Dan Pizano
Dan moved to Southern California after living overseas to pursue an aviation career in international disaster relief. His academic and career experience are in technology, aviation, and atmospheric science. Prior to moving abroad, Dan worked at multiple Silicon Valley startups in software development, communication networks, and business intelligence. He balances his technical work with a passion for the outdoors and trail running. As a trail runner, he combines his running and technical skills to reach remote areas to collect information about trail networks, infrastructure, and status on OVLC Preserves. Dan is dedicated to OVLC’s mission and is excited about evolving OVLC’s operations. Dan can often be found running on the trails and ridgelines in the Los Padres National Forest from Ojai to Solvang or the Santa Monica Mountains from Point Mugu to Santa Monica.

Mayra Diaz
Born and raised in Ventura County, Mayra went to community college at Ventura College, and then transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where she obtained her B.S. in Biological Sciences. It was there where she developed a love and passion for nature and native plants of California. After college, Mayra returned to Ventura County where she volunteered at a few local organizations (one of them being OVLC) doing plantings, pulling weeds, and trail maintenance. She landed an internship working for Catalina Island Conservancy, and it was there she found her passion and love for plant restoration. Mayra lived on the island for four months, and she worked on native plant restoration projects around the island as well as the native plant nursery. Mayra also worked on invasive plant removal and invasive plant surveys down drainages. Mayra also gained more experience working with invasive plant removal under Channel Island Restoration where she worked on an arundo removal project in Ventura County. Mayra is excited to be part of the OVLC team, and part of the restoration efforts for the valley. In her free time, you can find her hiking and enjoying charcuterie board.

Ojai is an extraordinary place filled with remarkable people in an amazing natural setting. It seems that the valley exerts a persistent pull on anyone who has spent any time here. In addition to these distinctive qualities, increasingly the Ojai Valley faces many challenges all too familiar to communities throughout California and the West.

Perhaps nothing epitomizes these shared challenges more than the recent adjudication of water use throughout the Ventura River watershed. As others have pointed out, the recent passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) by the California legislature was an overdue but vital first step for California to get a handle on the over-drafting of our groundwater basins. (For instance, in the nearby Cuyama Valley, groundwater levels have dropped over 200 feet from irrigation pumping!) SGMA requires consideration of nature’s needs—particularly “groundwater dependent ecosystems,” like rivers. How the planning for this interacts with the adjudication of water use is impossible to predict, but the adjudication places the Ojai Valley at the crossroads of water planning statewide.

Meanwhile, the catastrophic Thomas Fire is the regional embodiment of shifting fire regimes statewide and across the West. The effects of climate on fire behavior are demanding more proactive planning and management. Also, how natural communities respond to more intense fire in a drier climate is also a concern. Innovative planning to protect our communities (human and natural) is imperative in response to the shifting conditions.

Thankfully, proactive land conservation with willing sellers can be a highly strategic, cost-effective and lasting strategy to advance water sustainability and mitigate fire concerns. The OVLC has been, and will continue to be, a leader in the broad partnership to protect and restore the Ventura River and its tributaries. Targeted land protection can also help with groundwater recharge. Similarly, in addition to providing critical recreational linkages, protecting land in the wildland urban interface can bolster the protection of life and property in the face of wildfire.

The staff and board of the OVLC are eager to work with more landowners to accelerate our land conservation program to enhance our collective response to climate challenges that are increasingly acute in Ojai, and emblematic of issues across the American West. Together, as a community, Ojai can be a leader in planning for resilience by pairing land conservation with community adaptations in this changing climate.
Here at the OVLC rain is a very exciting event—it kicks off the start to planting season for our field crew! We are out and about on all of the preserves, but we are especially proud of our plantings along San Antonio Creek, where native plants have successfully replaced invasive arundo, and at the old Farmont Ranch on the Ventura River Preserve, where native plants are thriving in what used to be an orange orchard!

