

# Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707)262-0707 • Fall/Winter 2019/20

## Grant for 200-acre Wright property approved by Wildlife Conservation Board

# WE DID IT!

Thanks to you the 200-acre Wright property is now a part of LCLT's Big Valley Wetlands preservation project! The Wright property is the largest acquisition for this project so far. Thank you for making this dream a reality.

LCLT identified the shoreline area of Clear Lake between the Clear Lake State Park and west to Lakeport as a crucial area to be protected. This area became known as the Big Valley Wetlands. It is the largest remaining unprotected wetland/riparian and upland habitat adjacent to Clear Lake and consists of high value habitats: pristine lakeshore vegetation along with mature oaks and other trees required by a variety of wildlife species. Its near-shore and upland habitats with tules, mature valley oaks and cottonwood trees provide important nesting and feeding areas for a great variety of wildlife, including Western and Clark's Grebes, American White Pelicans, Prairie Falcons, golden-crown Sparrows, California Quail, wild turkeys, foxes, coyotes. Tules that line much of the shoreline provide a filtration system important to the water quality of Clear Lake. The Big Valley Wetlands is of great natural, ecological, educational and scenic importance to the people of Lake County and the State of California.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the acquisition of the Wright property possible. We would not have succeeded without your involvement! Special thanks to Bernie and Lynne Butcher of Upper Lake, who kicked off our campaign to raising matching funds

*(Continued on page 4)*



**In Spring of 2019 a group of Big Valley Wetland project donors were treated to pontoon boat tours of the Lake County Land Trust's shoreline properties.**



**The Wright property has a variety of riparian areas from shoreline to this small inland canal.**

# President's Message

By  
Val  
Nixon



**Val Meyer Nixon**

It had already been a hectic afternoon on Nov. 20, when at 3:30 pm I got a call from our Executive Director, Tom Smythe, that he had finally gotten the grant contract from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for our latest acquisition, The Wright Property.

The problem was that it had to be signed and notarized before 5 p.m. The ink from his printer was barely dry when we arrived at Umqua Bank and were directed

to the Notary Public by the Bank Officer who knew we were in desperate need of a last minute signature. As so often happens in Lake County, she was my longtime neighbor and was happy to ease us through the paperwork. It was the small town feeling of comfort knowing that even the notary cared that this last minute signature request could be easily accommodated.

The next day Tom Smythe, Roberta Lyons and I hand carried the paperwork to the Resources Building in Sacramento where the WCB was having their quarterly meeting. Tom handed our paperwork over to Jasen Yee and we took our seats in the large auditorium. Fifteen minutes later the grant was approved in the consent agenda along with quite a few other grants none of which were more important than ours (of course!) It was all we could do to not stand up and cheer but we contained ourselves until we went outside. Yes it was and is time to celebrate. The Wright Property will now go into escrow. Once again our small community and Land Trust dreamed big and persevered. Many thanks to Bernie and Lynn Butcher for putting up the initial large match donation and to all of you who chipped in as much as you could afford to make this important acquisition a reality.

The stunning beauty of fall in Northern California has been paired with the tumult of fear of fire and electrical outages. As my husband I were adapting to the inconvenience of the latest four-day power outage we started noticing the quiet peaceful beauty of the truly dark skies, the laughter of families playing outside and the wonderful sense of community we have in our rural neighborhoods of folks who look in on each other. The lack of electricity didn't seem to bother the Pine Siskins on our feeders, the Cedar Waxwings in the mistletoe on our walnut trees or the descending calls of our resident Western Screech Owl.

There are so many things to enjoy about living in Lake County including a community that cares enough to set aside 200 acres of wetlands to allow for wildlife to pass and rehabilitate our ancient lake. I think I can speak for the entire Board of Directors of the Lake County Land Trust, as I thank our community that has, with great foresight, generously supported the purchase of the Wright Property and the stewardship of these lands in perpetuity.

*With grateful appreciation,  
Val Meyer Nixon*

## You can choose to receive your LCLT Newsletter by Email

You can opt to receive your newsletter via email or via postal mail. We hope as many as possible will choose email because it saves our organization money and our staff and volunteers time, all of which can be used to save more land in Lake County, and save the trees too! If you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email, simply let us know at:

[LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org)

# The 2018/2019 Conservation Priority Plan is completed and will be available on our website!

By Merry Jo (Oursler) Velasquez,  
Lands Committee Chair

The Mission Statement of the Lake County Land Trust outlines the scope of possible lands that could be protected by Land Trust initiative. Over 10 years ago, the Land Trust recognized that setting priorities and planning how to achieve them are crucial for nearly all successful endeavors. Recognizing the need to be proactive in setting priorities for the Land Trust, The Lake County Land Trust Conservation Priority Plan was generated in 2007/2008 following input from Federal, State, County, and local experts.

