



Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707)262-0707 • Fall/Winter 2017

Land Trust updates Land Conservation Priority Plan with workshops in Clearlake and Lakeport

By Merry Jo Velasquez

Anyone lucky enough to visit or, best of all worlds, live in Lake County knows that we have an abundance of natural beauty and precious habitats.

Over time, areas of natural beauty may be under pressure for development or have already suffered from development and the Lake County Land Trust was founded to protect our lands from these threats. The key question for any Land Trust is how do we focus our time, efforts, and resources? In 2006, the Lake County Land Trust held two Priority Planning Workshops which convened Federal, State, and local experts in land use and natural resources. These experts were asked to prioritize areas and/or issues that they felt were most worthy of conservation because of future threats from development and conversion. This process led to the creation of the Lake County Land Trust Conservation Priority Plan.

From the discussions and voting, three clear priority areas were designated: the Big Valley Wetlands Project (the shoreline between Clear Lake State Park and South Lakeport); Mt. Konocti; and the Middle Creek Ecosystem (the Rodman Slough area and the current reclamation zone slated for restoration). In the over 10 years since this effort was undertaken progress has been made on all three of the top categories.

In 2016 the Land Trust was able to purchase 30 plus acres of valuable wetland in the Big Valley area. The project, known as the Melo wetland purchase (named after the former owner) has permanently protected beautiful native wetland and shoreline forest as well as upland wet meadow, pasture, and oaks. As part of the Big Valley Wetlands project, the Land Trust developed a Conceptual Area Project Plan (CAPP) a document adopted by the California Department of Fish and



Attending the priority planning meeting in Clearlake were from left, Frank Aebly, District Ranger, Mendocino National Forest; Russell Perdock, Mayor, City of Clearlake; Valerie Nixon, President, LCLT; Victoria Brandon, Lake Group Conservation Chair, Sierra Club; Will Evans, Special Projects Coordinator, Lake County Special Districts; Eddie Guaracha, District Superintendent for the Northern Buttes District, California Parks and Recreation.



Bill Lincoln, chair of the Lake County Land Trust's Lands Committee views a map of Lake County at the Lakeport Planning meeting held in October.

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President's Message

By
Val
Nixon



Val Nixon

of heroism, generosity and caring during this time of incomprehensible loss were moving. Our hearts go out

This fall brought migratory birds, changing colors, falling leaves, and once again devastating fires. As the climate continues to warm, the forests, woodlands, chaparral and grasslands become tinderboxes for artificial and natural fire starters. These catastrophic infernos burned through communities in Lake County and all the counties that surround us. The stories

to all those who lost their homes, their businesses and loved ones.

With the coming rains, the charred hills will recover and become green again. The best of human nature will prevail as we pull together as communities to comfort each other and rebuild. To move forward, we will search for causes and solutions with the hope of learning the lessons from this horrific disaster in order to build a better future.

It is with heartfelt respect for our first responders, resilient citizens and community organizations that I close this message. You are the glimmer of light that allows those who are affected by this most recent and previous disasters to rise again.

Thank you.

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.

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.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

You can now become a Land Trust fan on Facebook at



[facebook.com/
LakeCountyLandTrust](https://www.facebook.com/LakeCountyLandTrust)

Welcome new Board Member John Stierna

The Lake County Land Trust is pleased to welcome John Stierna to our board. John has much to offer our group and we are looking forward to working with him.



John Stierna has over 50 years of experience in natural resources and agriculture as an economist and policy analyst in both the public and private sectors.

He has earned BS and MS degrees in agricultural economics from Michigan State University and has provided significant leadership for economic analysis, policy formulation and legislative analysis during a career with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington, DC.

During his professional career at USDA John contributed to the conservation title of the periodic farm bills for the reauthorization and revision of natural resource conservation programs and their implementation at USDA. Subsequently he served as a consultant in natural resources policy and programs for American Farmland Trust developing and advocating legislative proposals on Capitol Hill. He has also served 16 years as a trustee for Finlandia University, including over five years as Chair of the Board.

John has seen a diverse array of natural resource issues, having visited 49 states and 17 other countries. He has lived in Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Virginia. He now lives in Hidden Valley Lake, California and is married to Ruth Stierna. They have two adult children (living in New Zealand and San Francisco respectively) and four grandchildren.

Annual Holiday Appeal will be Starting soon

You will soon be receiving our annual Holiday Appeal in the mail and we look forward to hearing from our many supporters. Thank you all for your fantastic donations in the past and we thank you in advance for your continued support. We know you are as excited as we are about continuing to preserve Lake County's beautiful natural places.



Supervisor Jim Steele was a great auctioneer for the evening's short, but fun live auction that included a two night stay at the McCallum House Inn in Mendocino.

Live Auction Returns

This year's Land Trust dinner saw the return of a live auction. We decided to limit it to four very generous donations so as not to take too much time away from our enjoyable dinner conversations.

Noted artist, illustrator and portraitist **Ben vanSteenburgh III** hand-embellished two limited edition, signed and framed Giclee prints from his yoga poses series and named them exclusively for the Lake County Land Trust.

The McCallum House, a boutique hotel in Mendocino provided 2 nights of deluxe accommodations, including breakfast and dinner for two at the McCallum House restaurant.

The Pepperwood Foundation gave us an overnight stay for ten people at the Bechtel House on the Pepperwood Reserve plus a naturalist led hike through the property.

