

Lake County Land Trust

PO Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453 • (707)262-0707 • Spring/Summer 2022

Wetland restoration progresses at Wright Wetlands Preserve

By Merry Jo Velasquez
LCLT board member

There is some exciting news related to restoration of habitats on the Lake County Land Trust's (LCLT) 200 acre Wright Wetlands Preserve near Lakeport. The California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) has asked the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to obtain proposals from RCDs throughout the state for habitat restoration, pollinator habitat improvement, and carbon sequestration.

Each RCD was asked to submit one project for the Climate Resilience Through Habitat Restoration on California Lands Proposal. Randy Krag, a Director of the Lake County RCD and a strong supporter of the LCLT, worked with Bill Lincoln and Merry Jo Velasquez from LCLT's Stewardship Committee and Land Trust staff on a proposal for the Wright Preserve.

The Wright Wetland Preserve contains approximately 120 acres of functional wetland and 32 acres of hydraulically isolated historical wetland. The proposed project will reconnect isolated wetlands back to Clear Lake and restore some of the natural overland flow from the south to restore some of the natural hydrology to the property.

There are many benefits to this project. Wetlands provide shelter, spawning and rearing habitat for nearly all the fish in Clear Lake. The Clear Lake Hitch, whose sole habitat is Clear Lake, is listed as a threatened species by the California Endangered Species Act. Clear Lake hitch young use shoreline wetlands for initial feeding and growth after leaving the spawning stream and before moving to the pelagic areas of Clear Lake.

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The channel on the Wright Wetland Preserve that was dug in the 1970s. The levee along the channel will be breached in three places to allow more water into the natural wetland area of the preserve.



A sea of tules on the Preserve that will be replenished by a natural flow of lake water.

President's Message

By
Val
Nixon

“Nature’s best hope” —Douglas Tallamy



Val Meyer Nixon

There is something infinitely healing to live in an area where every season has a unique color pallet. On any Land Trust property, you can enjoy a spectrum of wildflowers and vibrant greens in the spring. Summer brings the yellows and browns against which the massive oak trees stand out like giant umbrellas that shade the parched earth. In the fall the amazing hues of harvest and changing leaves are a spectacle for all to enjoy. And then winter comes with its gray skies and hopes of rain. The refrain of birds singing as they seasonally

return or migrate through is the reassurance that spring comes after winter and that dawn comes after the darkness of night. These sounds and colors of nature make us realize that we live in a beautiful spot on this earth; it is a treasure to protect as we grow in both population and economically.

The vision of the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) is one of a small yet inspiring community that is setting the example that our ability to thrive depends on the health of the natural world. LCLT’s goal is an approach to conservation that starts in your own backyard and sets the stage for global solutions. We are not separate from the natural world but an integral part of it.

Large land purchases that involve partnerships with public agencies and the private sector tend to have glitches and complications. We are grateful for the patience of local land-owning families that we work with when acquiring important lands in the Big Valley area and elsewhere. We could not move forward without the hard work of volunteers, like Peter Windrem, who has guided us through the land purchasing process in acquiring property on the shoreline of Clear Lake and in our watershed. We are dependent on the knowledge and skills of dedicated staff and specialists. We could not accomplish all that we do without a myriad of amazing volunteers and a deeply committed Board of Directors,

The Lake County Land Trust cannot move forward without you, our supporters, and volunteers, because by contributing to the Lake County Land Trust, you have become a fundamental part of **“Nature’s Best Hope,”** as the author Douglas Tallamy refers to the efforts of everyday citizens to create a sustainable and economically viable future. People like you have the collective wisdom to know that the natural world, that brings us solace and renews our physical and mental health, needs our help. Our ancient lake needs wetland restoration to become healthy again and our amazing variety of wildlife needs land and habitat to survive. We are its best hope for survival, and it is ours.

With much appreciation,
Val Meyer Nixon

Wright Wetlands Preserve restoration

(Continued from page 1)

Both migratory and resident birds use wetland areas for foraging and nesting purposes. Islands will be created by the levee breaches which provide nesting birds shelter from some terrestrial predators.

Wetlands are known to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen in water bodies. Restoring hydraulic connectivity between the wetlands and Clear Lake will reduce the nutrients available to cyanobacteria.