After 10 years of Land Trust activity and recognizing the changing Lake County landscape and environmental issues, the Land Trust Lands Committee initiated an update to the planning document with new input from available experts.

The document has been updated and the new Conservation Priority Plan will soon be available on our website. In addition to discussions of the current priorities, you can check out the new Priority Plan details of the progress that has been made on the top identified priorities in the original Priority Plan.

You will find that some areas that were a high priority before have remained a high priority, some of the original high priorities have moved down the list of importance, in part due to successful activities reducing threats, and some new priorities have arisen.

## In Memorium

### *We will miss you Bonnie*

We are sad to report that friend and Lake County Land Trust volunteer, Bonnie Piccolo lost her battle with cancer on Nov. 16. Bonnie could be seen at numerous Lake County Land Trust dinners, organizing volunteers and keeping an eye on



proceedings to make sure all went smoothly.

Bonnie was born and raised in Lake Forest, Illinois but was a California resident for almost 50 years. She resided in the Santa Cruz area where she pursued her career as an organic juice broker, working for well-known Dutch and American companies.

She had quite a career managing huge shiploads of organic juice from origin to their final destination.

Bonnie retired in Lake County and enjoyed her home here. She will be missed by her two sons, Rian and Collin Piccolo, her siblings, and her many friends from both Santa Cruz and Lake County. Bonnie was named our "Supporter of the Year," in 2012. We will miss you Bonnie.



## Donate to LCLT while shopping on Amazon.com

Although we always encourage shopping at our local businesses first, if you do shop online using Amazon.com, you can designate part of the purchase price of your items to the Lake County Land Trust.

Amazon offers a donation program wherein Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of all eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

It does not cost you extra, you pay the same amount whether you use regular Amazon.com, or the AmazonSmile interface.

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and sign in to your Amazon account (or create an account if you don't have one). Then, if you have not already done so, you will be given an opportunity to choose a charity: just type "Lake County Land Trust," into the search box, and select our organization and proceed to your normal shopping. During your shopping items eligible for the donation program will be noted on the item description page. Whenever you place an order with amazon.com, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) first, and help support the Land Trust.



**Many creatures find homes and food in oak trees.**

## **Grant for 200-acre Wright property approved by Wildlife Conservation Board**

*(Continued from page 1)*

with a \$40,000 donation. A giant shout-out to Stacy Schummer of Lakeport who contributed \$54,000 and Susan Morton of Lakeport who donated \$10,000 because of the passion she and her late husband shared for the land. For a full list of contributors, please see page 6 of this newsletter.

Work on acquiring this property started in earnest in February of 2018. LCLT Board members; Executive Director, Tom Smythe; the property owners; and local, retired attorney Peter Windrem toured the property together with Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists to determine if it would be recommended to the WCB for purchase.

The biologists were impressed. They were stunned by the extensive Clear Lake shoreline of native tule and willow habitat and the oak uplands that provide browsing and feeding grounds for numbers of mammals and

*(Continued on page 5)*



**Tom Smythe, (L) Lake County Land Trust Executive Director and Valerie Nixon, Land Trust President, greeted John Walsh (center left) and Jasen Yee of the Wildlife Conservation Board when land trust members traveled to Sacramento to accept the approval of a major grant to the Land Trust for purchase of the 200 acre Wright property near Lakeport.**

(Continued from page 4)

raptors. While inspecting the rich shoreline a Prairie Falcon landed in a nearby willow as if to emphasize the incredible wildlife value of this property.

Property owners Wendy and David Wright were enthusiastic and cooperative. They wanted to see their well-loved ranch and lakefront property preserved in perpetuity and worked hard on behalf of their family and their values to “make it happen.”

On Nov. 21, 2019 members of LCLT’s Board of Directors traveled to Sacramento to attend the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) meeting where grant funding for this project was approved. The WCB, the land acquisition arm of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, contributed \$675,000 with LCLT providing \$100,000 for a total purchase price of \$775,000. LCLT’s contributions were raised exclusively through local donors such as you.

We anticipate escrow to close finalizing the acquisition process in early 2020.

The next step is to develop a management plan for this parcel and determine the highest and best use of this land that will both protect the important wildlife while allowing visitors to enjoy its glorious attributes.