And, through the generous donations of 13 different Lake County wineries, a collection of 30 bottles were offered as an Instant Cellar of Lake County Stars. **Boatique Winery, Beaver Creek, Cache Creek, Chacewater, Don Angel, Langtry, Lajor, Olof Cellars, R Vineyards, Shannon Ridge, Six Sigma, Steele Winery, and Wildhurst.**

Thanks to our auctioneer for the evening, **Supervisor Jim Steele**, lively bidding ensued. When all was said and done, the auction brought in much needed funds to fuel our preservation efforts. We are grateful for our donors and those who facilitated the donations.



Former Congressman Pete McCloskey was the keynote speaker at the Lake County Land Trust annual dinner.



Leanne Harvey, Pete McCloskey, Helen McCloskey and Gillian Parrillo enjoyed the beautiful setting of Boutique Winery.



Harry Lyons introduced former Congressman Pete McCloskey, right, with an original song focusing on the congressman's many environmental accomplishments. The audience was able to read along as the words were handed out to everyone attending. The song by Dr. Lyons was called "Thanks for the Energy," sung to the tune of "Thanks for the Memories."

Former congressman hosted at Lake County Land Trust's annual dinner

A record sell-out crowd gathered on Saturday, Sept. 23 for the Lake County Land Trust's annual dinner at Boutique Winery on Red Hills Road near Kelseyville.

The evening started with delicious hors d'oeuvres served by Kelseyville High School volunteers as guests perused the silent auction and listened to the band Indie Groove.

The Land Trust was pleased to host former California Congressman Pete McCloskey as keynote speaker. The focus of the former Congressman's talk was that it is up to local people and local government to protect the environment and natural beauty of Lake County. He stressed that organizations like the Lake County Land Trust are vital for this protection and should be supported.

"It is up to the residents here to keep an eye on local government to make sure that decisions being made are not going to hurt this area," he noted. He commented that he moved from Southern California to Northern California decades ago, in part because he was struck by the beauty of this area. He said one of his goals since that move has been to protect this area and not allow the unbridled growth that occurred in Southern California to happen here. He stressed the importance of the Lake County Land Trust in protecting the natural beauty here, saying that Clear Lake was a "gem," when he first saw it, and remains a "gem," to this day.

McCloskey was introduced with an original song by former Yuba College biology professor, Dr. Harry Lyons. The song pointed out the congressman's numerous accomplishments including pushing for important environmental legislation including the Endangered Species Act, The Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, as well as his decorated service in the Marine Corps during the Korean War.

McCloskey introduced and praised his wife, Helen McCloskey, who is active in environmental concerns in the Capay Valley where they now make their home. They are especially concerned about the possible harmful effects of industrial marijuana development in Yolo County, warning about the same possibility in Lake County.

Another highlight of the evening was honoring the supporters of the year: John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon of Portland, OR. The couple have been long time supporters of the Land Trust and were honored for helping with acquisition projects from the first Land Trust acquisition, the Rodman Preserve near Upper Lake, and the most recent, the Melo property as part of the Big Valley Wetlands habitat preservation project that is an ongoing effort by the Land Trust.

Sheridan, on hand to accept the award, spoke of his long-term relationship with the Land Trust and how "giving," has helped him through many difficult peri-

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Harry Lyons, Supervisor Jim Steele, Shirl Strumpf and Sasha Reynolds enjoyed visiting at the LCLT event.



Artist Ben vanSteenburgh III volunteered to do temporary tattoos for dinner guests. Rita Abbey enjoyed the personalized artwork. vanSteenburgh also donated two original works of art for the live auction.



A sellout crowd enjoyed the evening at Boutique Winery for the Land Trust annual dinner.



Each year the Land Trust honors a supporter of the year. This year, John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon, husband and wife from Portland, OR and longtime crucial supporters of the Land Trust were given the honor. John Sheridan accepted a plaque and a special congressional certificate from Congressman Mike Thompson, that was presented by LCLT president, Val Nixon and board member, Roberta Lyons.

Longtime supporter, John Sheridan, shares his Views on the Land Trust and the meaning of giving

We were pleased to present our Supporter of the Year award this year to John Sheridan and Andrea DuFlon, a married couple who now live in Portland Oregon. John and Andrea donated the initial \$20,000 that enabled us to begin the purchase of our keystone Big Valley Wetlands property as well as having been supporters of the Lake County Land Trust for many years. The following are some

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Kelseyville High School volunteer students.

A big thank you to our Silent Auction Donors

Donor	Item name
Carol Schepper	Wine picnic set, Blues print, vintage book ends, Set of 12 Chinese porcelain expressive face vases
R Vineyards	Case of R Vineyards Viognier
Six Sigma Ranch & Vineyards	Six Sigma Special: Pinzgauer Tour for 10 and mixed case of Diamond Mine Cuvee and Asbill Valley Sauvignon Blanc
Leanne Harvey	"Looking at Konocti" & "From Land Trust to Passion Play" original lanscape paintings
Henry Borstein and Gae Henry	Spring guided pontoon boat ride with picnic brunch for up to 6
Val Nixon	Docent led hike up Mt Konocti, tour of Fire Tower & picnic lunch by Madelene Lyon for 6
Susan Ronkowski	Framed Landscape print from Coldwater Creek; Native American pot from Jemez Pueblo; 3 Ceramic pottery pieces; various decorative housewares; basket with antler handle
Pam and Gregory Hawley	Signed Canada Goose print by Sherry Russell Meline
Mary Oom	1 month yoga classes & eqpt.
Tess McGuire	Handmade felt hat with velvet flower
Anonymous	Langtry Petite Verdot & Cabernet Sauvignon in linen bag
Jim and Linda's Photography	Pelicans at Clear Lake State Park by Jim Warren
Melissa Kinsel	Morning beverages basket
Middletown Art Center	Middletown Art Center Event Series
Paul Manuel	Chacewater olive oil for LC farm bounty
Middletown Art Center	2 original art prints by local artists
Sinda and Greg Hanson	Lake County Farm Bounty
Erica Lundquist and Randy Krag	Lake County Farm Bounty
Bonnie and David Weiss	Case of Dancing Crow wine
Erica Lundquist and Randy Krag	Quilt art made by Charlotte Tefft
Jennifer Fox	Vintage: two exotic bird dishes, cloisonne bird pair, silver jewelry
Jeannie Vierra	90-minute massage
Lodge at Blue Lakes	2-hour electric pontoon rental