Excess soil from levee breaches will be used to elevate sections of the access road for improved year-round use. In addition, a section of road near the current parking location will be improved to reduce on-going erosion and sediment delivery into the adjacent drainage channel.

Executive Director's Message

By
**Amanda
Martin**



Amanda Martin

Greetings Land Trust supporters and friends. First off, a heartfelt thanks from me to you for the generous support which sustains the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT). I started with LCLT in mid-February of this year and it has been a wonderfully rich experience, of many learnings and inspirations. Thanks to your financial

support and volunteer time, and our active working Board of Directors, this tiny non-profit organization is able to realize extraordinary results.

One area of LCLT's work that is especially important, is the protection and restoration of one of the last undeveloped areas on Clear Lake. With a 100 miles of shoreline, up to 79% of Clear Lake's original wetland shoreline has been lost, making the preservation of these remaining areas even more urgent and important. As an example of how effective ecosystem restoration or "rewilding" can be, simply leaving the Wright Wetland Preserve ungrazed for just over two years, has led to a thousand baby oak trees sprouting on the 200 acres.

Your foresight in financially supporting the acquisition of the Wright property in 2020, enabled not just

preservation of the property, but is helping restore a key part of Clear Lake's shoreline to its native state. With a focus on ecosystem restoration, LCLT in partnership with the Resource Conservation District, plans to remove levees that have for decades been diverting the natural flow between creeks and the Lake.

Clear Lake is at the heart of our County's ecosystem, and a difficult truth to swallow (or smell!) is that the Lake is out of balance, and needs our attention now more than ever.

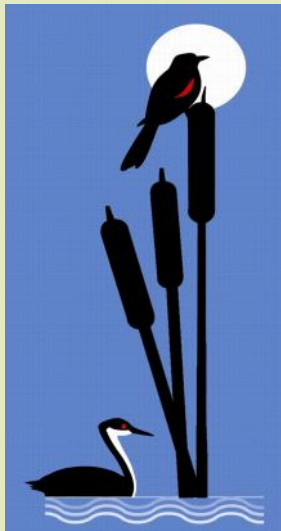
Last year the United Nations declared 2021 - 2030 the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Global Charter for Rewilding the Earth was signed by over 30 major environmental NGOs across the globe.

By supporting grassroots organizations like LCLT we have the opportunity to make a cascading positive impact on the place that we, and future generations, all call home.

I would like to extend a personal invitation to all of you to have tea or coffee together at the Rodman Nature Center, the headquarters of LCLT in Upper Lake. We have office hours every Tuesday, and (with a little notice) it would be a pleasure to get to know you, and any suggestions you may have. Please email me if you'd like to schedule a time, or set up a phone conversation.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Amanda E. Martin



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Contact us at LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org

if you would like anything changed in the way you receive your newsletter. Thank You!



Willow seedlings are sprouting along what used to be the beach at the Wright Wetland Preserve. The drought is changing the shoreline habitats of Clear Lake.



Grebes are building their nests using water weeds on the lake. Once the babies hatch, they will ride on their mother's backs. Photo by Karen Magnusen.

Birds at Wright Wetland Preserve continue to amaze

Local biologist and dedicated birder, Dave Woodward, continues to keep track of the bird life at the Lake County Land Trust's Wright Wetlands Preserve near Lakeport. In late Spring Woodward logged two new species to his list, bringing the total to 148 species seen at Wright of which 142 are native.

The new birds were White-faced ibis and Black-crowned Night Heron. The White-faced ibis is a rarity in Lake County, the eighth county-wide rarity seen at the preserve over the past 10 months. "That is an amazing total for any single location," Woodward noted.

In May, Woodward photographed 17 ibises as they flew along the shoreline of Clear Lake. "They appeared to be gliding in for a landing near the outlet of Manning Creek as they went out of sight," he explained. He also said there have been night herons landing at the edge of the thicket of willow and cottonwood saplings growing along the shoreline of Clear Lake. "With Clear Lake already below zero Rumsey in depth, the willow and cottonwood thicket will have at least one more year of growth unimpeded by flooding, thereby altering shoreline habitats at the preserve and other locations around the lake for years to come," Woodward noted.