**A good example of the beautiful intact shoreline along the Wright property near Lakeport.**



**White Pelicans are often found along the shoreline of the Wright property, part of the Lake County Land Trust’s Big Valley Wetlands protection plan.**



**A group of Land Trust board members, biologists from the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and involved citizens visited the Wright property in the Spring of 2018.**



**The property also features large Valley and Blue Oaks.**



**The upland pasture and oak habitat is also valuable.**

# Thank you to our Wright Property Acquisition Donors, We couldn't have done it without you!

The 200 acre Wright property on the Shores of Clear Lake near Lakeport is one of the most important land acquisitions achieved by the Lake County Land Trust and it was made possible by local support. The Land Trust deeply appreciates this support and would like to acknowledge all of those who contributed. Many thanks to **Bernie and Lynne Butcher, who kicked off the campaign with a \$40,000 matching grant.** Their effort was followed by a **\$54,000 donation from Stacy Shummer** then numerous donations from many other Land Trust supporters.

## **\$5,000 - \$10,000**

Susan Morton  
Richard and Angela Birk

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Rick & Wendy Reynolds  
Michael & Catherine Thiemann

Russ & RJ Stager

Roberta & Harry Lyons

Bruce Brugler

Lynne Bruner

Barbara Bruner

## **\$500 - 999**

Paula Bond

## **\$100 - \$499**

Michele Quere

Broc & Sharron Zoller

Jim & Susanne Scholz

Richard and Lianne Campodonico

Margaret & Arthur Miller

Vance & Valerie Nau

Neil O & Barbara L Towne

Larry & Kathy Jansen

John Wise & Evelyn Wachtel

Steve & Linda Hedstrom

Bob Schoenherr

Michele Quere

Karen & Kevin Bradley

Kathy & Thomas Scavone

## **Up to \$99**

Linda Marie

Katherine & Ronald Yoder

Christie White

Dana & Dan Obermeyer

Robert Van Horn

Joan & Chuck Sturges

Jody Altic

Thomas R Smythe

Beth Seaward

Mary Brandeau

# Executive Director's Message

By Tom Smythe

## Thanks to our supporters, the Land Trust has had a successful year



**Tom Smythe**

Direction in October at the Lodge at Blue Lakes. The dinner was well attended and an enjoyable experience for all. With the new (to us anyway) paddle raise, we

We started the year with the very successful Wright Capital Campaign. Thanks to our supporters, we raised over our goal of \$120,000 in only three months! We are proceeding with the purchase, with a \$675,000 grant for the purchase approved by the State on Nov. 21. We hope to close escrow on the property in early 2020.

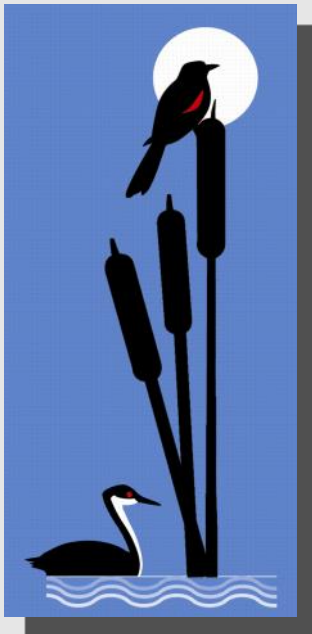
We also had a very successful Dinner with

raised a record amount of funds to support Land Trust activities protecting our Lake County environment.

We have been in discussion with Caltrans for over three years about possible mitigation lands to mitigate for Blue and Valley Oak removal tied to highway projects in Lake County. This year, we are actively looking at two potential large parcels off Highway 20 and New Long Valley Road as potential acquisitions for the Land Trust. Hopefully, we can move forward with permanently protecting one of these properties in 2020.

We have completed our Conservation Priority Plan update, which identifies our conservation priorities for the next 10 years. Our top priority continues to be the Big Valley Wetlands. The Plan should be posted on our website soon.

We are working on the Land Trust's long term sustainability so we can continue to protect Lake County's important land and water resources. We can only do this with your continued support. We thank you for your support.