Guests enjoyed perusing the silent auction.

Lake County Historical Society	Private tour of Ely Stage Stop & Studebaker's lunch
Steele Wines	Three magnums of wine
Twin Pine Casino and Hotel	Overnight stay with \$50 in free gaming play
Disney Boat Rentals	2 hour patio boat rental
Sandy Leggitt	Beaded and quilted wall hanging; Two pot holders
Laujor Estate Winery	Case of Red Wines
Love Farms	2 x \$20 gift certificates for produce at Love Farms - certified organic
Donna Thompson	Painting. Acrylic on canvas with handmade frame. Title: Delightful
Fran Battendieri	Earrings
Diego Harris	Silver filled, surgical steel hook, spiral earrings
Hidden Valley Laser and Skin Care	Microdermabrasion treatment
Langtry Estate & Vineyards	Mixed Case of Langtry Wines
John Sheridan	Vintage depression-era bubble glass dish
Ruth & John Stierna	Case of Six Sigma Sauvignon Blanc
Tina Scott	Canoe rental/ tour
Philip Hartley	"A View from the Vineyards" framed multimedia art
Carmen Patterson	Paintings of local scenes
Chacewater Winery	
Thomas Scavone	Handmade decorative birdhouse
Kathleen Scavone	Handmade pottery pieces
Joyce Anderson	Books of poetry & LC diamonds
Julie Higgins	"Feasting on Figs with Raven"
Olof Cellars	
Shannon Ridge	
Pat Harmon	"Perfect for the Powder Room" basket
Val Nixon	Docent led hike up Mt Konocti, several yoga items
Madelene Lyon	Catered lunch
Gregory Graham	

We recognize and thank our Dinner Sponsors and volunteers

Every year our Lake County Land Trust Annual Dinner is made possible because of our donors, volunteers, and sponsors. So, many thanks to everyone who makes this event a success. This year's dinner was one of the best ever, bringing in almost \$14,000 to the Land Trust to help us carry on with our mission. Thank you also, to everyone who attended and those who bid on our silent and live auction items.

Many Thanks to our Dinner Sponsors:

Homestake Mining Co.,
Katzoff and Riggs LLP,
Jonas Heating and Cooling,
Brad and Kathy Barnwell,
Roberta and Harry Lyons,
Law Office of Dennis Fordham,
and John Wise and Evelyn Wachtel.

Many Thanks To our speaker, **Pete McCloskey** and **Ruth McCloskey**; Auctioneer, **Jim Steele**; our Host, **Boatique Winery**; our band for the evening, **Indie Groove**; **Bonnie Piccolo**, Supervisor **Tina Scott**, **Dr. Harry Lyons**, **Martha Mincer**, **Ben van Steenburgh III**, **Ruth Stierna**, **Collin Piccolo**, **Bailey Lamar**, **Quintin** and **Allison Scott**, all the **Kelseyville High School Volunteers** and all of our donors and special volunteers who make this event possible and support us throughout the year!

New law adds protection to Federal Lands in California

California is home to some 45 million acres of federal lands and waters, including 18 national forests covering about nine million of those acres. Thanks to California Governor Jerry Brown these areas now have an added level of protection. The Governor has signed into law a bill that directs the California State Lands Commission (which has jurisdiction over much of the federal land in the state) to exercise a *right of first refusal* with regard to any proposed federal lands conveyance or sale to other parties, some of whom potentially would not or could not manage them properly and in accordance with environmental laws.

Executive Director's Message By Tom Smythe

One thing LCLT has been working on in the last year is to improve our stewardship of properties. The Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national land trust organization, has developed Standards and Practices (S&P) it recommends all land trusts follow, including property stewardship. LCLT has adopted LTA's S&P and has been working on implementing them for the last seven years.



Tom Smythe

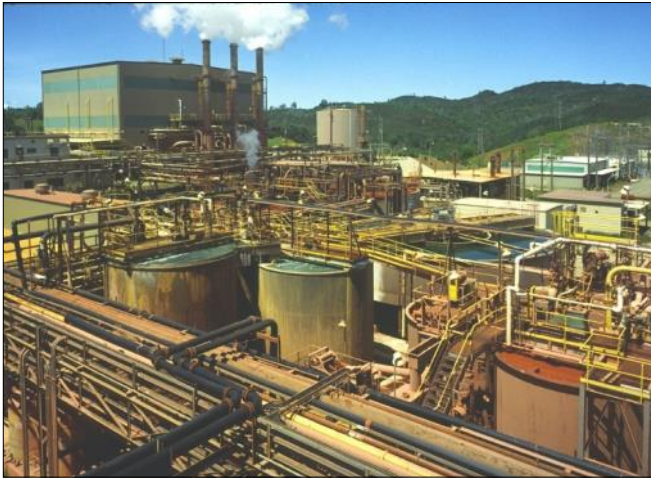
Fee owned properties are required to have management plans that address the values for which the property is being preserved and what actions the land trust will take to protect and maintain the property in perpetuity. We own three properties, the Rodman Preserve, Rabbit Hill and Big Valley Wetlands – Melo.

