



Let the Steelhead Swim

Steelhead face many challenges during their migration from our local streams to the ocean and back. Physical barriers such as culverts and dams are arguably the most damaging to steelhead populations as fish are cut off from the areas they need for spawning and rearing. Luckily, people can do something about manmade barriers by removing them or modifying them to allow fish to get through.

That is exactly what happened this fall when the highest priority fish barrier in San Luis Obispo County was removed in order to provide steelhead with unrestricted access to premier habitat in Santa Rosa Creek in Cambria. After six years of planning, permitting and construction, Santa Rosa Creek now offers eight additional miles of prime real estate for steelhead and other fish.

The **Ferrasci Road Fish Passage Project** involved the removal of a concrete low water crossing over Santa Rosa Creek that made passage impossible for all but the most determined fish. It was replaced with a clear span bridge that now allows the stream to flow naturally.



Photo by Kaila Dettman

This new bridge on Ferrasci Road allows Santa Rosa Creek to flow freely, allowing fish to pass.



Photo by Bob Hill

“After years of hard work by so many organizations it was thrilling to stand on the new bridge and imagine adult steelhead swimming freely upstream to spawn. Santa Rosa Creek is the premier steelhead fishery on the Central Coast, and it is exciting to see a project like this come to fruition.” - Kaila Dettman, Deputy Director

The **State Coastal Conservancy** funded the preparation of the bridge design and secured the necessary permits through a \$250,000 grant to The Land Conservancy to manage critical pre-construction tasks beginning in 2006. **County of San Luis Obispo Public Works** managed the construction phase of the project which was funded by the **California Wildlife Conservation Board**, the County, and local mitigation funds through the **Regional Water Quality Control Board**. The **California Conservation Corps**, with ARRA funding from **National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, installed stream restoration features to enhance streambed stability and re-create riparian habitat that was disturbed during construction. Project construction costs totaled \$1.23 million.

Project partners celebrate at the ribbon cutting including County Supervisor **Bruce Gibson**, LCSLO Deputy Director **Kaila Dettman**, Wildlife Conservation Board Executive Director, **John Donnelly**, and County Public Works Director, **Paavo Ogren**. (Front L to R)

“With more than five years of Land Conservancy dedication securing the numerous and complex local, state and federal permits required for this project, the fish can now swim freely to their historic habitat in the upper reaches of this pristine watershed.”- Tim Duff, Project Specialist, State Coastal Conservancy

We also wish to acknowledge all the other organizations, including **Greenspace Cambria Land Trust** and **California Department of Fish and Game**, who made this project possible. Visit the site, located at the intersection of Ferrasci Road and Santa Rosa Creek Road in Cambria, to see the project—and maybe steelhead—for yourself!

Back to Basics

Ever wonder how local conservation projects happen or what's behind our name? Read on to educate yourself on basic land protection tools and what's being done to preserve our County's natural heritage.

What is a land trust? A land trust is a special type of non-profit that is organized for the expressed purpose of permanently protecting land. They do this by purchasing land, acquiring easements, and/or stewarding such land or easements. By meeting certain requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, land trusts are authorized to accept qualifying conservation easements that result in federal tax savings. There are many different types of land trusts (international, statewide, local, etc.) with different focus areas (wildlife habitat lands, grazing land, farmland, public parks, etc.).

The Land Conservancy focuses on family farms and ranches, important wildlife habitat, scenic areas, and cultural sites. As a local land trust, we work only in San Luis Obispo County. We generally use voluntary easements to conserve land, but occasionally purchase land outright. In both cases we manage and oversee the perpetual stewardship of every conservation property.

What does a land trust do? Land trusts work directly with private landowners to help them achieve their conservation goals through permanent conservation. This usually takes the form of private conservation agreements for private land, but may also involve purchasing land outright. The form a project takes is determined by the landowner.

Land trusts also help communities realize their stated conservation goals by merging the interests of private landowners and the public. The basis of good conservation is protecting land that contains priority resources that benefit a region, state, county or locality. Land trusts, therefore, do not protect all land.