Because of the receding lake, open mudflats are now available to migrating shorebirds and roosting gulls, pelicans and wading birds in late summer and early fall.

"The most numerous birds on the lake offshore from the preserve are Mallards, pelicans and Aechmophorus grebes," Woodward reports. As of this writing, the grebes were nesting from south Lakeport down to the Wright Preserve shoreline.

The Marsh Wrens were back in the tules and willow thickets, along with Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats and a few Yellow-headed Blackbirds. *(See more photos on next page)*



Osprey are often seen hunting along the Wright Preserve shoreline. Photo by Dave Woodward.

More birds of Wright Wetland Preserve



Yellow-headed Blackbirds flock to the tules and willows along the shoreline. Photo by Dave Woodward.



White-faced Ibis were a rare sighting in the Spring. Photo by Dave Woodward.



Western and Clarks Grebes are nesting in large numbers offshore of the Wright Wetland Preserve, all the way over to Library Park in Lakeport. Nesting grebes have also been reported off of Robin Hill. Photo by Karen Magnusen.



Ash-throated Flycatcher at the Wright Wetland Preserve. Photo by Dave Woodward.

LCLT's Rodman Preserve is open Saturdays 9 am-1 pm

The Lake County Land Trust's Rodman Preserve at 6350 Westlake Dr. near Upper Lake is continuing to welcome visitors on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The preserve offers a moderate one and a half mile walk where visitors will see birdlife and even some mammals like foxes and coyotes.

A volunteer will open the gate at 9 a.m. and visitors are asked to sign in before embarking on a pleasant morning walk. The nature center remains closed due to Covid-19 concerns but visitors are welcome to enjoy the walk and the open air back porch.

Go to the Lake County Land Trust website at www.lakecountylantrust.org for more information and don't mistake the Rodman Preserve for the Rodman Slough County Park which is down the road from the Preserve on the Nice/Lucerne cutoff.

The 9 a.m. gate opening will continue until October or November, or until the weather becomes cooler.



The dry channel at Melo where the rare Bur reed was found.

Persistent investigation reveals a rare plant at the Melo Wetlands Preserve in Big Valley

By Jack Alderson

During plant surveys in 2021 at the Melo Wetlands Preserve, part of the Lake County Land Trust's Big Valley Wetlands project, a common sounding plant, Bur reed, was found. Bur reed is somewhat rare and strangely beautiful. The plant was first seen in February as bands of dead foliage of the previous year's growth. The linear leaves are exceptionally large, some nearly a meter in length. They had the appearance of an overgrown sedge. It took until June, when flowers were present, to learn the plant's identity, *Sparganium eurycarpum* var. *greenei*.

Sparganium eurycarpum is in the cattail, *Typhaceae*, family. Plants in this family include cattails and bur reeds, and all are colonial plants that grow in wetlands. These plants all have separate male and female flowers, which is part of what makes them so unusual in appearance.

Of the four species of Bur reed in California, only *Sparganium eurycarpum* has a branched inflorescence with 10 or more male flower head, which makes it the most striking of the four California *Sparganium* species. Typically there are one to four branches, each

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What does it take to make a plant list of 112 species for the Melo property? It takes monthly visits to find the plants that are blooming, little concern for heat, mud and ticks, and it helps to have a lifetime of interest and experience identifying plants.

During the summer of 2021, Jack Alderson of Chico, California made six trips to the Melo Wetland Preserve on Clipper Lane at Lands End near Kelseyville to collect plant specimens. He then returned home to a dissecting microscope and Jepson manual to carefully determine exactly which species were present, sometimes based on tiny parts with names such as bracts and perianth, and descriptors such as sessile and glabrous. I had the privilege of accompanying him and exploring nature at Melo, an experience which I really enjoyed. This month he provides an interesting note on an unusual plant at Melo Wetland Preserve.

**Erica Lundquist,
Lake County Land Trust Board Member**

Rare plant discovered

(Continued from page 6)

branch with two female flower heads below multiple male flower heads.

Sparganium eurycarpum is widely distributed in California, but it is not common. Calflora (<https://www.calflora.org/>) is a searchable database of plant records and observations, each with a geographic location. These include herbarium specimen records contributed by the Consortium of California Herbaria and a variety of observations contributed by government agencies, organizations, and knowledgeable individuals.