The Rodman Preserve has a management plan that was developed several years ago by Board Member Roberta Lyons. The Lands Committee is working on developing the Melo management plan to LTA S&P. When this is completed, the Rabbit Hill plan will be developed and the Rodman Preserve management plan will reviewed for consistency with S&P.

Conservation easements are required to have environmental baselines to which the owner, who manages the property, is required to be maintain in perpetuity. In the last 3 years, we acquired three conservation easements.

The baseline must identify the values for which the property is being protected, such as native plants, wetlands or oak woodland, and human infrastructure on the property, such as fences, roads or structures. Annual monitoring will be conducted to ensure the values of the property are protected.

We propose to have all management plans completed and adopted by the end of the year. Conservation easement baselines and a regular monitoring protocol will also be developed in the coming year. It will be a busy year, but these steps are necessary to protect the interests and desires of our members and donors.



The processing factory, which has been dismantled, was used to separate the gold ore from the mined materials.



An aerial photo of the Homestake Mine in the process of reclamation.



Educational lectures are one of the activities of the McLaughlin Reserve team that includes Catherine Koehler, Resident Director of the UC Davis-McLaughlin Reserve.

Homestake Mining Company of California has interesting past and future in Lake County

As a Gold Level Sponsor for the Land Trust’s Annual Dinner, we are pleased to feature Homestake Mining Company (HMC) in our newsletter. This Q&A with thoughtful answers from representatives of HMC and the McLaughlin Reserve, is designed to help us better understand how these entities collaborate, and a little bit more about their past, present, and future. Melissa Kinsel, our Outreach Coordinator, queries Catherine Koehler, Resident Director of the UC Davis-McLaughlin Reserve; Peggie King, Homestake Mining Company’s Closure Manager; and Dean Enderlin, a geologist with HMC from 1985-2002.

MK: How long ago, and for how long, was HMC an active mining outfit in Lake County?

DE: The discovery was in 1978. Production began in 1985, with the first gold bar poured March 4, 1985 and concluded in 2002, when the last bar of gold was produced.

MK: What was the size of the mine, acreage-wise?

DE: The total land holding was around 16,000 acres in three counties, with something less than 1,000 acres disturbed.

MK: Were any other minerals besides gold mined by HMC in Lake County?

DE: About 2/3 as much silver as gold was produced. Mercury was recovered as a byproduct for environmental reasons.

MK: How many people were employed by the Homestake Gold Mine at its peak? How about now?

DE: At its peak, the payroll was about 350 regular employees. I asked Judy Kauffman one time how many people she thought had been hired over the life of the mine, and she thought it was around 1,000 (just a guess, though). This doesn't include contractors.

PK: We currently have five employees here, plus many local contractors.

MK: What type of mining was done (surface or underground), and what method for extraction? Is there any way to know how much land was moved/relocated in order to extract the gold?

DE: Mining was surface (open pit). Method of extraction was pressure oxidation (a pioneer method used here for gold extraction for the first time) followed by carbon-in-pulp cyanidation. Total rock tons

mined (ore and waste rock) was about 153 million tons.

MK: How did the gold mine affect the land, and are there lingering effects that are still measurable?

CK: Lands that were impacted by the gold mining operations included the pit and the tailings pond, and adjacent lands where grinding and processing factories were built, and the areas where waste rock is stored. Homestake also acquired two historical mercury mining sites which it remediated.

Those mine-impacted areas which could impact the natural lands continue to be managed by HMC to ensure that there is no impact to surrounding areas or the watershed. The remainder of the land owned by HMC, totaling over 7,000 acres and surrounding the mine impacted sites, remains unimpacted by the mining and comprises wildlands.

MK: Was the area that we're discussing ever ecologically, geologically, or socially significant to native peoples?

CK: They did not live there year-round, but they seasonally came into the area for gathering of plants and for hunting. It was an area shared by a couple of tribes, as far as I have learned. See:

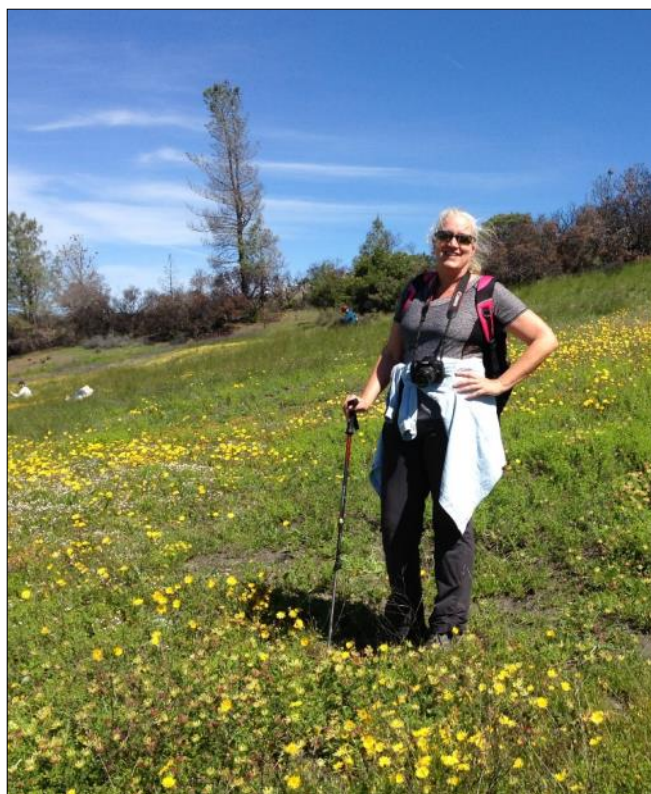
<http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/mcl/natural/land/native.html>

MK: Who were the McLaughlins, and what is the story of the Homestake Mine site becoming the McLaughlin Reserve?