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**[Instagram.com/  
LakeCountyLandTrust](https://www.instagram.com/LakeCountyLandTrust)**



**Melissa Kinsel, Community Outreach Leader for the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT), Bernie and Lynne Butcher, named as the LCLT Supporters of the Year for 2019 and land trust president, Val Nixon. The Butchers were named the land trust’s Supporters of the Year for the support they have shown the organization over many years. They host an annual Spring Event at their establishment, the Tallman Hotel and Blue Wing Saloon in Upper Lake, and most recently donated \$40,000 to the land trust to kick start a fundraising campaign to raise matching funds to purchase a 200 acre parcel on Clear Lake to protect wetlands and wildlife habitat.**

## **Geography of Hope is theme of Annual Lake County Land Trust Dinner**

The 21<sup>st</sup> Lake County Land Trust annual dinner saw an enthusiastic attendance of 160 people at the beautiful Lodge at Blue Lakes on Saturday, Oct. 19. Land Trust supporters from all over the county came to the event to celebrate the Land Trust’s achievements, visit with friends, bid on silent auction items and participate in a new addition to the Land Trust’s fundraising efforts: a “paddle raise” which gave guests the opportunity to donate to the Land Trust’s core mission and brought in an astounding \$70,000.

“This was one of our most successful events ever,” noted Lake County Land Trust president Val Nixon.

“Not only did we host a record number of people, but we also were able to raise the funds we need to continue the work of the Land Trust.”

During the event Nixon announced the Trust’s most recent successful transaction, the near completion of the Wright property acquisition.

The Wright property is a 200 acre lakefront property in the southern area of Lakeport. It boasts several hundred feet of lakefront abounding in tules, willows, and other vital lakefront habitat. Honored at the event as the Lake County Land Trust’s “Supporters of the Year,”

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were Bernie and Lynne Butcher of Upper Lake, who were credited with kicking off the initial fundraising campaign for the Wright Property acquisition with a \$40,000 matching gift that was a substantial portion of the Land Trust's funding needed to apply for a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB), the State agency that funds many of the Land Trust's projects.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Tosha Comendant, Conservation Science Manager for Pepperwood Preserve. Dr. Comendant is a Napa Valley native who conducts and manages complex research projects for Pepperwood, which is based in Sonoma County. She spoke about the importance of wildlife connectivity in the region that includes Lake County and the importance of ensuring this connectivity in the face of climate change and conversion of wildlands to developed lands.

The event started with a hosted social hour featuring Lake County wines, donated by Chacewater Winery, Gregory Graham, Laujor Estate Winery, Olof Cellars, R Vineyards, Six Sigma Ranch and Winery, Steele Wines, and Vigilance. Live music was provided gratis by Carlos and the Gypsy Pushers. Sponsors for the event included: Community First Credit Union, Adventist Health, Clearlake; the Law Office of Dennis A. Fordham, Clearlake Dental, Katzoff and Riggs, LLP, Friends of Jessica Pyska, Foods Etc. Clearlake, The Koski, Kathy and Brad Barnwell, and Joyce and Russell Porterfield.

Student volunteers from Kelseyville High School spent the afternoon and evening helping with dinner service, a delicious meal prepared by The Lodge at Blue Lakes, which was a stunning venue for the Land Trust's annual dinner with hosts, owners Maryann and Peter Schmid. *(See more photos next pages)*



**Harry Lyons enjoyed serving wine to some of the 160 guests who attended the annual Lake County Land Trust dinner.**



**Melissa Kinsel, Community Outreach Leader for the Lake County Land Trust enjoyed visiting with Winn and Sue Stiles, Scotts Valley residents and longtime supporters of the land trust.**



**Local archaeologist John Parker, and knife artist, David Vaughn enjoyed the afternoon at the Annual Lake County Land Trust dinner.**



Gayle Gura and Herb Gura of Clearlake enjoyed the afternoon sun that broke through at the 2019 Lake County Land Trust's annual dinner held on Oct. 19 at the Lodge at Blue Lakes.



The deck at The Lodge at Blue Lakes is always a nice place to sit. Larry and Kathy Jansen and Joyce and Russ Porterfield visited before the festivities started.

## Dinner with Direction: Geography of Hope

### Thank you to our Annual Dinner Volunteers/Helpers

**Food Service/ Bussing**  
Kelseyville High School students,  
along with Laurie Loumena

**Entertainment**  
Carlos & the Gypsy Pushers,  
including  
Carlos Garay  
Denis Mahoney  
Tony Buscal  
Danielle Hudson  
Scott Serena, Banjo

Ben van Steenburg III painted tattoos

**Décor**  
Madi Mount provided flowers  
for centerpieces

**Check In**  
Ruth Stierna  
Merry Jo Velasquez  
Anna Rose Ravenwoode  
Erica Lundquist  
Jeannie Vierra  
Kathy Barnwell

