



# Lake County Land Trust

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

## LCLT participating in California Council of Land Trust's "Take it Outside" Challenge

Californians are encouraged to "Take It Outside, California!" the first weekend of May by visiting parks and nature areas and improving their health and well-being along the way. This effort to get Californians outside and enjoying the great outdoors is part of the California Council of Land Trust's statewide effort to show our residents all the natural lands and outdoor activities that are available to them. The Lake County Land Trust is excited to be the only organization in Lake County participating in this effort in 2017.

The Lake County Land Trust will be hosting a free "Art & Nature Day" from 11am to 5pm on Saturday, May 6 as part of the "Take It Outside" effort.

It will feature nature hikes, an art exhibition featuring local artists with a "Clear Lake" theme, mini yoga classes for kids and adults, hand-drawn temporary tattoos for kids, live music, and informational/ activity booths hosted by various organizations. While there is no charge for admission or any of the activities, art and food will be available for purchase. A portion of proceeds from art sales will help support the Land Trust.

The Lake County Land Trust's "Art & Nature Day" will be held at the Rodman Preserve and Nature Center, 6350 Westlake Drive, Upper Lake.

The Rodman Preserve, the Land Trust's keystone property, is located on 131 acres of oak woodlands surrounded by wetlands, and it protects the natural habit of many nesting, breeding, and feeding areas for many species of native Lake County wildlife.

Getting outside has multiple powerful effects on mental and physical health. Despite these known benefits, people are losing connection with the



**Yelena Zhavoronkova will show her photographs of plants and natural items found around Clear Lake/Lake County at the free Art and Nature Day at the Rodman Preserve and Nature Center on May 6.**



**Ruth Stierna's work will also be displayed.**

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# President's Message

By  
Val  
Nixon



**Val Nixon**

In my short tenure on the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) Board of Directors, I have learned to appreciate the past as we prepare for the future

I have been involved in the final acquisition of property that has taken many years of diligence and hard work to purchase. We have started monitoring easements that are bridges between land use and land preservation that may solve some age-old conflicts. Easements have an essential role in the future of carbon sequestration and land use mitigation. They will be one of the tools used in the fight against climate change. As Lake County grows LCLT continues to be

The lush new growth of spring and kaleidoscope of colors, after a wet winter, make me feel as if I am rediscovering Lake County every time I venture out. I am reminded of the important role Land Trusts play nationally in preserving the beauty and vitality of more than eight million acres. In my short

tenure on the Lake County Land Trust (LCLT) Board of

on the forefront of keeping it beautiful and healthy for the diverse species that inhabit it.

In the coming year we will be working with Caltrans to mitigate oak woodland damage from highway construction. We will continue to acquire land that will create corridors for wildlife protection and watershed restoration. Our partnership with the Middle Creek Restoration Coalition (MCRC) is pushing forward the prospect of restoring 35 to 40 percent of the wetlands so desperately needed to improve the water quality in our ancient lake.

As we adapt our communication style and upgrade our technology we will focus on not losing our message. We will take positive action to engage and listen to the future generation as we continue to make our organization sustainable by standardizing our practices. This Land Trust stands on the foundation of 23 years of experience as we move forward in our mission to protect lands of significant natural, historical and agricultural value. I hope you join us at some of our new outdoor activities and venues and want to personally thank you for continuing to support our annual events and the vision of an economically and environmentally sustainable Lake County.

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## The Land Trust's Conservation Priority Plan will be updated based on changing political and economic climate here

In 2007-2008 the Lake County Land Trust developed its Land Conservation Priority Plan to help guide its efforts. The Land Trust empaneled a team of experts familiar with Lake County to identify important properties/areas to protect.

Experts identified the Big Valley shoreline, the Rodman Slough/Reclamation Area and Mt. Konocti as the highest priorities. With the purchase of the Fowler property on Mt. Konocti by Lake County and the pursuit of the Middle Creek Restoration Project by the Lake County Watershed Protection District, the Land Trust emphasized protecting the wetlands and riparian

corridors in Big Valley. This resulted in the acquisition of the 34 acre Melo property in October 2016.

At the Land Trust Board retreat in January, the Board determined that the conservation priorities need to be reevaluated based on current conditions. Regulatory changes, such as listing of the Clear Lake hitch, and changes in political and economic climates need to be considered. There is also increased emphasis on climate change mitigation. The Land Trust will be following a similar process by empaneling experts to identify conservation priorities this year and anticipate having an updated Conservation Priority Plan this fall.

## LCLT officers attend California Council of Land Trusts Conference in Davis

By Val Nixon, President

There were several themes presented at this year's Land Conservation Conference that were essential to the viability of land trusts and their missions. This year's conference, which is presented by the California Council of Land Trusts, was held in Davis and was attended by Executive Director, Tom Smythe, Outreach Coordinator, Melissa Kinsel and Board President, Val Nixon. All three came away with more excitement and enthusiasm for our organization and pride in the fact that we are on track.