We undertake conservation that implements stated goals, such as the protection of prime agricultural soils or rare plant habitats and the creation of recreation opportunities. Helping achieve these community goals is the basis for the tax benefits of conservation easements.

What is a conservation easement? A conservation easement is private contract of voluntary restrictions that are recorded on a property's deed. The restrictions regulate what land uses are appropriate and allowable on the land. In most cases, conservation easements restrict housing, commercial, or industrial uses of the property. They may also restrict certain land practices such as removing oak trees or intense grazing. In all cases, they restrict surface mining for minerals. The easement restrictions are negotiated directly between the landowner, the landowner's attorney, and the land trust. Every conservation easement is different and adapted to meet the needs of both the land and the landowner. By definition, a conservation easement is forever. This perpetuity is a requirement in the Internal Revenue Code that allows for a tax deduction on the easement's value. For this reason, a landowner needs to consider their plans for the future, including those of the next generation.

The Land Conservancy works exclusively with willing landowners using voluntary and collaborative measures. Conservation easements have proven to be an extremely useful tool in preserving San Luis Obispo County landscapes. They also allow private landowners to maintain full ownership of their property.



LCSLO annually monitors and restores nearly 30 special properties.

Photo by Wende David



Helping farmers and ranchers keep their ag land in production is a LCSLO priority.

Photo by Judith Hildinger

Land Trusts Do It Best

A recent census of land trusts found 10 million new acres conserved nationwide since 2005, including a total of 2,303,442 acres conserved in California. The National Land Trust Census, released by the **Land Trust Alliance**, shows that voluntarily protected land increased 27 percent between 2005 and 2010. California ranks first in the nation in acres conserved.

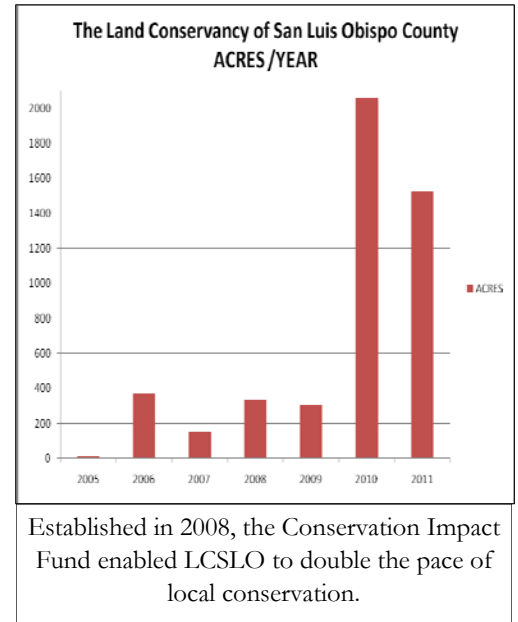
A total of 47 million acres—an area over twice the size of all the national parks in the contiguous United States—are now protected by land trusts. A greater percentage of the new acreage comes through local land trusts like The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

In California, land trusts statewide showed a 34% increase in acres conserved since 2005. Concurrently, LCSLO conserved more than 4,700 acres bringing its total amount of protected lands to 13,830 acres.

“Land is an essential component to our County’s quality of life and economic vitality. Investing in The Land Conservancy, your local land trust, ensures clean water, local food and places to play – now and for generations to come.” - Bob Hill, Executive Director

The census found that, on average, a land trust with a strategic conservation plan conserves twice as many acres as a land trust without such a plan. LCSLO uses a strategic conservation plan to direct its land protection efforts and to identify resources required to achieve these goals.

We found that the pace of local land conservation is primarily a function of capacity. To conserve more land in San Luis Obispo County, The Land Conservancy worked with a generous private donor to create the **Conservation Impact Fund** which ensures sufficient staffing support for its land department.