**Check Out**  
Martha Mincer  
Marilyn Waits  
Carol Lincoln

Kathy Windrem

**Silent Auction**  
Mischell Maldenado  
Sally Green  
Liz Rohnstock  
Anne Carnathan  
Dale Carnathan

**Bartending**  
Harry Lions  
Tom Nixon  
Carol Lincoln  
Bill Lincoln

**Paddle Raise Spotters  
and Recorders**  
Tom Smythe  
Jackie Smythe  
Tim Bartice  
Peter Windrem  
Randy Krag  
Brad Barnwell

**Wine Pull Auction**  
Rebecca Southwick

**Paddle Raise Leader**  
Anne Martin

### Thank you to our Sponsors



Tje Koski ♦ Kathy & Brad Barnwell  
Joyce and Russell Porterfield



KATZOFF & RIGGS, LLP  
Lake County Office  
9779 Broadmoor Way  
Kelseyville, CA 95451  
p. 707.277.9200





Bonnie and Skip Sears and Clint Nelson enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the deck at the Lodge at Blue Lakes during the land trust’s annual dinner. Bonnie Sears and Clint Nelson, of Beckstoffer Vineyards enjoyed the dinner and were on hand to “raise a paddle,” for Beckstoffer Vineyards at the \$5,000 level.

## Paddle Raise event was an exciting “first” for us. Thank you to everyone who participated!

At this year’s annual *Dinner with Direction*, we tried something new—a *paddle raise*—and it was a resounding success! A huge thank you to everyone who raised their paddle in support of our work that evening, and a special shout out to Anne Martin, our Operations Coordinator (named such because she does so many things!) She was the best auctioneer we could have asked for and made the whole event a blast.

Deep gratitude to **Sue Morton**, who started out the Paddle Raise with an extraordinarily generous \$25,000 donation! Charlotte Griswold followed with a \$10,000 gift. Andy Beckstoffer and Richard & Angela Birk each gave \$5,000.

The above donors gave us an unbelievable start and it expanded from there—Check out the below list of contributors who raised their paddle to benefit LCLT and the wildlands of Lake County. Every gift is deeply appreciated!

**\$2,200**

Louis Schump and Todd Hosfelt

**\$1,000**

Steve and Carol Schepper

Bill and Carol Lincoln

John and Ruth Stierna

Jeffrey Long

David and Merry Jo Velasquez

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Silent Auction Donors

**Twin Pine Casino:** one night stay at Twin Pine Casino, restaurant certificate, & \$50 in free play

**Hidden Valley Lake Golf Course:** gift certificate for four 18-hole golf passes including cart rental

**Lisa Wink:** Bare Minerals skincare system & Monat hair products

**Chacewater Winery & Olive Mill:** 1 bottle of Highlander Red; 1 bottle of organic Sauvignon Blanc, one 4-pack of olive oil

**Maker.:** Hand beaded locally made Pomo earrings

**Ben van Steenburg III:** print of his original artwork

**Rosa D'Oro Winery:** 12 bottles of olive oil

**Tess McGuire:** handmade felted hat

**Michele Quere:** inflatable kayak + accessories

*(Continued on page 12)*



**Neil Towne and Carol Lincoln perused the silent auction table.**

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## Silent Auction Donors

**John Sheridan:** Robert Roberts original pencil drawing

**Ruth Stierna:** one framed, and two matted original photographs of her work

**Mary Oom:** one month of unlimited yoga classes at Transformations yoga studio

**Six Sigma Ranch & Winery:** one case of Sauvignon Blanc, \$100 worth of locally raised meats, and a ten person Pinzgauer tour

**Mike Thompson:** U.S. Stars & Stripes flown over the Capitol Building, wine, and vinegar from his own vineyard

**Merry Jo Oursler & David Velasquez:** homemade SW enchilada dinner for 8 including wine; and a magnum of Steele Zinfandel & chocolate corkscrew

**Kathleen Scavone:** handmade pottery: vase, bowl, and 2 mugs

**Olof Cellars:** Food & Wine pairing for 4 people

**Jacqueline Smythe:** framed original photograph of Egrets at Rodman Slough

**David Vaughn:** two handmade Spirit Stone knives and a mounted deer antler with turquoise & leather adornments

**Sara Nave:** handmade baby quilt

**Seely Farms:** 30 pounds of locally grown pears

**Round River Farms:** 15 pounds of Lake County walnuts

**Saw Shop:** Gift certificate, 3-course meal for 2

**Debi Sally & Kin Ling:** two-night stay at Birder's Paradise

**Henry Bornstein & Gae Henry:** boat tour of Anderson Springs for 4 adults

**Joyce Anderson:** original books of poetry

**Mischell Maldonado:** handmade Sterling silver earrings

**Monica Rosenthal:** case of R Vineyards wine

**Roberta Lyons:** framed original artwork by late Lake County artist Tommy Gillium; Sterling silver multi precious-stone necklace