Plants that thrive at San Antonio Creek and other riparian habitats include arroyo willow, giant wild rye, mulefat, mugwort, southern honeysuckle, and Western sycamore. These natives help to stabilize the banks of the river by preventing soil erosion, conserving water (which invasive plants greedily extract), and providing native habitat for local wildlife. Things are definitely getting greener here in Ojai and we cannot wait to see what this rain season has in store for our planted saplings near the creek. One volunteer organization that is as passionate as the OVLC about riparian restoration is the Sespe Fly Fishers, and they recently assisted our field crew with planting baby oak trees and companion shrubs at the Ventura River Preserve. Overall, volunteers helped us kick off planting season with over 300 plants and countless numbers of acorns in the ground near San Antonio Creek and the Ventura River. The planting season has not yet concluded and there is still a lot left to tackle, however with the support of volunteers, we will continue these large planting efforts and sustain a greener future here in the Ojai Valley.

**CREATURE FEATURE**

**Mule Deer**

With the onset of rain and the changing season, have you noticed things growing? The local mule deer certainly have! Not only are mule deer excited for the new vegetation they can now browse, but the males have fully grown their antlers for mating season. Mating season for these deer begins in the late fall and lasts until mid-spring, where typically a family group of deer consists of one male and a few females. All of the bucks that were not successful in "wooing" females either remain solitary or form bachelor groups.

So if you’re wondering why there is a group of bucks wandering about without any does, these are the notorious bachelors of Ojai. Each buck aspires to have the largest antlers and will physically challenge one another with their rack. Eventually the bucks shed their antlers and regrow them come the next mating season. Once spring comes it may become difficult to differentiate between the males and females, so be sure to admire those racks while you can!

Photos taken by our wildlife preserve cameras.

---

**Allan Jacobs Bridge**

We hope you’ve been using the new, volunteer-built Allan Jacobs Trail these past few months since it opened in November. If you have used it, no doubt you’ve seen the piles of lumber on the south end of the trail near Oso Ridge Trail. That’s for the new bridge that’s being built. With support from the local Rotary Club of Ojai and Ojai Lion’s Club, we were able to purchase material for an equestrian bridge over Olive Creek. As before, it’ll be all volunteer built, and since we won’t be finished until late March at the earliest, there’s plenty of opportunity to help out. Come on out and build a bridge with us!
Gojai is a proud OVLC business sponsor and was our premier sponsor for Montaintainfilm on Tour 2019, and will be again in 2020!

We are excited to welcome them to our community of Ojai Valley Land Conservancy partners!

GOJAI Organic's Founder Lindsay Chambers' love of nature inspired her to move to a farm in Ojai, California. Lindsay's other great love? Her family. So when her mom was diagnosed with cancer, she took time of f to be by her side. While undergoing chemotherapy, her mom decided to give up her daily diet soda routine, but she couldn't find a simple, healthy caf feeinated alternative on the market. Energy drinks had too much caf feeine and unnecessary additives. And like many people, she liked the simplicity of sparkling water.

GOJAI Organic is the nation’s first organic, gently caf feeinated sparkling water. It has zero preservatives, calories or sugar, and the caf feeine source is from organic un-roasted cof fee beans. Beyond GOJAI Organic's support of the OVLC, GOJAI also created a college scholarship that it provides annually to a Nordhoff High School Senior.

**SAY HI TO GOJAI!**

**IN HONOR OF:**
- Bert Carter's birthday from Alice Barnwell
- Brian Johnson “Brian! I know how much you love Ojai's mountains and hikes.. Sending Love? Happy Everything! :)” from Monica Patena
- Cassidy Teufel Family Merry Christmas from Kathy Teufel
- David Beckwith and Michael Shapiro from William & Wendi Knos
- Early Malloy from Grace & Dan Malloy
- Marti Reid's Birthday from Candace Grabin, Paula & Geoffrey Clarke, Wayne Lattimer

**GIFTS MEMBERSHIP FOR:**
- Christine Bednar
- Rowanne Henry
- Fred Fisher
- Emily Burson
- Donnie Cervantes
- Jennie Prebor
- Lisa Morehart from Lynette Cervantes
- Colleen Cooney from Brendan Taylor