The speakers were encouraging partnerships and coalitions, sharing information, adapting and adopting communication strategies to engage the younger more tech savvy generations. There was discussion of growing pains and staying on message and also staying sustainable and creating succession planning.

The concept of carbon sequestration was repeated through out many courses. This included the idea of corridors of land as opposed to fragmented landscapes. One such corridor has Clear Lake in the center. The Blue Ridge-Mayacamas Connectivity Project is looking at corridors connecting the ranges of mountains that surround Clear Lake with each other and counties to the south by creating population friendly, habitat connective and fire resistant landscapes.

It is still in the study stage but the four major Lake County fires in 2015 and 2016, including the Valley Fire have pushed it forward. There was also a push to get the public out on protected lands where possible. This is crucial in communicating the importance of resource protection. The use of maps as a story telling tool was also encouraged.

### *“Take it Outside” Challenge*

*(Continued from page 1)*

outdoors and spending less time outside than ever before. The Lake County Land Trust encourages our members- and all Lake County residents- to start a new routine, beginning May 6th by 'taking it outside' as a way to promote healthy mind, body, and spirit.

Visit [www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org) for more information about the Lake County Land Trust, or [www.TakeItOutsideCA.com](http://www.TakeItOutsideCA.com) for the list of fun, free events throughout California that will be taking place this May 6- 7.

For more details, please contact Melissa Kinsel via email at: [outreach@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:outreach@lakecountylandtrust.org) or via phone at: 707.262.0707.



LAKE COUNTY  
LAND TRUST'S

**FREE!** ART & NATURE DAY

AT THE RODMAN  
PRESERVE &  
NATURE CENTER  
SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017

11 AM- 5PM

6350 WESTLAKE DRIVE  
(AT NICE/LUCERNE CUTOFF AND  
WESTLAKE DRIVE) UPPER LAKE, CA

Nature hikes, art show  
featuring local artists,  
mini yoga classes for  
adults & kids,  
hand-painted temporary  
tattoos, hula hooping, &  
more. Check it out and get to  
know your local Land Trust.  
Art & food available for purchase.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
MELISSA KINSEL  
[OUTREACH@LAKECOUNTYLANDTRUST.ORG](mailto:OUTREACH@LAKECOUNTYLANDTRUST.ORG)  
707.287.7908

# Save the Date! Annual Dinner will be Saturday, September 23

Please save the date for our Annual Land Trust dinner which will be held this year on Sept. 23. The location will be at Boatique Winery on Red Hills Road. Festivities will start with a 4 p.m. social hour and include live music, appetizers, dinner and Lake County wines. As always a fun Silent Auction will be displayed and the Land Trust will present its Supporter of the Year Award.

Dr. Harry Lyons will be guest speaker, informing everyone about the progress of the Middle Creek Marsh Restoration Project. Watch for your invitation in the mail.



Lake County Land Trust executive director, Tom Smythe is shown at the recently acquired Melo wetland property with a new sign, created by Kelseyville resident Gerri Groody.

## Become a member of The Lake County Land Trust

### Membership Benefits include:

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

All of the Member Benefits listed below, plus:  
Exclusive invitation-only event at unique venue &  
Reserved seating at our Annual Benefit Dinner

#### Osprey: \$500-\$999

All of the Member Benefits listed below, plus:  
Private guided hikes by reservation of Land Trust properties

#### Blue Heron: \$200-\$499

All of the Member Benefits listed below, plus:  
Invitational reception at the  
Rodman Preserve Nature Center

#### White Pelican: \$100-\$199

The Member Benefit listed below, plus:  
Invitation to our annual "State of the Land Trust" Coffee

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

Acknowledgement on Land Trust website, updated annually

*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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

I'd like to pay with my credit card:

Card Type: VISA MasterCard (circle one)

Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_/\_\_\_ Security Code\* \_\_\_\_\_

(\*the 3 digit code on the back of your card)

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

Please send my newsletter by  Email  US Mail

## Executive Director's Message By Tom Smythe

Ah, the green of spring. After our drought years, the beautiful green landscape reminds me why I have made Lake County my home.

With almost one year in as Executive Director, after nine years on the Board, I have a new appreciation on what it takes to make the Lake County Land Trust a successful organization.



**Tom Smythe**

Susanne and Cathy, have accomplished.

This is an exciting time to be part of the Land Trust. We recently acquired three conservation easements and are developing our baselines and inspection protocols. Other opportunities are opening up for additional conservation easements.