## Paddle Raise event

(Continued from page 11)

### \$1,000 (Continued)

Tom and Val Nixon

Harry and Roberta Lyons

Jim and Olga Steele

David Vaughan

Tom DiRenzo and Andrew Belschner

Cynthia Ustrud

Highland Springs Equestrian Center - Juliana Vidich and Dr. Paul Marchand

Keeling Barnes Family Foundation

Richard Campodonic

Peter and Maryann Schmid

Aaltje Koski

### \$500

Dennis Fordham

Pierre Cutler and Gillian Parrillo

Debi Sally

Skip and Bonnie Sears

Erica Lundquist and Randy Krag

Russ and Joyce Porterfield

Val Scheifler

Bob Schoenherr

### \$250

Steve Gibson and Steve Wylie

Neil and Bobbi Towne

Henry Bornstein and Gae Henry

Tim and Julie Bartice

Tosha Comendant

Russ and Joyce Cremer

Denise Rushing

Brad and Kathy Barnwell

Nancy Cary Smith and Bob Smith

### \$100

Debbie Doran

Win and Sue Stiles

Peggy Campbell

Lynne and Bernie Butcher

Janet and Bob Swedberg

Kathy and Tom Scavone

Cassandra Liu

Pete and Veronica McGee

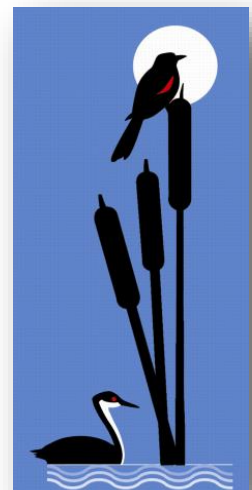
Peter and Kathy Windrem

Herb Gura

Lucia and Mark Boyle

Doyle Awtrey and Steve Sartori

Tom and Jackie Smythe





**The Boggs Lake Preserve is jointly managed by the Lake County Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy.**



**Acorn Woodpeckers use dead and dying trees as granaries, or “Cache Trees,” to store acorns for hard times.**

## **Stages of Nature can be seen at Boggs Lake Preserve**

**By Roberta Lyons  
Lake County Land Trust,  
Board of Directors**

In early November some members of the Lake County Land Trust’s Board of Directors visited the Boggs Lake Preserve on Mt. Hannah. The preserve is owned by The Nature Conservancy, (TNC) but about 10 years ago the Lake County Land Trust entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with TNC to help manage the beautiful 197 acre preserve whose main feature is one of the largest vernal pools in the State of California surrounded by a lovely mixed conifer and oak forest.

A community clean-up day had been scheduled for that weekend, but because of disruptions to so many people from the Kincadee fire and power outages, the work day was cancelled. Nevertheless, Board members wanted to “check out,” the area and assess what work needed to be done on the trails and make recommendations to TNC regarding future projects.

It was a lovely day with beautiful Fall colors and we noticed great depictions of how nature renews itself. One stunning example was the noticeable numbers of dead Ponderosa Pine, standing like telephone poles amidst the lower chaparral shrubs and native California grasses. The accelerated rate of death of many of the conifers at Boggs Lake can be attributed to stress from recent droughts, followed by increased vulnerability to infestation by several species of the infamous bark beetles, which can further weaken or kill the trees. As we looked up at these towering “poles,” we noticed the Acorn Woodpecker cache areas in the trees, spots where these interesting critters stash their acorns for winter food. We peeked into a cavity that appeared to have been the home of some critter during the summer, and discussed the use of snags for cavity nesters and perch hunters, and the shifting windows of opportunity associated with large-scale changes. Indeed, we noticed there were the numerous Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine seedlings of every size growing all over the preserve. The trees are already coming back.

*(Continued on page 14)*



**Even though the main part of this Black Oak fell many years ago, it still stands creating habitat and nesting areas.**



**Native California Fescue grasses are abundant at Boggs Lake.**

## ***Stages of Nature***

*(Continued from page 13)*

When we first noticed the increased conifer death several years ago, we were saddened and struggled to understand if there was something we could or should do. We chose to be patient and observe for a while how the forest community responds. With a closer look, it was obvious that we need not despair. Nature is cycling through its stages of death and re-growth, and the opening and closing of opportunities with change. More sunshine coming through the tall trees is fueling the growth of the young ones; the understory native grasses, scrub oak, madrone, and manzanita are also faring well. We agreed that the dead-fall in the understory needs some management (which we will be discussing with TNC), and as we discussed plans for rescheduling the community clean-up day, we were thankful that we had come out that beautiful morning to see and enjoy the stunning beauty of the preserve as it cycles through the stages of nature.