The two Lake County observations for *Sparganium eurycarpum* are both represented by specimens in the Jepson Herbarium at the University of California, Berkeley. They were collected in 1946 and 1949. The later collection was made near the intersection of Hill Road and Crystal Lake Way, now an unlikely looking area for such a plant. The 1946 collection was made on what was described as the margin of Clear Lake in what is now the highly developed Lakeport Lagoons. The collector of this specimen was Herbert L. Mason, a botany professor at the University of California, Berkeley, director of the Jepson Herbarium, and the author of *A Flora of the Marshes* (University of California Press, 1957).

Sparganium eurycarpum was found at the Melo Wetland Preserve, about two miles southeast of Mason's collection site. A larger property protected by the Lake County Land Trust, the Wright Wetlands Preserve, lies between these two sites, and *Sparganium eurycarpum* was not found in a botanical survey of that property in 2021. So this is a small example of the value of protecting more land.



Jack Alderson viewing a plant at the Melo Wetland Preserve.



(Right) Beautiful flower head of the Bur reed. Inflorescence of *Sparganium eurycarpum*. Green pistils with white tips project from the female flower heads below. The stamens of the male flower heads have white filaments and yellow anthers at flowering. The anthers fade to brown after pollen dispersal.



Middletown High School students Alyson Pina, Camilo Aguirre, Cade Dubose, and volunteer and LCLT committee member, Jean Goulart.



Cade Dubose, Bob Schoenherr, LCLT volunteer, Camilo Aguirre, and Alyson Pina; volunteers putting the final touches on the Rabbit Hill directional sign display.

Directional signs installed at Lake County Land Trust’s Rabbit Hill Park

In May, a group of volunteers for the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) worked at the top of the land trust’s Rabbit Hill Park in Middletown to install a sturdy pole where directional signs, pointing to the surrounding peaks and mountains, would be attached.

The signs have now been installed with the help of Hidden Valley Lake resident and LCLT volunteer, Jean Goulart, plus students from Middletown High School: Cade Dubose, Jose Montanez, Evan Johnson, Allyson Pina and Camilo Aguirre. Goulart is a member of the LCLT Stewardship Committee and is also the monthly steward for Rabbit Hill Park.

In late June, the group, which also includes LCLT volunteer and committee member, Bob Schoenherr, placed the signs on the pole. The project is almost completed with the next assignment to place a small sign mentioning the partnership with the Middletown High School Community Service group students who volunteered. Volunteers for the first phase of the project also included Middletown resident Gail Wright and LCLT president, Val Nixon.

The Lake County Land Trust thanks Hardester’s Market in Middletown for donating the use of an auger to dig the hole for the post and for donating spray paint to refurbish the concrete picnic table at the top of the hill.

The Lake County Land Trust, founded in 1994, is a charitable non-profit dedicated to protecting natural habitats, wetlands and valuable open space in Lake County; go to www.lakecountylandtrust.org for more information.



The refurbished picnic table.

Land Trust properties provide both natural and man made nesting spaces for variety of birds

By Donna Mackiewicz, LCLT volunteer

Have you ever noticed a tree with a hole or cavity, dead branches, or even a dead tree and thought, “Time to call an arborist”? Before the saw comes out, think about how important these trees are for wildlife. What often appears to us to be a defect in a tree may actually be shelter for a bird, mammal, reptile, or amphibian. Tree cavities create safe places for sleeping, raising young, and protection from predators. Dead limbs and trees are often where birds search for insects, as well as excellent structures for woodpeckers to excavate their next nesting cavity.

This year at Rodman Preserve and The Wright Wetland Preserve, natural cavities were successful as were the nest box trails. Rodman had two nests of bluebirds. The nestbox at the oak by the bench had six beautiful blue eggs, which all hatched and fledged. This box had bluebirds in it last year, too, so hopefully the nesting bluebirds keep returning.

There were four other boxes at Rodman with Tree Swallows and one Ash-throated Flycatcher. These nest boxes, along with the natural cavity nests of Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpeckers, and White-breasted Nuthatches show it was a busy year at the Rodman Preserve. Many other birds, that don't use cavities, also nest at Rodman, including Brewer's Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, and of course the Osprey whose nest can be seen from the parking lot of the Rodman Preserve.