CK: The Homestake mining operation was named the McLaughlin Mine... and the UC operation was separately named the Donald and Sylvia McLaughlin Natural Reserve. The McLaughlins were a married couple living in Berkeley. Donald was very important to Homestake, and was the initial reason for the name of the mining operation being called the McLaughlin Mine. Read about this at <http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/mcl/natural/land/mine.html>

From the Reserve's perspective, the McLaughlins both were important. Donald was associated with UC as an adjunct at UC Berkeley and as a UC Regent. Sylvia, on the other hand, was an ardent environmentalist in the Bay Area, and was passionate about the environmentally stellar reputation of the McLaughlin Mine and it's honoring of her husband.

She was honored at the initial dedication of the incipient Reserve in 1993 (at 800 acres, it allowed researchers to use parts of the property while the mine was still active; the full reserve was established through a legal use agreement in 2002 to its approx. 7000 acre current state). Sylvia was environmentally very active: <http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2016/01/20/save-the-bay-founder-sylvia-mclaughlin-dies/>



Homestake Mining Company's Closure Manager, Peggie King, also enjoys walks on wildflower studded hills of the Reserve.

MK: What is the relationship between HMC, the McLaughlin Reserve, and UC Davis?

CK: The McLaughlin Reserve is a UC research station. It is one of 39 research sites across the state comprising the UC-WIDE Natural Reserve System.

During its permitting process pre-mining, HMC determined that the post-mining use of the land would be as an environmental research station. HMC and UC started talking about officially designating the post-mining lands as a research station in the 1980s. See <http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/mcl/natural/land/reserve.html>

The Use Agreement established the McLaughlin Reserve as the primary party managing the property as a research station, while Homestake Mining Company remains involved with their reclamation and maintenance of zero - discharge systems in mining - impacted areas.

The UC operation does NOT play a role in HMC's reclamation ... they have always and continue to work with regulatory agencies to make sure there are no impacts of the operation on the environment. UC manages the landscape to maintain and improve sensitive wildland ecosystems, and coordinates research and teaching across the property.

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Homestake Mining Company

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MK: What are some of the duties of the closure team at Homestake, and how does the HMC staff interact with McLaughlin staff?

PK: The closure team at HMC is tasked with maintaining facilities such as the pump-back system, roads, fencing, containment ponds, substation, and the power supply. We do erosion control, too. Then there are the regulatory compliance tasks which require nearly constant monitoring and reporting.

CK: HMC and Reserve staff interact on a daily basis. We share the HQ area at the site, and we regularly discuss our respective activities with each other both for awareness and to make sure that we're not interfering with each other. We also help each other out if we can with shared information and expertise.

MK: What are some of the kinds of things being studied at the McLaughlin Reserve now?

CK: A lot of the research deals in some way with plant adaptation to soil conditions, since the sharp mosaic structure of the soils/geology of the area lends itself very well to experimental investigations regarding plant evolutionary biology.

Other projects include a number of studies focusing on plant-animal's interactions, especially plant-pollinator interactions, since the Reserve supports ecosystems dominated by native wildflowers (historically the norm in California, but now relatively rare statewide).

There are also a smattering of other projects, pertaining to topics such as frog, dragonfly, zooplankton, soil, oak-woodland, etc. ecology, some post-fire ecology, and several climate change studies.

The most unusual project is a collaborative project between scientists from research institutions across the nation, including NASA, studying microbial life in high-pH water within the ultramafic formations (primarily the serpentinites) to inform research and exploration in exobiology (the search for life beyond planet Earth).

MK: What is the difference between a Reserve and a Preserve?

CK: Ha. I asked the same question when I first started working at McLaughlin. The best distinction I can suggest is that a Preserve (much like the jar of preserves on your pantry shelf) intends to set aside an area to keep it in a preserved state, whereas a Reserve sets aside an area to protect it and be used for a specific purpose. In McLaughlin's case, for research and teaching. This is not a written or commonly argued distinction, it's mainly my own presentation I developed to better understand and present the distinction.

MK: What is important to Homestake Mining Company about the Lake County Land Trust?

CK: Homestake was very community-minded right from the start. People who have been in the county for several decades probably recall that Homestake hired local residents as much as possible, and invested in training infrastructure and programs at the local community college to allow people to become qualified for jobs. They were also very environmentally minded, incorporated community concerns into their environmental monitoring and protections, and received accolades from the Sierra Club for their community-mindedness and stringent environmental-protection protocols. And they donated a conservation easement to the Land Trust of Napa County for the lands that became the McLaughlin Reserve, in order to ensure that the lands are forever protected from development. Since the establishment of the Reserve, there have been additional opportunities to protect sensitive lands nearby. Recently, a parcel with high ecological value located adjacent to the Reserve was purchased by Tuleyome, a conservation organization, and donated to the Reserve, along with a conservation easement that was donated to the Lake County Land Trust. Homestake provided some funds to assist Tuleyome in its purchase of the property. It is great that this property could be protected as a result of a successful partnership among 4 different partners! Homestake continues to be committed to its legacy of supporting the community and environmental integrity, and supporting LCLT is part of this.