**This small Douglas Fir tree will eventually take the place of one that has died.**



**Madrone trees are part of the ecology at the Boggs Lake Preserve and this Fall had a tremendous supply of berries.**



**The kiosk was primarily paid for with grant funds from the Cobb Geothermal Mitigation Fund.**



**Land Trust board member, Catherine Koehler, (L) Executive Director, Tom Smythe, and board members, Roberta Lyons, Val Nixon and John Stierna visited the Boggs Lake Preserve recently to check on trails.**

**(Right) Val Nixon and Tom Smythe cut a tree that has fallen across the trail.**







**This Ponderosa Pine is doing well.**



**Ponderosa Pine are prevalent at Boggs. This small seedling has taken hold.**

## Become a member of The Lake County Land Trust

**Membership Benefits include:**

**Golden Eagle: \$1,000+**

Reserved seating at our Annual Dinner • Guided hike and picnic lunch at a specially featured Land Trust property • Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," Coffee • Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and publication in our Land Trust newsletter, updated annually • Lake County Land Trust newsletter either via email or a mailed paper copy

**Osprey: \$500-\$999**

Guided hike and picnic lunch at a specially featured Land Trust property • Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," Coffee • Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and publication in our Land Trust newsletter, updated annually. • Lake County Land Trust newsletter, either via email or a mailed paper copy.

**Blue Heron: \$100-\$499**

Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust," • Coffee and acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and published in our Land Trust newsletter updated annually.

**Snowy Egret: \$20-\$99**

Acknowledgement on our Land Trust website and published in our Land Trust newsletter updated annually. • Lake County Land Trust newsletter, either via email or a mailed paper copy.

*Membership period is for one calendar year.*

### Yes! I want to become a member of the Lake County Land Trust!

- Yes, I would like to join the LCLT
- Please renew my membership with LCLT
- Please increase my membership support with the below contribution
- Please sign me up as a sustained giving member and bill my credit card on a monthly basis for the amount indicated below.

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: LCLT  
Mail to: PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453**

I'd like to pay with my credit card:  
Card Type: VISA MasterCard (circle one)  
Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Security Code\* \_\_\_\_\_  
(\*3 digit code on back of your card)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my newsletter by  Email  US Mail



In 2003 the Lake County Land Trust started the tradition of naming a “Supporter (or Supporters) of the Year.” In 2003, the trust started by naming 10 people, and from then on either one or two people every year are recognized for their donor support and volunteer activities. Former Land Trust board member and President, and former Lake County resident, Michael Friel, had the idea of creating a special plaque to permanently recognize these supporters. Michael Friel donated the funding to get this done and we are happy to say that the project has been completed. Pictured is the beautiful plaque that was created by Kevin Ness Jewelers in the City of Clearlake. The plaque is now on display at the Land Trust’s office at the Rodman Preserve. Many thanks to Michael for envisioning this project and to Kevin Ness Jewelers for creating a beautiful plaque. Also, we appreciate the skillful wood working of Tom Scavone, a long-time Land Trust supporter who created the “trunk,” for the tree that supports the donor plaque “leaves.”

## Help save trees: send us your Email address!!!

Would you like to receive your Lake County Land Trust newsletter via email rather than regular mail? Or both ways? All members of the Lake County Land Trust, or those who are not members but attend fundraisers, can opt to receive the newsletter by mail, or can sign up to receive the full-color electronic version (which helps us cut costs and not trees!). Send an email to [lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org) and let us know your preference.

Very occasionally, we will also send “email blasts” about special Land Trust events—we promise this will not amount

to an excessive amount of emails! Unfortunately, the economic times don’t allow us to continue mailing paper newsletters to folks interested in receiving our news but who are not supporting the organization.

Such interested folks can sign up for receiving the newsletter electronically, however. If you know anyone who used to receive paper newsletters and misses hearing from us, encourage them to become members and/or sign up for electronic newsletters! The newsletter is also available at our website: [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org).

# Making a Green Change

The Lodge at Blue Lakes has rolled out a Green initiative earlier this year, with the Lake County Land Trust in mind. Maryann Schmid, LCLT member and owner of the Lodge at Blue Lakes, began her own non-profit along with Olga Steele, another LCLT member and community activist.