**IN MEMORY OF:**
- Allan Jacobs “In memory of Allan Jacobs and his dedication of making it possible for us to climb our mountains.” from Friend’s Ranch
- Allan Jacobs from Janet Jacobs, Topa Topa Optometry, Inc.
- Charlie Eller from Carrie Eller & Jimmy Harvey
- Douglas Theriault from April Theriault & Ken Eros
- Joan Landfield “May Mom’s love of Ojai live on” from Daniel Landfield
- John Whitman from Heidi & Andrew Whitman
- Michele Briley “This gift is in honor of our beautiful mom and nana. May her gentle soul live on in the serenity and peace of Ojai’s lands. Khan, Kat, Dan, Max, and Mia”
- Sara Roxanne Schneider from Amy Schneider
- Theodore Walsh from Chris & Mark Marmes

**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

ALCO Plumbing
Anthony and Angela Ocone
Artisan Floor Corp, Mike Bennett
California Solar Electric
Canvas and Paper, Neil Krestman
Damar Construction, Mike Marshall
David Cahn
Deborah Pendray
Eagle Demolition Services
Forest Nielsen Woodworker
Hartmann Electric, John Hartmann
J. Larson Tile, Jordan Larson
Ken Beisel
Mike Cleary Tile
Nyla and Peter Adams
Ojai Custom Paint, Titus Painting
Ojai Electric, George Hartmann
Ojai Playhouse, The Alawars
Pacific Stoneworks
Phillips Collins
Reliable Heating & Air Conditioning, Brian Klinkt
RTC plastering, Robin Chavez
Sam Houseman Construction
TJM Drywall, Tim Malloy
Tobias Parker, General Contractor
Ventura Roofing, Tim Reed
Virginia Sagle and Barry Verga
WJW Masonry, Bill Walsh

In honor of his dedicated contractors and clients from Kerry Miller Designer/Builder, Inc.
Thank you to our FY 2019 Donors
Our trails live on what you give.

1920 Fiscal Year* Annual Report
* FY 2019: Fiscal Year October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

As our supporters will recall, last summer the OVLC's former office manager and bookkeeper was arrested for grand theft and forgery. With this unfortunate incident, the board took immediate steps to improve internal controls on bookkeeping.

In our continuing efforts to ensure that this sort of criminality never occurs again at OVLC, the board retained a new auditor who is familiar with land trust work. The auditor has been conducting a thorough examination of our books and operating procedures to help us refine our systems. We are still in the process of working with the auditor to determine ways to improve our systems. This process has taken longer than our typical annual audit and therefore our financial statements were not yet ready to include in this newsletter.

We will continue to update you as more information becomes available. Once available for review, we will post fiscal year 2019’s audited financial statements at ovlc.org/financials.

Tom Maloney
Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 8: Women in the Wild Events
- Visit ovlc.org/wildwomen20 for more information and to RSVP
- Yoga on the preserve with Peak Power Yoga
- Trail run on the Ventura River Preserve
- Mother-Child Nature Discovery with Ventura Wild
- Guided hike

April 4: Stewardship Director
Hike & Picnic
- Space is limited. Registration required

April 18: Spring Native Plant Sale at the OVLC Nursery on Besant Road

For the most up-to-date information about OVLC events visit ovlc.org/events

Donors 59 and Under
Aaron Kreisberg
At Stroberg & Betsy Patterson
Alan & Jan Peter
Alan & Janis Charleworth
Alexander Shorb
Alice & Richard Matson
Alice & Frances Campana
Alison Muehle
Alia, Sierra, & Bracyces
Aliya Creations
AmandaPeacock
Amy Huypp
Amari Shemida
Andrew Glyesteen
Andrew Balish
Andy Brucker & Amy Bruckmeier
Anita C. Cramer
Anita Hendricks
Ann & Neil Haek
Ann Garrell
Ann Horton & Fred Line
Ann James
Ann Koons
AnnaJulien
AnnaSzymkowiak
Annette Cooper
Anthony Volker
April Armstrong
April Treuhaft & Kay Eros
Ashley Barry
Ashley Nelson & Nicholas Mang
Aylen Coburn
Barbara & Charlie Snyder
Barbara & Michael Rigs
Barbara Gibson & Bill Shields
Barbara Rose
Barry & Paula Wayne
Belinda Beaty
Benjamin Holland
Bent & Elise Lundby
Beth Dorenkamp
Betsy Fields
Betty Gutman
BettyanneSessing
Bill & Maggie Morris
Bill Thatcher