MK: In what condition do you see the land that was once the McLaughlin Mine in 10 years? 20? 50? What would you like to see it being used for?

CK: The Reserve is perpetual. The intention, and thus hopefully the reality, is that the wildlands will forever continue to be a research station, used for studies that continue to inform society about ecology and the workings of the natural land.

Current management is improving health of sensitive ecosystems, and future management will hopefully continue with this.

PK: My hope is that the land will be used for activities that support conservation, such as solar energy or other alternative, natural energy sources. Care and maintenance of the site of the mine will always be something that HMC is involved in.

And should HMC ever, for any reason, not be able to do so, there is a bond that exists so that the taxpayers will never be required to foot the bill for the outstanding reclamation. The goal is to have reclamation com-

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Spring wildflowers cover the hillside of the Reserve and easement portion of the property. The Lake County Land Trust now holds a 23 acre Conservation Easement on a parcel newly added to the McLaughlin Reserve.

Homestake Mining Company

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plete by 2021.

MK: Will there be another wildflower hike at the McLaughlin Reserve this spring?

CK: If it's a decent wildflower year, yes. And I wager it will be a goodish year!

MK: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the HMC or the McLaughlin Reserve?

CK: It's a good partnership that is an innovative use of property associated with a mine-closure operation. Use as an environmental research station provides a societal benefit that is much more broadly reaching than the commodity-based economics of a mining operation or other kinds of post-mining use like grazing, landfill, green-space, etc.

Former congressman hosted LCLT dinner

(Continued from page 4)

ods of loss. He read a beautiful poem about the benefits of giving. He and his wife, Andrea, donated \$20,000 to help purchase the Melo property which was crucial in the effort to raise the \$100,000 local matching grant required to purchase the property.

Those attending enjoyed a great silent auction featuring local artwork and many other items and services. A delicious meal, served with donated Lake County wines, was prepared by Rosey Cooks. Land Trust president, Val Nixon spoke about the recent accomplishments of the Lake County Land Trust and thanked donors and sponsors of the dinner: Homestake Mining Co., Brad and Kathy Barnwell, Roberta and Harry Lyons, Law Office of Dennis Fordham, Katzoff and Riggs LLP, and Jonas Heating and Cooling. Winery support came from Chacewater, Steele Wines, Langtry, Laujor, Olof Cellars, R Vineyards, Six Sigma Ranch and vineyards and Shannon Ridge.

A new event added to the dinner was an exciting live auction. Four items were auctioned: an "Instant Celar," of wines, a collection of 30 bottles of Lake County wines representing over 17 varietals; two beautiful mixed-media works of art by Ben vanSteenburgh III; a two night stay at the fabulous McCallum House in Mendocino and an overnight stay at the Bechtel House on the Pepperwood Reserve in Sonoma County.

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)

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Land Trust updates Land Conservation Priority Plan

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Wildlife that has made several hundred acres of property on the Clear Lake shoreline in Big Valley eligible for grant funding for either purchase or conservation easements, from the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). The Natural Resources Conservation Service has also purchased numerous conservation easements in the area, thereby protecting even more wetland and Clear Lake frontage.

The County of Lake was able to purchase a large portion of Mt. Konocti, creating a popular regional park. The Mount Konocti County Park, acquired in 2009, is the county's largest park and covers 1,520 acres at the top of Mount Konocti. Bathrooms have been installed on the mountain, the trail to the top of the mountain further developed, and picnic areas have been created.

The third priority identified was restoring the Middle Creek wetlands that were reclaimed for farming at the beginning of the last century. Over 1,600 acres of land was cordoned off by levees that are now sinking and are likely to fail at some point. Failure of the levees without a proper flow of water through restored wetlands will lead to stagnant water that will be breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which are vectors for serious illnesses such as West Nile Virus.

Wetlands restoration will create important wildlife habitats including spawning grounds for the Clear Lake Hitch. Concern has arisen in the last few years because the Hitch was designated as a threatened species in 2014 under California's state Endangered Species Act. Estimates are that about 57% of the water and about 71% of the phosphorous that enter Clear Lake are delivered by Middle Creek. High phosphorous levels favor the cyanobacteria blooms that have created problems throughout the lake. Restoration of suitably designed wetlands will reduce phosphorous entry into the lake through slowing the water flow to allow for sedimentation and phosphorous uptake by native wetlands vegetation.

A group of local organizations, including the Land Trust, and concerned citizens have formed the Middle Creek Restoration Coalition. The coalition is Chaired by Val Nixon, current President of the Land Trust. The lead agency for planning this restoration is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has determined that a full restoration is the appropriate approach. The first step in this process is to acquire the land. Using state funding for flood mitigation, Lake County has purchased about half of the land and the coalition is helping lobby for further state funding for the county to acquire the remaining parcels. The coalition has



Part of the process was identifying areas of concern on a large map. Those attending the meeting in Clearlake are viewing it at the city council chamber where the gathering was held.

hosted a representative from State Senator Mike McGuire and, more recently, met with State Representative Cecilia Aguiar-Curry for assistance in acquiring the needed state funds.