Their organization, 1Team, 1 Dream, is a fundraising initiative dedicated to building Lake County's economy. They formed "in response to years of fires and a dream - to help budding business enterprises thrive and survive the ups and downs of our local economy - with a goal to build economic resilience and stability." Guests who stay at the Lodge at Blue Lakes can opt to not have their linens washed nor their hotel toiletries replenished during their stay, reducing the effect of detergents on the environment and the amount of small plastic containers in our landfills.

For each opt-in, the Lodge will donate \$5 of their per-night room rate to the Lake County Land Trust and to 1Team, 1Dream. LCLT will add that money to their stewardship, acquisition, and outreach efforts while 1Team, 1 Dream funds will be disbursed between local programs that "support local economic growth, resilience, and stability."

For more information about 1Team, 1Dream, you can visit <https://www.1team1dream.net/>.

## LEAVING A LEGACY

What better legacy is there to leave than your commitment to protecting Lake County's natural resources for future generations? Whether you are taking those first important steps toward planning your estate or are in the process of updating your estate plan, please consider a donation to the Lake County Land Trust. To discuss how you can name the Trust in your will or estate plan call the Land Trust's Executive Director, Tom Smythe at (707) 262-0707.

Sign up with  
**Meetup.com**  
and find activities  
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people with  
similar interests.

Lake County  
Land Trust  
is part of the  
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# Lake County Land Trust

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## 2019/20 Calendar of Events

**Second and Fourth Saturdays of the Month** – Walks at the Rodman Preserve, flagship property of the Lake County Land Trust, will be held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month as long as weather permits.

Continuous heavy rains will cancel the walks for the season as the trails get too soggy. Walks start at 9 a.m. September through May, and 8 a.m. June through August with participants to meet at the Rodman Preserve Nature Education Center at 6350 Westlake Road (the corner of Westlake and the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff). No dogs please and moderate to heavy rains will cancel. Please do not mistake the County Rodman Slough Park for the Land Trust's Rodman Preserve. To get to the Preserve turn left on Westlake Road after exiting the highway onto the Nice-Lucerne Cut-off. If you reach the bridge going over the slough, you have gone too far and missed the preserve entrance. Call Erica Lundquist at (707) 245-8384 for information.

**Dec. 14 – Saturday - Christmas at the Ranch** – The Anderson Marsh Interpretive Association (AMIA) will hold its popular Christmas at the Ranch event. The fun Christmas celebration starts at 10 a.m. at the Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park between Lower Lake and Clearlake off of Highway 53. The event includes live music by local musicians; Santa will be there to greet the kids and refreshments including hot apple cider will be served.

**Dec. 14 – Saturday – Audubon Christmas Bird Count** – The Redbud Audubon Society will hold its annual Christmas Bird Count. If you are interested in participating in the bird count, call (707) 263-8030, leave a message with your phone number, and someone will return your call. Prior to the bird count the annual Bird Identification program will be held on Dec. 12 at the Presbyterian Church in Kelseyville.

**April 25-26 & May 2 – 3 – Saturday and Sunday – Redbud Audubon Heron Days** - 90 minute boat tours on Clear Lake starting at 8 a.m. Fee is \$30. Visit numerous wildlife areas on the lake and in Anderson Marsh. Different trips on different weekends. Information about this event will be at [www.redbudaudubon.org](http://www.redbudaudubon.org) or call (707) 263-8030. Well-behaved children over 8 are welcome but no pets.

## Who We Are

The Lake County Land Trust is a local, 501 (c) (3) charitable nonprofit organization directly involved in protecting important land resources. These include: wetlands, wildlife habitats, parks, forests, watersheds, riparian stream corridors, lakeside areas, and trails. The trust is also concerned with property that has unique scenic, cultural, agricultural, educational, or historical value.

### Officers:

President Val Nixon  
Vice-President Bill Lincoln  
Treasurer: John Stierna  
Secretary Erica Lundquist

For info contact:  
Lake County Land Trust,  
PO Box 1017, Lakeport  
CA 95453 • (707)262-0707

Board Members: Roberta Lyons,  
Catherine Koehler, and  
Merry Jo Velasquez

(email)  
[lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org)

Melissa Kinsel-Community Outreach Leader [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org)  
Anne Martin-Operations Leader

Tax I.D. No. 68-0332712

Executive Director: Tom Smythe

A sponsor member of the



Lake County Land Trust