS, AND FOREVER.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy has been protecting and caring for our local landscapes for 30 years. While this may seem like a long time, we know that local land conservation will always be needed and that our mission is forever.

In this season of peace, we reflect on how grateful we are for your past support and we ask you for a special year-end gift so that Ojai’s open spaces will continue to nurture the human spirit.

Thank you for your generosity.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
from the staff and board of
The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy