Building a new trail!

When the Thomas Fire roared over the Ventura River Preserve, it exposed and damaged sensitive habitat along the Chaparral Crest Trail. Part of this trail is now closed to allow the land to recover and provide sanctuary for stressed wildlife. Around the same time, the OVLC was planning a memorial to honor our late board member, Allan Jacobs. Allan was a long-time champion of local land conservation and an avid hiker. He served 15 years as a board member of the OVLC and many more as a volunteer on various committees. Allan was outspoken about the need to protect our local landscapes and brought many new supporters to the cause. Beyond his work with the conservancy, he was a devoted husband and father, and a friend to so many here in the Ojai Valley.

The loss of one trail and the desire to honor Allan are two great reasons to build a new trail. Since early spring, we’ve been working toward creating the new Allan Jacobs Trail. To create this trail, we first reviewed maps of the preserve to identify an area near the closed portion of Chaparral Crest Trail, but far enough away from sensitive habitat. Over several months, OVLC staff and volunteers trudged up and down the hills bushwhacking through the rapidly re-growing chaparral to look at numerous potential routes. Dozens of routes that looked perfect on paper led to dead ends. Fortunately, many volunteers—trail builders, avid hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians—came out to offer their advice and guidance in developing the trail.

With this important community feedback, we located possible routes for the new Allan Jacobs Trail. Our next step was to survey the area for any additional sensitive resources. There are Chumash cultural sites throughout the Ojai Valley and we wanted to make sure this new trail would not disturb any previously undiscovered sites. With the help of a certified archaeologist volunteer, we surveyed several proposed routes and did not find any artifacts. There was a small setback when we surveyed for ecological resources; some of the proposed routes went too close to riparian areas or wetlands and we had to scrap those routes.

Nevertheless, we continued scouting trips with our community of users until we found a trail location that is clear of any ecological or sensitive cultural resources, and can be built to a sustainable standard. That’s where we are at right now—building the new sustainable 1.25 mile Allan Jacobs Trail. On August 15, our first volunteer day, eight volunteers and four staff cut 340 feet of new trail. We continued on August 18, working our way north. We are making progress, but we’ll be at it for months to come.

This is truly a community trail—designed by members of the community, built by members of the community, honoring a leader of our community, and to be enjoyed by a wider community for years to come.

—Brendan Taylor, Stewardship Director
OVLC Nursery Expansion

Believe it or not, the OVLC Nursery loses approximately 10% of its lovely restoration plants each year to our hungry neighbors—the ground squirrel (pictured above) and rabbit. They love snacking on almost any seedlings, but have a special taste for elderberry, mugwort, and bush mallow. So, we can’t tell you how excited we are to have our rodent-proof enclosure expanded to almost twice its original size. All proceeds from our plant sales go back into our nursery program and help make these much-needed improvements possible. A special thanks to everyone who comes out to our semi-annual sales. See you all at the next sale on October 27th!

The OVLC Field Crew and general contractor (and Wild About Ojai partner) Tobias Parker working on the nursery expansion. The old fence had to come down and the new fence put up in the same day to protect the young seedlings that are already growing there.

New Staff

Please join the OVLC in welcoming Emmie Pinedo to our development staff. Emmie grew up on the Central Coast of California. She found her love for the outdoors in her own backyard of San Luis Obispo. After graduating from community college, she moved to Redding, California, where her love for preservation began to take root. Furthering her education in Redding led to taking classes in outdoor leadership as well as a 100 mile backpacking trip down the Lost Coast of California. On this trip, she decided that protecting the wild and beautiful places of this earth is what she wanted to do with her life. Emmie moved back to San Luis Obispo and finished her degree in Communication Studies at Cal Poly. During her college career, she spent a summer working at an outdoor camp in Sierra and Kings Canyon National Parks, and volunteered for ECOSLO, California Native Plant Society, and Surfrider Foundation. Emmie moved to Ojai in June of 2018. She is so excited to use her background in communications to help inspire and educate others on why they should fight to preserve the Ojai Valley. In her spare time, you can find her climbing at Mount Pinos, hiking around the valley, looking for water to swim in and trying to pet every dog.

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In April over 150 people came out and ran for the hills, completing a 5K that passed through the Saddle Trails and ended at the Oak Grove School. Proceeds from registration and donations ($2,914.56) were donated to the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy to aid in Thomas Fire restoration. This event, which also included a bountiful post-race carnival featuring local school bands, environmental awareness projects, food trucks, environmental speakers, student led booths and games, Chalk4Peace, and local Ojai businesses was organized by students from the Green School Collective—a collaboration of The Thacher School, Besant Hill School, and Oak Grove School.

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Mission: 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.

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The newsletter of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

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JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FEAST & FILM

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2018
5:30-9:30 PM
OJAI, CA

Join the OVLC for an intimate, locally sourced farm-to-table dinner on Friday, September 21. When the sun sets behind the historic Ventura River Preserve, we will enjoy a collection of Mountainfilm films specially selected for this evening. With special guests from the films, this is a night you won’t want to miss. All attendees will also receive complimentary tickets to Saturday night’s Mountainfilm on Tour.

SCHEDULE
5:30 Cocktails & Starters
6:30 Family-style Dinner
7:30 Films & Desserts

All food, wine, and drinks are included.