We also have the ability to restore the recently acquired Melo property to a Valley Oak woodland, recreating one of the most endangered ecosystems in California. Updating of our Conservation Priority Plan will help guide our conservation efforts for the coming years. There are several potential conservation projects coming up that are very exciting. We will keep you informed as they develop.

Our outreach program is growing with the new position of Outreach Coordinator filled by Melissa Kinsel and the help of the Development Committee. Art and Nature is returning on May 6 and should be a fun event.

We have our upcoming Spring event at the Blue Wing June 11. This year we will be holding our annual dinner at Boatique Winery. Mark your calendars as it will be a few weeks earlier than normal on Sept. 23.

I look forward to working with you to protect our important land and water resources in the coming years.

# Join us for our annual *Spring Celebration Fundraiser*



**Please join the  
Lake County Land Trust  
on June 11; 3-6 p.m. for our  
Spring Celebration event**

Hosted by Lynne and Bernie Butcher  
in the Garden of the **Blue Wing  
Restaurant and Tallman Hotel  
in Upper Lake.**

Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres  
and live music in the company of  
other friends of the Land Trust.  
Tickets are \$50 per person with all  
funds going to support the  
**Lake County Land Trust.**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
Email: [LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org](mailto:LCLT@lakecountylandtrust.org)

or call (707) 262-0707 to reserve,  
or reserve by paying online at the  
"Donate" button at  
[www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org)  
Payment in advance requested.  
*Looking forward to seeing you!*



**Gerri and Bill Groody installed the interpretive panels at Boggs Lake Preserve. The panels explain the significance of one of the largest vernal pools in California and the Sonoma State University study of the western pond turtles.**



**The rain fed vernal pool at Boggs Lake Preserve is full again. Time to dust off your hiking boots and come visit this beautiful phenomenon.**

## Erica Lundquist joins the LCLT Board of Directors



At the March 2017 meeting, Erica Lundquist was elected to the Lake County Land Trust Board of Directors. Erica is a long-time resident of Lake County with a wealth of experience to help the Land Trust grow. She has served on the Rodman Working Group helping manage this flagship property for over

**Erica Lundquist** a year.

Erica brings to the Board a combination of a scientific orientation, great appreciation for nature and farming, a desire to find practical solutions and build connections in the community.

Through her career as a scientist and natural resource conservationist, she has a thorough understanding of agricultural issues and natural resource management. She is an experienced educator from teaching community college classes and presenting at agricultural workshops. Having co-authored the Clear Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan, she has a good understanding of resource, regulatory, and public agency management issues in the watershed. She has strong connections to the Lake County agricultural community as a walnut farmer, from working as the Lake County Winegrape Commission Viticulturist, and an irrigation management consultant. Erica currently works for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Lake and Mendocino Counties.

We welcome Erica to the Board and look forward to working with her to grow the Land Trust.

### 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.

## *State of the Land Trust Coffee*



**There was a great turnout for the annual “State of the Land Trust,” coffee on Saturday, March 25, 2017 held in honor of all of our \$100 plus yearly donors. Held at the Rodman Preserve, land trust supporters were informed about the recent accomplishments of the Lake County Land Trust, including acquisition of the first Big Valley Wetlands property in December of 2016.**



**Carol and Bill Lincoln chat with John Reynolds during the recent annual coffee. Bill is vice-president of the Land Trust.**

**Another guest attending the Member Coffee...**



**A group of supporters is enjoying themselves on the back porch at the Preserve.**



**Rodman Slough with reclaimed land in the background after heavy rains this winter; this could be a preview of things to come with the completion of Middle Creek Restoration Project.**

## **Land Trust joins local coalition to insure the completion of Middle Creek Restoration Project**

The Lake County Watershed Protection District moves forward with the Middle Creek Restoration Project. The Project would breach the failing levees that channel Middle Creek directly into Clear Lake and restore 1,400 acres of wetlands. It is the single most effective action to improve watershed health and water quality of Clear Lake.

The Middle Creek Restoration Coalition (MCRC), which includes representatives from the Lake County Land Trust, supports the County's efforts and advocates for the Project.

Dr. Harry Lyons of MCRC is now working with the Water Resources Department as a liaison with the myriad of agencies involved. Other members of the MCRC include representatives from Konocti Regional Trails, Master Gardeners, the Lake County Resource Conservation District, and the Chi Council.

Recently Danielle Bradley of Senator Mike McGuire's office met with MCRC and toured the Project area.

The remaining acreage in the Project area must be purchased before detailed design can begin. McGuire's support could aid in acquiring more funding.

At the end of March, the County acquired an additional 365 acres of land for the Project. This makes a total of 870 acres acquired.

The grant from the State Department of Water resources, which has funded acquisition, requires a flood easement be placed on all acquired properties.

The initial 134 acres of property have an easement held by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). The Land Trust is talking to the County about holding the easement on the remaining 736 acres.