Other findings of the 2010 National Land Trust Census include:

- There are now 197 land trusts operating in California, including 103 staffed groups and 44 all-volunteer groups.
- California land trusts increased their full- and part-time staff and contractors 89% in five years, for a total of 986 paid positions in 2010.
- Land trusts in California drew upon the work of 13,734 active volunteers (an increase of 94% since 2005) and the contributions of 178,512 members and financial supporters.
- From 2005 to 2010, state and local land trusts almost tripled the amount of funding they have dedicated to monitoring, stewardship and legal defense. They also almost tripled their operating endowments.

The National Land Trust Census is online www.lta.org/census.

*If you would like to increase the pace of conservation, consider making a donation. Donate by phone, mail, or securely online at www.LCSLO.org and designate your donation to the **Conservation Impact Fund**.*

LCSLO Achievements

- Permanent protection and ongoing stewardship of **13,830 acres** of land
- Winning a record grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to conserve 1,337 acres at Nick Ranch, Pozo
- Collaborating on a unique partnership with The City of San Luis Obispo and Camp San Luis Obispo to protect over 1,300 acres in the San Luis Obispo Greenbelt
- Saving the Octagon Barn from collapse and envisioning it as a community center
- Planting more than 70,000 native trees and shrubs in San Luis Obispo County
- Engaging tens of thousands of volunteers in hands-on local conservation

1,000+ Volunteers Improve SLO Creek

This past November The Land Conservancy completed a volunteer-based restoration project, which enhanced nearly 1.5 miles of wildlife habitat along Lower San Luis Obispo Creek in Avila Valley.

A grant was awarded to LCSLO from the **FishAmerica Foundation** and the **National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** for the restoration of a portion of Lower San Luis Obispo Creek, aimed at protecting local fish habitat, especially for threatened steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). The Land Conservancy was one of only 18 projects throughout the U.S. to successfully win a grant contract.

The project emphasized major involvement of community volunteers in the removal of invasive Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) and the re-vegetation of the streambanks with native plant species. We were able to successfully remove Cape ivy and re-vegetate 9.5 acres with native plants. Another measure of success for the project was the amount of volunteers who contributed to the project. Although 1,000 volunteers were anticipated to provide 3,000 hours to the project in one year; the final head count was 1,147 volunteers who contributed a total of 3,476 hours. Our staff will be on the lookout for adult steelhead that travel upstream during the winter months to spawn.



Cape ivy infestation site (above). Same site a few months later with removed ivy and new native plants (below).

Photos by Melissa Sparks

“We could not have accomplished this project without our community volunteers. Their efforts contributed to the protection and improvement of this special place, specifically for Steelhead trout habitat.”

- Carlos Torres, Restoration Project Manager

The work that volunteers completed will provide for future nature education activities on site, as well as improve the user experience for the proposed Bob Jones Bike Trail that will pass by this property.

Thank you to our many volunteers! For volunteer opportunities or more information, contact VOLUNTEER@LCSLO.org.

Volunteer Profile: Sarah McCutcheon

Photo by Wende David



Sarah McCutcheon moved to San Luis Obispo in 2008 from San Diego to attend Cal Poly. She is a senior in the Environmental Management and Protection major with a minor in Law and Society and President of the Cal Poly chapter of the Association of Environmental Professionals. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, cooking, and kayaking. Volunteering is also an important part of her life, and her passion for volunteering led Sarah to her current job as a Director Coordinator with **Cal Poly Student Community Services**.

Sarah started volunteering with The Land Conservancy in 2009. About a year after she started as a volunteer, she became the Media Intern. Last year she became the Restoration and Stewardship Intern for the Cape Ivy Removal Project. From that year-long project she learned about non-native species, especially Cape ivy. Sarah was able to put everything that she learned from her internship into a senior project. She hopes that

the control measures used to remove the Cape ivy will help her in the field at future jobs. Sarah plans to continue volunteering with LCSLO until she graduates this Spring.

Stewardship: Accessibility

This article is part of a Landlines series exploring the ways The Land Conservancy is addressing each of the four stewardship policy categories: Conservation, Funding & Responsibility, Accessibility, and Outreach & Education. Here Director of Conservation Science, **Daniel Bohlman**, explains how The Land Conservancy manages access to its special properties.