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy
ovlc.org

INTERESTED IN SPONSORING OR DONATING TO THE RAFFLE?
Visit our website, ovlc.org, or contact Tania Parker: tania@ovlc.org, (805) 649-6852

VENTURA RIVER STEELHEAD PRESERVE
OFF SANTA ANA ROAD

THANK YOU TO OUR ADDITIONAL EVENT SPONSOR:
Greyfox Investors LLC

VENTURA RIVER STEELHEAD PRESERVE
OFF SANTA ANA ROAD

TICKET SALES FOR FRIDAY NIGHT END SEPTEMBER 16

保护您的视野、小径、水体和野生动物

Saturday, September 22 - See back cover for details

RIDE YOUR BIKE AND RECEIVE A RAFFLE TICKET

This year, the Ojai Valley Green Coalition will be hosting a bike valet to keep your bikes safe during the show. In an effort to promote riding bicycles in Ojai, we will give everyone that rides to the event and checks in at the valet a free raffle ticket ($5 value).

Prizes include donations from:
- Patagonia
- REI
- Caravan Outpost
- Go Ojai
- Char Man Brand Hot Sauce
- Newf Surfboard Nets
- Taza Taza Chocolate
- Beacon Coffee
- The Mob Shop
- Messermeister
- Boku Superfood
- Bonito Coffee Roasting

The OVLC is selling gourmet picnic bags to be picked up at Mountainfilm. We have gathered together local organic farmers, bakers, dairies, artists, and confectioners to contribute their extraordinary goods for this event, all packaged in an OVLC branded cutting board and a Messermeister knife. Enjoy the movies with family and friends while supporting these great partners and the OVLC!

Contributors include:
- El Pollo Loco
- Patagonia Provisions
- Austin’s Venison
- Topa Topa Brewing
- Go Ojai
- Black Diamond
- Caravan Outpost
- REI
- Beacon Coffee
- The Mob Shop
- Messermeister
- Boku Superfood
- Bonito Coffee Roasting

GOURMET PICNIC BAGS

GOURMET PICNIC BAGS

The picnic will include your choice of:
- omnivore
- vegetarian
- vegan

Any picnic can be made with gluten-free products.

Limited to 100 bags. Sales end Sept 14. These bags will not be available for purchase at the event.

Pre-orders only! Get one before they sell out at ovlc.org/picnicbag

And more!
Together, our community will help protect Ojai’s open space for everyone to enjoy, forever.

Thank you to our Wild About Ojai partners who help make this possible. Visit a participating business today and take part.

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Awhai Pottery
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Tonya Peralta Real Estate Services, Inc
Watercolors by Patty Van Dyke

Your legacy gift, with many others like yours, will keep the Ojai Valley’s views, trails, water, and wildlife protected for future generations. Inspire and influence others by letting us know about your planned gift today. You can join or update your preferences online at ovlc.org/pup

The OVLC office dogs and their guests (Puddle, Topa, Ike, and Penny) work on their Sit/Stay.

A big thank you to both Patagonia and REI for their grants this year to help with the restoration and recovery from the Thomas Fire. Both companies awarded the OVLC with $10,000 grants.

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.

Leave Your Legacy for Ojai

PUSHING UP POPPIES

OVLC LEGACY GIVING CLUB

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Protecting your views, trails, water and wildlife

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

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Welcome New Donors!

WELCOME NEW DONORS!

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5/9/2018—8/23/18

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Flynn Vanauker
Lorraime West
Mark Wieneke
Michele & David Wilson
Anna Young
Sara Zicherman
Mike & Cory Zeidler

$130K FOR PLANTING OAK TREES!!

The OVLC received grant funding from FEMA (~$100K) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service ($30K) to replant our oak restoration area at the Ventura River Preserve that burned in the Thomas Fire. The planting of the project area was completed less than a year before the Thomas Fire, and the young plants didn’t have deep enough root systems to survive the hot fire like other mature plants in our backcountry. Work has already begun to prepare the 23-acre site for planting this winter. If you follow the Orange Grove Trail you will see that the oak nodes are being mulched and our irrigation system has been reinstalled. After our first winter rains, the OVLC Restoration Field Crew will begin planting the mulched nodes with coast live oak trees and various native companion shrubs. Look for volunteer opportunities this coming winter to come out and help us plant! If you aren’t signed up already, go to ovlc.org/volunteer to sign up today.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21
Under the Open Sky
An Ojai Evening of Feast and Film

September 22
4th Annual Mountainfilm on Tour
Movie Night Under the Stars at OVS

October 20
Ojai Day

October 27
Free Guided Bird and Native Plant Walk with John Pavelko and Art Vander

October 27
Native Plant Sale at the Ojai Meadows Preserve Nursery on Besant Road

November 10
All About Ojai: Geology of the Ojai Valley Presentation by Thom Davis

November 10
All About Ojai: Geology of the Ojai Valley Hike led by Thom Davis (limit 30)

December (date TBD)
All About Ojai: Winter Migration Bird Walk with Jesse Grantham

For the most up-to-date information about OVLC events visit ovlc.org/events
JOIN US FOR OUR 4TH ANNUAL MOVIE NIGHT UNDER THE STARS AT OVS

MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

OJAI

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018
A FUNDRAISER FOR THE OJAI VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY
OJAI VALLEY SCHOOL LOWER CAMPUS SPORTS FIELD
GATES OPEN AT 5 - FILMS START AT 7:15
INFO & TICKETS: OVLC.ORG/EVENTS

Want to go with a friend? Have someone in mind who you think should be an OVLC member? Have them join today and they will receive two free tickets!
Tell them to type “Mountainfilm Tickets” in the comments section of the donation form and we will send them two complimentary tickets with a first time donation of $35 or more.