Now, 10 years after development of these priorities, the Land Trust Lands Committee has been tasked with updating the Land Trust Priority Plan. Are the priorities from 10 years ago still threatened? Have new areas of concern/threats developed since the last workshops? A new cohort of Federal, State, and local experts has met to determine what should be the Land Trust priorities in the coming 10 years. Once again, two meetings were held, discussions with important insights were shared, and voting has taken place. In the days prior to the second meeting in Clearlake, multiple fires broke out in Lake, Napa, and Sonoma counties. Because of this, several experts with valuable insights into these questions were unable to attend the workshop. They have been asked to submit their list of priorities before the final numbers are tallied. So it is too soon to provide a final ranked list of the opinions of the experts, but the Big Valley Wetlands remains a clear priority as does the Rodman Slough and the Middle Creek Restoration area. Mt. Konocti concerns have been lessened thanks to the foresight of the County of Lake in purchasing 1500 acres as a county park, which is intertwined with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to create 2,341 acres of public open space.

Emerging concerns are the watershed above the Middle Creek Restoration zone, with the goal of reducing sediment load into the planned wetlands, property near the planned Guenoc development in eastern Lake County, Molesworth Creek in the Clearlake area, ripar-

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ian habitats, and protecting farmlands from housing development to preserve open spaces. Several of these and other areas discussed were attractive for preservation due to their being Clear Lake Hitch habitats.

The Lands Committee of the Land Trust is busy working on creating a new Lake County Land Trust Priority Planning document, which will be available on our web site as soon as it is finalized. In it, there will be a detailed description of exactly how the selection process was developed, the experts will be identified, and there will be discussions of why each of the habitats was prioritized. It will make for fascinating reading and may provide Land Trust members with new insights into the diversity of habitats that are within this beautiful county.

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Merry Jo (Oursler) Velasquez

Merry Jo (Oursler) Velasquez is a recent addition to the LCLT Lands Committee. Merry Jo originally hails from upstate New York. She holds a BS degree from Skidmore College and obtained a Master of Science degree from the University of Rochester in Environmental Studies. And a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from Washington University. Merry Jo continued her training at the Mayo Clinic as postdoctoral fellow. Upon completion of her training, she became an Assistant, and later an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Minnesota. Seven years later she relocated to the Mayo Clinic College of



Assembly aide Jonathan Howard, left; MCRC member Erica Lundquist, in back, left; Assemblyperson Cecelia Aguiar-Curry and Will Evans from Lake County's special districts department review details of the Middle Creek Marsh Restoration project at a recent visit to the project area. The Lake County Land Trust is once again considering this project to include it its updated Priority Conservation Plan.

Medicine as a Professor of Medicine. Since 2003, she has been the Director of the Bone Cell Biology Laboratory at the Mayo Clinic. In 2012, Merry Jo and her husband of forty years David Velasquez purchased a retirement home in Lake County. Merry Jo continued to commute and then telecommute for the next 5 years working on her research program at the Mayo Clinic on the cells that cause osteoporosis. Merry Jo also maintains a full volunteer schedule. She is the District 4 Director for the Resource Conservation District and involved in the Middle Creek Restoration project. She is a Lake County Master Gardener and active in the Lake County Symphony Association involved in the Home Wine and Beer Makers Festival, which is a major fundraiser for the Youth Symphony and full Symphony.



The 32 acre Big Valley Wetlands purchase of the Melo property, consisting of Clear Lake shoreline, inland wetland, meadows and oaks was the first accomplishment in the land trust's Big Valley Wetland Project, the No. 1 priority in the original Land Conservation Priority Plan.



The shoreline between the Clear Lake State Park and south Lakeport is a vital habitat area.

Rodman Preserve is always worth a visit to tour and enjoy wildlife and scenery

By Erica Lundquist

The Rodman Preserve is always worth a visit. This remarkable site is topped by oak woodlands that roll down to willows, cottonwoods and tules growing in the slough. Perhaps it is the diverse habitat, or perhaps it is the protection offered by the preserve, but nature walks inevitably lead to plentiful wildlife viewing and surprises. Take for example this July 8th journal entry by walk leaders Brad and Kathy Barnwell:

Good hike with four people. Saw 28 species including bald eagle, red tailed and red shouldered hawks. Still 100s of nesting western and Clark's grebes in the slough, great blue herons, great egrets, osprey.

My own experience with a group of five walkers on Sept. 9 included surprises for us and the wildlife. As we rounded the hill we were delighted to come across two bucks, and later a coyote, all of which seem to have been enjoying the quiet side of the hill until we came long.

Walks at the preserve continue to be a great opportunity for the public to connect with nature and learn about the Land Trust. This summer walks were held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, and they will continue on this schedule until significant rains occur, then walks will resume again in the spring next year, when weather permits.



Beautiful views await at Rodman Preserve.



Another summer walk at Rodman Preserve.



Among the interesting birds seen at Rodman Preserve is the pileated Woodpecker.

Photo by
Brad Barnwell

Land Trust greets old and new friends at this year's Pear Festival in Kelseyville

The Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) joined with numerous other non-profits and environmental groups at the 2017 annual Kelseyville Pear Festival. The land trust was happy to show off new informational displays and meet individuals who came by to learn about our mission and our progress.

A wonderful reunion took place between Caitlyn Thomasson, who is attending Santa Rosa Junior College, and Val Nixon, the LCLT President. Caitlyn, who has started a club called Eco Leaders at SRJC was excited to stop in at the land trust booth to find Nixon who inspired her to be the environmentalist that she is today. It turns out that Caitlyn was part of a Junior Rangers group at Clear Lake State Park that was instructed by then Park Ranger Val Nixon. It is never too early to get your child introduced to the wonderful earth that they have inherited. Nixon, who is now retired from the State Parks department, enjoys leading groups of youngster at various Land Trust properties including the Rodman Preserve and Rabbit Hill in Middletown and the Nature Conservancy's Boggs Lake Preserve on Mt. Hannah.