This was the first year for the Wright Property nest box trail and Tree Swallows quickly took possession. Bluebird young have been spotted, so the natural cavities were successful. As we continue to monitor and expand the nest box trails, we will always be reaching out for volunteer monitors. Let us know if you'd be interested for the excitement next spring. Email the Land Trust at lclt@lakecountylandtrust.org, or call (707) 262-0707 and leave a message.

Editor's Note: Donna Mackiewicz is a Lake County Land Trust volunteer and Rodman Preserve Committee member. She monitors the nest box trails at both Rodman and Wright and is the California Bluebird Recovery Program coordinator for Lake County. She is also vice-president of the Redbud Audubon Society and before moving here was President of the Audubon Society of Central Oklahoma for many years.



Jeannette Knight and Donna Mackiewicz installing nest boxes at the Wright Wetlands Preserve. Jeannette constructed and donated the nest boxes to be used at the preserve.



Successful bluebird nesting box at Rodman Preserve.

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for like-minded
people with
similar interests.

Lake County Land Trust
is part of the
Konocti Regional Trails
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Join today and start
enjoying our trails!

Mid-Year Appeal continues

We want to thank our loyal Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) supporters who have already responded to our mid-year appeal and remind everyone that it is continuing. You can go on our website and hit the “Donate now,” button, or send a check through the mail to Lake County Land Trust P.O. Box 1017, Lakeport, CA 95453. We truly appreciate your support.

As many of you know, the LCLT actively requests monetary support in two annual appeal letters one is the spring/summer (our mid-year appeal) and the other is our annual year end/Holiday appeal. Contributing to either, or both, makes you a “member,” or, as we prefer to say a supporter of the land trust. At any level you give, starting at \$20 a year, you are considered a LCLT supporter (member) and will receive our email either electronically or through the mail and be acknowledged on our website and in our newsletter.

To all of our supporters. A big thank you. Lake County is a more beautiful place because of you.

Bill Lincoln retires from Lake County Land Trust board

Long time board member and friend of the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT), Bill Lincoln, is retiring from the board of directors. “Bill’s expertise and willingness to do boots on the ground Land Trust projects will be greatly missed,” noted LCLT President, Val Nixon. “He and Carol have been amazing supporters and volunteers and bring positive energy to everything they do.”

Bill joined the board in 2012 and has worked on many important projects. In fact, he has agreed to continue working with the Land Trust on the Wright Restoration Project even though he and his wife, Carol, have moved out of Lake County to be closer to their grandchildren in McKinleyville.

Bill has put his expertise as an agricultural engineer, specializing in soil erosion to much use for the Land Trust and has been a valued advisor and a positive force for the years he has served. His wife Carol has also volunteered time and energy and her delicious contributions to the Lake County Land Trust’s Annual Coffee will be greatly missed as will her welcoming and gracious personality.

From board members and staff of the LCLT and all of your friends in Lake County: enjoy your new location and know you will be missed!

“We are grateful that Bill is continuing to see the Wright project through from his new home in McKinleyville. Our loss is McKinleyville Land Trust’s gain. Good luck to both Bill and Carol in their new ventures,” Nixon concluded.



Carol and Bill Lincoln will be missed.



Bill and Carol Lincoln enjoyed meeting with California Secretary of Agriculture, Karen Ross, and Mike Thompson at the 2016 Lake County Land Trust annual dinner.



A view of the Seigler Valley Wetland Mitigation bank from Perini Road.

What exactly is the LCLT Seigler Valley easement?

By Roberta Lyons
Lake County Land Trust board member

Like so many Lake County residents and business-people, Steve Zalusky “ended up,” here after becoming attached to this place as a youngster, when he and his family stayed at the old Ferndale Resort in Soda Bay.

Zalusky, along with his wife Danielle, now operate Northwest Biosurvey, a consulting company that does biological surveys for proposed projects like vineyards, cannabis, and environmental restoration; and Coast Range Wetlands, a wetland mitigation bank that also involves the Lake County Land Trust.

In much of its literature and conversation, the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) often mentions the “Seigler Easement,” many people probably have no idea what it

means or why it is important.