This will facilitate the County moving forward and will help build the capacity of the Lake County Land Trust.

The Lake County Land Trust will continue to stay involved in this Project.



# Caltrans and LCLT to work together on valuable oak mitigation project

By Tom Smythe,  
Executive Director

The widening/passing lane project on Highway 29 between Lower Lake and Kelseyville is finally moving forward. The project will impact the environment in several ways, including the loss of oak woodlands along the route. As mitigation, Caltrans will be permanently protecting some existing oak woodlands and planting some new oaks. The Land Trust is looking at ways of assisting in Caltrans' efforts.

One way is to allow Caltrans to plant about 10 acres of valley oak woodland on the Melo property. The Melo property is a 32 acre parcel purchased last year by the Lake County Land Trust in the Big Valley area of Clear Lake. This will restore what was probably a natural oak woodland on the property. Volunteer oaks on the property and on adjacent properties indicate a high likelihood of success. The selection of acorns, planting and establishment of the trees will take several years.

Caltrans is also looking at some additional properties with existing oak woodlands for permanent protection. Property can be purchased and deeded to the Land Trust or conservation easements purchased and deeded to the Land Trust. Several properties have been visited, but a final choice on property(ies) has not been selected.

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a Land Trust  
fan on Facebook at  
facebook.com/  
LakeCountyLandTrust

# 2016 Financial Statement

## REVENUES:

### General Donations:

Fundraisers and community events	17,260.00
General Membership contributions	57,298.32
Stewardship Support Fund	1,500.00
Bequests	5,000.00

### Other Revenue Sources:

Interest Earned	77.88
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**TOTAL REVENUES: \$81,136.20**

## EXPENDITURES:

### Lands and Conservation Work:

Big Valley Wetlands-Melo Purchase	\$79,896.03
Land Stewardship and Conservation	\$7,789.33

### General Operations:

Fundraisers and Community Events	7,640.29
Membership Support and Development	7,062.12
Administration (wages & professional services)	37,899.98
Regional Partnerships and Associations Dues	3,755.00
Conferences and Professional Development	0.00
Program Support (office expenses, insurance, etc.)	17,408.01

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$161,450.76**

**NET GAIN: \$(80,314.56)**

## MONETARY ASSETS:

Big Valley Wetlands/Melo Property Acquisition Fund	\$17,628.97
Grants & Board Designated Funds (committed to specific projects)	\$57,011.71
Operating Reserves (unrestricted)	\$57,034.49

**TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS AT CLOSE OF 2016 \$131,675.17**



# Lake County Land Trust

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## 2017 Calendar of Events

The Lake County Land Trust shares a common goal with many other 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.

**First Saturday of the Month** – Walks at Rodman Preserve, flagship property of the Lake County Land Trust, held first Saturdays of the month, weather permitting. Walks start 8 a.m., June through August, and 9 a.m., September through May. Participants to meet at the Rodman Preserve Nature Education Center at 6350 Westlake Road (the corner of Westlake and the Nice-Lucerne Cutoff). No dogs please, and moderate to heavy rains will cancel. Call Roberta Lyons at (707) 994-2024 for information.

**May 6 – Saturday** – The Lake County Land Trust will participate in the California Council of Land Trust’s “Take It Outside,” Challenge by hosting a free Art and Nature Day from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Rodman Preserve. Nature hikes, art exhibition featuring local artists with “Clear Lake” theme, mini yoga classes for kids and adults, hand-drawn temporary tattoos for kids, live music, and informational/activity booths hosted by various organizations. Admission and activities free, art and food available for purchase. A portion of proceeds from art sales will support the Land Trust.

**June 10 – Saturday** – AMIA nature walk at Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The easy walk should last about two hours; Free parking for participants. For info go to [info@andersonmarsh.org](mailto:info@andersonmarsh.org) or call (707) 995-2658.

**June 11 – Sunday** – Spring Celebration for Lake County Land Trust, 3-6 p.m., hosted by Lynne and Bernie Butcher in Garden of the Blue Wing Restaurant and Tallman Hotel in Upper Lake. Wine, hors d’oeuvres, live music. Tickets \$50 per person with all funds supporting Land Trust. Reservations required. Call (707) 262-0707. Payment in advance encouraged.

**September 23 – Saturday** – Annual Dinner at Boatique Winery.

## 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 Roberta Lyons  
Compliance Officer Gillian Parrillo

Board Members: Erica Lundquist  
and Catherine Koehler  
Melissa Kinsel-Outreach Coordinator  
Anne Martin-Operations Coordinator

For info contact:  
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[www.lakecountylandtrust.org](http://www.lakecountylandtrust.org)

Tax I.D. No. 68-0332712

Executive Director: Tom Smythe

A sponsor member of the



Lake County Land Trust