Bob & Heather Sanders
Bob & Joan Grow
Bob & Leslie Nutting
Bonnie & Jeff Jenkins
Bonnie Bartling
Brad & Maria Marcus
Brandon & Catherine
Bencemo
Brean Bright
Brian Kimble Plidick
Brittany Blackwell
Brook Montagna
Caillen Prazetut
Caly Barbara
Cullen Garrell
Caren Olison
Carol & David Castanom
Carol Cohens
Carol Day
Carol Garmann
Carol Smith & Larry Yoya
Camron Emmons
Catherine Lee
Catherine Wilkes
Cathe Ferro
Cathy Moon
Celeste Gabrielle
Charla Brown
Charles Perry
Cheryl & Irish Fish
Cheri Windsum
Cerff Cercis
Cheryl & Dean Geiser
Chris Brock
Chris Broman & Mary Mohr
Christina Kennedy
Christina Lee
Christine Cooper
Christine Gallagher
Christina Hamphrey
Chris & Don Jackson
Cindy & Doug Bowar
Cindy & Lynn Mullins
Cindy Hansen
Cindy PlottsBurton
Claudia & Drew Lurie
Claudia Boyd-Barratt
Clementine Turner

Conojo Valley Homeschoolers
Cooke & Bill Miley
Craig Arleen
Craig Jennings
Cynthia Griss & Jan Catham
Cynthia Watchorn
Dai Leam
Dalil Freesco
Dan Parnie
Diana Stephens
Dana Stroh
Daniel Boyd-Barrett
Daniel Johnson
Daniel Muses &
Charlene Sprenkeli
Daniel Parks & Debra Brittain
Daniel Silver
Danielle Suarez
Darian & Peter Drage
Dave, Jen, Claire & Julia Harkins
David & Aimee Mendosa
David & Amy Bramly
David & Lisa Luckenbach
David & Marilyn Neuman
David & Mary Cunning
David & Pamela Lee
David Brown
David Kibe
David Kramer
David White
Dawn Stauer
de Vie Weinstock
Debbie & James Harmon
Debora Kirkand
Deborah & Richard Waerb
Debora Warf
Dee Reid & Jeff Starkeather
Denelle Ingram
Dennis Thomapoukos
Denk Mason
Diana Grendrow
Diana Kelly
Diane ShariMcLaughlin
Dirk Farnger
Dirk Horner
Dini Siegel &
Woodwynn Koons
Dogs Fly Design
Dolly Alexander
Don & Colleen Cutler
Don & Sue Reed
Don Brussels
Don Candies
Donna Freewrith
Doug & Noa Volpi
Duo-Yan Yang
Dr. Jan & Gerry MacIan
Draw & Kris Mashburn
Drew Ferrie
Duncan Wallace
Dwayne & Marilyn Bower
Dyan Beck
Ed & Diane Colby
Edgar Kyle
Edward Bailey
Elaine Reassor
Eleanor Cril
Elena Rin
Elia & Taylor Godwin
Elizabeth & Bill Tallakson
Elizabeth Clarke
Emlie Dishk
Emily Prother
Eric Elers
Eric Johnson
Erika Lindquist
Eric Mills
Eva Grasso
Evert Nygren
Flynn Vanacker
Franz Perez
Frank Horsen
Fred & Judy Byshie
Gabbe Tulihib
Gail Cooley
Gail Furigo
Gail Smith
Gary & Cameron Glenn
Gary Gartrell
Gary Nichol
Gayla Sarren
Gayde Caldwell
Gerald & Darlene Carlson
Gerri French
Gerry & Beverly Ding
Gerry Bradberry
GirlOmi
Grace Gartrell
Graham Smith
Grant & Erika Germain
Greg & Martha Lepine
Greg & Mary Wood
Gretchen Garnett
Gwen Bell & Alex Sevier
Heidi & Gunther Zeemoller
Heidi Hamilton
Herbert & Charlie Rogove
Holli & Paul Wood
Hansie Berkat
Irene Tinella
Ish Goldstein
Jack & Traci David
James McLese
James Billing &
Gloria Valladolid
Jan & Marc Key
Jan & Roy White
Jan Hestor
Jen Scoe
Jean & Dennis McCarthy
Jeanne Brown
Jen & John Owens
Janice Depandell
Jaspa
Jeanette & Joel Berkowitz
Jeanette Robinson
Jennifer Norfolk
Jennifer Holland
Jerry Milestein & Jill Penkus
Jerry O’Brown
Jessie Roblour
Jessica Brown
Jessica Cesar
Jill & Evan Lashly
Jim & Lisa Greenway
Jim & Susan Jackson
Jim & Susan-Marie Moody
Jim Parker
Jo Ann Munsak
Joan & Willis Allen
Joan Samara
Joanne & Neil Quinn
John & Jessica Ninja