It took Steve and Danielle Zalusky over 10 years to develop the Seigler Valley Wetlands Mitigation Bank. It was a demanding process and included working with the Lake County Land Trust, which now holds a conservation easement on the project. The Land Trust monitors the property every year to confirm the restoration of the wetland and meadow is progressing.

To receive certification for the wetland mitigation bank, the Zaluskys needed to submit a prospectus to an Interagency Review Team (IRT) that included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers. “The implementing document is 500 pages long,” Zalusky noted. Such wetland mitigation pro-

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Lake County Land Trust Executive Director, Amanda Martin attended the Seigler Valley Wetland easement monitoring along with Land Trust volunteer, Bob Schoenherr; on the right is Steve Zalusky.



Steve Zalusky explaining some features of the restored wetland to Amanda Martin, Lake County Land Trust executive director.

Seigler Valley easement

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jects have been required since 1972 after the establishment of this country's Clean Water Act. Any agency that plans to damage or destroy a wetland, like the Army Corps or Caltrans, must replace and restore a similar wetland somewhere else. There can be no net loss. Zalusky explained that after the mitigation bank was established, it was allotted "wetland credits," (which are sold to the agency needing mitigation) based on the amount of acreage being replaced. The bank must comprise a wetland that at some point was destroyed, having the potential to be a wetland again.

In the case of the Seigler Valley wetland, there was ample evidence that it was once a thriving marsh and wetland meadow. Seigler Creek flows across the property and historical images show the different uses of the property. In the late 1800s the property was drained and used to grow hay. Then in the 1940s the famous Hobergs Resort was developed and the wetland area was drained even further to develop a runway that could accommodate DC3s. The airport was closed in 1973. Work on opening the Seigler Valley Mitigation Bank began some 30 years later.

The bank sells wetland "credits," not the actual land. After the meadow was restored, the bank ended up with 24 credits, each representing one acre of land. Seventeen credits are left to sell. These credits can be expensive, but the Zalusky's invested over \$500,000 of their own funds to undergo the permitting, review, and purchase of the land. They also fund an endowment with the Lake County Land Trust for the cost of monitoring the property which is a total of 36 acres. The bank also funds a large endowment with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The interest off that endowment will fund any necessary maintenance of the restored wetland in perpetuity.

It is Steve and Danielle's job, along with their son Leigh and daughters Sarah and Emma, to restore the area and make sure the restoration is completed over a period of time. Things were going great until the 2015 Valley Fire which destroyed about three years of their hard work. The area has bounced back, however, and new growth and habitat is thriving.

Steve's son Leigh manages the day to day work of the bank: maintaining trees, and designing the watering system which will be necessary until everything becomes well established. Leigh, who is an engineer, also writes annual reports and lives with his wife Kristen in Loch Lomond. Daughter Sarah designed the software for the water system.

Spending his summers here, Steve was no stranger to Clear Lake and the surrounding area. He moved here in 1976 and worked for 13 years as a Resource Planner for the County of Lake, working on the Geysers, dams, mining projects, and was a staff advisor for CEQA. Danielle also worked for the planning department at that time and that is how they met. They have been married for almost 30 years. Steve left County Government in 1998 and started his own company, Northwest Biosurvey while working as a part-time planner in Chico. In 2002 Danielle joined the business as a partner. They currently have a home on Cobb and a lake home on the Buckingham Peninsula.

Once the mitigation bank is completed, and all of the credits sold, it will become a "park," but won't be open to the public. The Lake County Resource Conservation District (LCRCD) will be the eventual owners and the land trust will continue monitoring the property.

The mitigation bank is located near the old Hobergs Airport at the corner of Big Canyon Road and Seigler Springs Road. It is private property and a wildlife preserve but can be viewed from a couple of different turnouts, or by driving a short distance up Perini Road. It is a beautiful and important addition to Lake County's open space, providing habitat for mammals, birds, and native plants.



This historical monument marks the dedication of the old Hobergs Airport which is now part of the Seigler Valley Wetland Mitigation bank.