Land Trust President Val Nixon was pleased to see former State Park Junior Ranger participant, Caitlyn Thomasson at the annual Pear Festival.



Land Trust president Val Nixon and former Lake County Supervisor Voris Brumfield, look over the Land Trust's Pear Festival display.



Darin and Mercy Martineau stopped by the Land Trust booth during the annual Kelseyville Pear Festival.

Longtime supporter, John Sheridan, shares his Views on the Land Trust and the meaning of giving

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thoughts that John wanted to share with our supporters as to why he supports the Lake County Land Trust and why he, and now Andrea, do so with such open hearts.

...

Thank you for the award and recognition. And to Roberta Lyons for introducing me to the goals and possibilities for the preservation of the environment that the Land Trust could achieve. To learn of this amidst my losses of the late 1990's was a special coincidence.

For over two decades I have been privileged to have a small part in the sustaining of the Lake County Land Trust. I do not live here now. But I and my family and friends have for a long time, and a big piece of my heart will always be in this place. I am blessed with wonderful friends in Lake County.

What deeply connects me here to this place and the environmental mission of the Land Trust is the opportunity to open my heart and my wallet.

Winston Churchill said: *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"*.

Jenny Santi in her book *The Giving Way to Happiness* writes:

- Giving is the most satisfying thing you will ever do.
- Giving is the source of true happiness and is the meaning of life. It is the source of the greatest emotional and psychological returns.
- It is the best way to recover from the worst tragedies, even from the grief of losing a loved one.
- Giving is a greater pleasure than the creating of wealth, the most direct route to happiness, which neither money nor career success can provide.
- Giving is what liberates the spirit, what brings families closer together, what combats depression and provides connection and security.
- Giving provides a sense of empowerment and accomplishment that can heal a heavy heart.
- Giving allows us to express a deep connection with others and offers inner peace.
- Giving brings great meaning, fulfillment, and happiness.
- Saint Francis said: For it is in giving that we receive.
- The science is that altruism will help you live longer and happier because we are hard-wired in the brain to help people and heal the earth and we know how critical that is now with climate change upon us and denial in Washington.

Perhaps the sole meaning of life is to serve, to reach out from oneself. This is especially important when coping with grief from the loss of a loved one. It is so important at that moment to find something good to do. We hope through tragedy we will find inspiration. Helping the Lake County Land Trust preserve and protect the natural environment has been a gift to Andrea and I as so many people that we loved and who respected the natural world died these last decades.

The memories of all of them are kept alive in the woods and wetlands that we protect here for generations and forever. The conservation work of the Lake County Land Trust has been my road for my heart. Thank you.

John Sheridan, Sept. 23, 2017



Lake County Land Trust

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2017-2018 Calendar of Events

The Lake County Land Trust shares a common goal with many organizations in the County, the State and the Country, that of preserving and enhancing our environment and educating the public about the wonders of nature. Through our newsletter we are able to publicize other events, both locally and some out-of-county that we believe will interest our members. The public is cordially invited to all of the events listed here.

Second and Fourth Saturdays of the Month – Walks at the Rodman Preserve, flagship property of the Lake County Land Trust, will be held second and fourth Saturdays of the month, weather permitting. Continuous heavy rains cancel walks for the season as trails get too soggy. Walks begin 9 a.m. Participants meet at Rodman Preserve Nature Education Center, 6350 Westlake Road (corner of Westlake and Nice-Lucerne Cutoff). No dogs please and moderate to heavy rains cancel. Please do not mistake County Rodman Slough Park for Land Trust's Rodman Preserve. To get to the Preserve turn left on Westlake Road after exiting highway onto Nice-Lucerne Cut-off. If you reach the bridge going over the slough, you've gone too far and missed the preserve entrance. Call Erica Lundquist at (707) 245-8384 for info.

Dec. 8 – Friday – The Sierra Club's Lake Group annual holiday party at Lower Lake Methodist Church Community Room, 16255 Second St. in Lower Lake. Free to Sierra Club members and their guests. Semi-potluck, with Club providing main dish. Guests bring beverages and a side dish, salad or dessert to share as well as own re-useable plates, glasses, and utensils. RSVPs, (please) by calling Ed at 994-8304 or by email to edrobey@wildblue.net.

Dec. 9 – Saturday - Christmas at the Ranch – Anderson Marsh Interpretive Assoc. (AMIA) popular Christmas at the Ranch. Fun Christmas celebration begins 10 a.m. at Ranch House at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park between Lower Lake and Clearlake off Hwy 53. Live local musicians David Neft, Don Coffin, Harry Lyons, Joan Moss. Santa to greet kids and refreshments, including hot apple cider, served.

Dec. 16 – Saturday – Audubon Christmas Bird Count – Redbud Audubon Society annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). CBC is a traditional project of Audubon societies around the country held Dec. 14-Jan. 5. Want to participate? Call (707) 263-8030, leave your phone number, and someone will return your call. Prior to count, annual Bird Identification program will be held at regular Redbud Audubon Society meeting, held early this year, Dec. 14, second Thursday of the month, instead of the third, at Presbyterian Church social hall in Kelseyville.

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 Wise
Secretary Erica Lundquist
Compliance Officer Gillian Parrillo

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Melissa Kinsel-Outreach Coordinator
Anne Martin-Operations Coordinator

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Executive Director: Tom Smythe

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