OVLC.org Page 9
The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

Protecting your views, trails, water and wildlife
Protecting your views, trails, water and wildlife

The Ojai Valley Land Conservancy

ovlc.org      Page 15

Protecting your views, trails, water and wildlife

you can help protect the beauty of Ojai for generations to come.

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. You retain the right to use your property during your lifetime. It benefits the OVLC and supports the land you love.

The real beneficiary, of course, is Ojai.

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.

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai

A Taste of Ojai

Alojai Creations

BeCalm of Ojai

Chamber on the Mountain

Char Man Brand Hot Sauce

Dogs Fly Design

The Glass Man Professional Window Washing Company

Mooney Creative

BeCalm of Ojai
We used to estimate the number of visits to our preserves by tallying the number of doggy poop bags we had to order each year. This was, suffice to say, a rough estimate. For that simple reason, we decided to develop the new Trailhead Hosting program and after four hosting days in 2019, we have a much better idea of how many visits we get, and we learned quite a bit more.

On February 9 and August 16 at the Ventura River Preserve, April 24 at the Valley View Preserve, and December 14 at the Ojai Meadows Preserve, volunteers spent 9 hours each day interacting with and counting visitors. On those four days, our volunteers counted 1,153 users (1,006 pedestrians, 35 equestrians, and 112 mountain bikers) not to mention 295 dogs. Over two days, the Ventura River Preserve had a total of 671 visits, while Valley View Preserve had 183 visits in one day, and Ojai Meadows Preserve had 299 visits in one day. Extrapolating this data, we potentially have over 300,000 visits to our preserves in a single year!

Quantifying visits to our preserves helps us in grant applications. It also helps us understand the real impact on our trails, and by continuing to do Trailhead Hosting in the future, we will be able to see how preserve use changes, and likely increases, over time. These data help with planning and budgeting for trail maintenance and when considering building new trails.

Of course, it’s not just how many visits we get, but where and when people are visiting. Riverview Trailhead on the Ventura River Preserve is the busiest trailhead, while the early morning (8-9am) and lunch time (12-1pm), are the busiest times across all of the preserves. Having this type of specific information can help the OVLC in our stewardship of the land, directing our efforts and limited resources to the best time and place as needed.

In addition to counting the users, our volunteers provided community outreach by answering visitors’ questions, offering advice on where to go on the preserves, and collecting feedback through optional surveys. According to the majority of our visitors, the most important thing that the OVLC can do in this valley is to protect more land, and provide wildlife habitat.
If you donated through Patagonia Action Works, and did not receive a thank you note from the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, you may have unselected the top box (see below), and therefore we do not know who you are. Unfortunately, this means we could not properly thank you, nor credit the donation to your name.

Please reach out to xena@ovlc.org, if you think this may have happened with your donation. We received 30 “anonymous” donations. If you did indeed want your donation to be anonymous, there is no need to reach out, and we thank you for your support.

- Share my contact information with the group receiving this donation.
- Keep me in the loop with Patagonia Action Works emails.