A group of Lake County Land Trust supporters and staff gathered at Keithly Ranch in Lakeport in April to sign an option to purchase agreement with the Keithly family. From left: Amanda Martin, LCLT Executive Director; Peter Windrem, Lynne Butcher, Tom Smythe, LCLT Land Consultant; Erica Lundquist, LCLT Secretary; Roberta Lyons, LCLT board member; Bernie Butcher, Val Nixon, LCLT President; Allen Keithly, Dena Keithly, Mike Keithly and John Stierna, LCLT Treasurer.

Land Trust signs option agreement to purchase 86 acre Keithly Ranch to help complete Big Valley Wetlands protection

In early April the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) signed an option to purchase agreement with Allen Keithly and Mike and Dena Keithly for their 86 acre ranch adjacent to the LCLT's already existing 200 acre Wright Wetland Preserve.

A group of LCLT board members and supporters, along with the Keithly family met at the Keithly Ranch and signed the option agreement that will secure the property for one year as the Land Trust raises funds for the complete purchase. Through grants and individual donations, the trust has raised enough to supply a

matching grant to the state Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) the major funding agency that will help in purchasing the property.

The Keithly Ranch is a key component of the Land Trust's Big Valley Wetlands Preservation Project which has been a major effort of the LCLT for almost 10 years. The ranch includes a significant section of Manning Creek and the outlet of Manning Creek. It also abuts Lakeshore Blvd. in Lakeport and the concept is to someday provide public access from that area out to the shore of Clear Lake.

Gifts of Stock are a great way to support the Lake County Land Trust, as well as saving on capital gains

There can be significant tax advantages for giving appreciated stock as a contribution to the Land Trust (LCLT) and we have the ability to accept stock donations. The tax on the gain in appreciated value will be avoided if a stock is contributed to the LCLT since the Trust is a 501c3 qualified organization. Further, the full value of the stock on the date of contribution can be used as a charitable deduction on your Federal income tax.

These advantages can make your contribution be even more effective in supporting the important work of the Land Trust. Another opportunity to donate to the Last Trust is through your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA. If you direct some of that RMD to the Land Trust, there is no tax on that either. We recommend that you consult your tax advisor for the specifics of your situation, but please let us know if you would like to make a contribution of stock, or some of your RMD to the Lake County Land Trust. You can reach the Land Trust at (707) 262-0707 or contact our treasurer, John Stierna at (571) 331-4452.

2021 Financial Summary

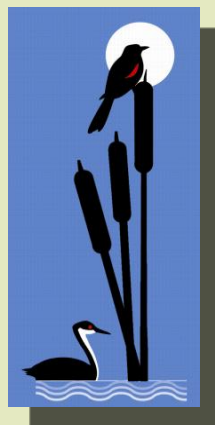
Lake County Land Trust		
2021 Income & Expense Report		
Income	Land Acquisitions & Stewardship Donations	\$157,785
	General Support	\$101,957
	COVID Relief	\$16,998
	<i>TOTAL 2021 INCOME</i>	<i>\$276,740</i>
Expense	Land & Stewardship Expenses	\$79,619
	Administration & Operations Expenses	\$94,292
	<i>TOTAL 2021 EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$173,911</i>
	<i>Net Income</i>	<i>\$102,829</i>
Note: 76% of 2021 net income restricted for land acquisition and stewardship		

Land Trust planning annual dinner for Spring of 2023

After much discussion and thought, the Lake County Land Trust board has agreed that the annual dinner will be held in Spring of 2023. It was announced previously that the dinner would be this October, but due to lots of circumstances, including still having concerns about Covid, the board decided it is best to wait a few more months.

“We have been trying to stay in touch with our supporters through phone calls and leading hikes at our properties. We certainly miss the human contact with everyone, but these have been trying times,” board president Val Nixon explained.

The Land Trust’s Rodman Preserve is open every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and walks at the Wright Wetland Preserve can be arranged by contacting Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024 if you missed the walks that were held there last April. Please stay in touch and we hope to see everyone soon!



You can choose to receive your LCLT Newsletter by email

You can opt to receive your newsletter via email, postal mail, or both! Please let us know which you prefer. Contact us at LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org if you would like anything changed in way you receive your newsletter. Thank You!

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Supporter 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.

To donate online, go to <http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org>

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Michele Quere, a special volunteer and donor



One of Michele Quere's many volunteer jobs at the Rodman Preserve is to keep the bird feeders filled for the quail, sparrows, juncos, nuthatches and other songbirds that visit.

It seems fitting that Michele Quere, an Upper Lake resident and one of the Lake County Land Trust's longest standing volunteers and donors has lived in Lake County since 1994, the same year that the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) was officially recognized as a non-profit charitable organization.

Almost since that time Michele has been involved with the land trust in one way or another, donating special items (like two kayaks) to LCLT's silent auction at the annual dinner, or volunteering once and sometimes twice a week to check on the wellbeing of the Trust's Rodman Preserve.

Michele first was a member of the Redbud Audubon Society, and through those members, many of whom founded the Land Trust, she became interested and started volunteering for the Trust. "It was a natural transition to get involved with the Land Trust," Michele noted. Saying that when she grew up in Trenton, New Jersey she developed a love for nature and animals through her many visits to the shore and the influence

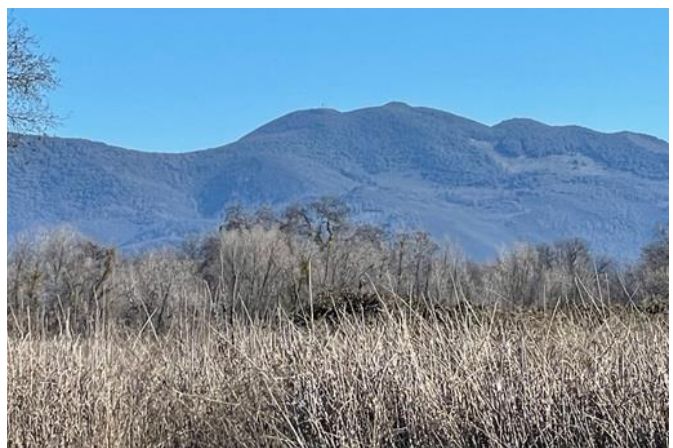
of her mom. This love of nature has driven her to appreciate organizations, like the Land Trust, that work to preserve the land as habitat for animals and plants.

As a teenager she got the urge to move to California and at 17, came to the Bay Area where she attended and graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a degree in psychology. She eventually ended up moving to Mendocino County where she lived on Greenfield Ranch near Ukiah for many years. "It was kind of a hippie subdivision," she noted wryly. She wanted to live in a rural, free area where she could implement her interest in solar energy. Michele, along with other community members were able to set up their own solar systems despite the fact that at the time PG&E was saying "that wasn't possible."

For many years Michele worked for the United States Post Office as a rural mail carrier and now that she is retired, she really enjoys not having to awaken at the crack of dawn.

Michele cares about all animals, but balks at being called an "animal lover." "I don't like that term she says. "I don't just love animals. I'm more of an animal appreciator. Animals have been ignored and abused for so long. They are important, just like humans, and have a right to live on this planet without having their homes destroyed."

Michele visits Rodman Preserve weekly to fill the bird feeding and watering stations; she takes care of the water system, cleans up around the house and retrieves phone messages, among many other jobs. She is also a generous supporter and a much appreciated member of the Lake County Land Trust community.





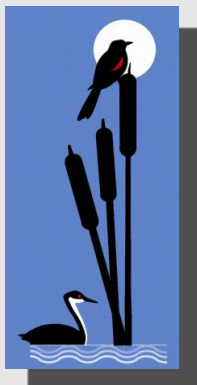
Leave a lasting impact with a legacy gift

Some LCLT supporters have chosen to support our mission through planned giving—including LCLT in a will or trust—or making another kind of legacy gift. Their foresight and yours, should you choose to join them, ensures the strength and the sustainability of the Lake County Land Trust.

Your planned gift to LCLT will ensure that conservation efforts continue to preserve and enhance vital biodiversity, improve the health of our ancient lake, allow wildlife to flourish, and encourage sustainable economic growth.

Whether you are taking those first important steps toward planning your estate or are in the process of updating your estate plan, please consider including the Lake County Land Trust in your plans.

If you would like more information about Legacy Giving opportunities, please contact Lake County Land Trust board president Val Nixon at (707)331-8321 or email her at 4val944@gmail.com.



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**Walks are now open
every Saturday morning
at the Rodman Preserve!
Join us!**

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.

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