In the last issue of Landlines we looked at what The Land Conservancy is doing to ensure that we are providing informed stewardship in an effort to maintain and enhance conservation values (biological, cultural, agricultural) across properties that we own. In addition to plants and wildlife, there is another important group which we must carefully consider when contemplating stewardship--recreational users.

Photo by Judith Hildinger



Eric Meader enjoys an afternoon walk on the Henry Kluck Memorial Trail in Cambria.

Managing sensitive lands for both recreational users and wildlife can be challenging. Our Stewardship Policy provides the following guidance on the issue:

The Land Conservancy's stewardship policy prioritizes healthy natural communities through the protection and/or enhancement of our core conservation values [scenic, agricultural, biological, and cultural]. At the same time, The Land Conservancy recognizes the intrinsic values which natural areas provide to people, and seeks to promote and facilitate access to these natural areas so long as access does not compromise core conservation values.

Along with our assessment of conservation values, we take inventory of preexisting site infrastructure and trails. We overlay these trails and access points with the data gathered regarding conservation values. Once the data is overlaid, potential conflicts, including those with sensitive biological or cultural resources, are identified. Those areas with potential conflicts will be either closed to users and restored, or re-routed to avoid the impact.

Trails and access points, not in direct (e.g. aligned over a population of rare plants) or indirect (e.g. trail or access poorly designed) conflict with conservation values, will be evaluated for user experience and safety. Then they can be formally adopted as trails as appropriate.

As with all stewardship issues, the issue of accessibility is not static. Accessibility must be managed continuously and evaluated to minimize conflict and negative impact while maximizing enjoyment by recreational users. Leveraging collaborative partnerships and engaging people in guided property tours helps address this challenge.

We encourage you to join us for an guided hike or to explore a public conservation property. Visit www.LCSLO.org to find out where and when to go. *See you on the trail!*

*If you like the sound of stewardship, consider making a donation towards improving the maintenance, care and study of conservation lands owned by LCSLO. Designate your donations to the **Healthy Lands Forever Fund**. You can mail a check or donate online at www.LCSLO.org.*

This Crew's For You

The success of our Restoration Program relies on a seasonal crew of five Restoration Specialists who work to enhance sensitive landscapes throughout San Luis Obispo County from November through May. These skilled employees work diligently in harsh conditions and difficult locations because of their commitment to improving our natural environment. We extend our appreciation and welcome to the newest members of our staff:

Jack Matthias is originally from the East Coast and has been leading field crews and doing botany research for the past five years. He recently traveled to Patagonia, Argentina and enjoys riding his bike around town.

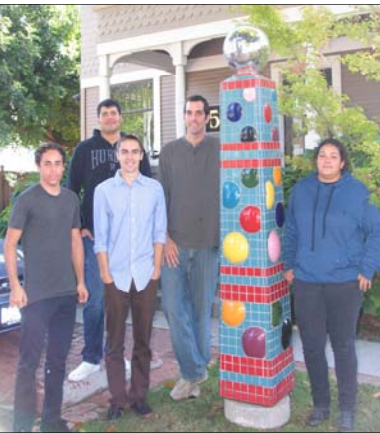


Photo by Wendie David

(L to R): Aaron, Sergio, Daniel, Jack and Sandra restore local lands.

Sandra Quintana was raised in the Sierra Nevada's and in her off-time she likes to search for Bigfoot. She loves working outdoors and enjoys kayaking, hiking, sight-seeing, and stand up paddle boarding. She has experience working in the backcountry and on fire management crews.

Before joining The Land Conservancy, **Aaron Echols** worked for the Center for Natural Lands Management as the Assistant Preserve Manager. He attended San Francisco State University where he earned a degree in Conservation. He enjoys long distance backpacking and completed a 2,650 mile thru-hike on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Daniel Krist grew up in Ventura, California and studied Biology at Cal Poly. He worked as a whitewater rafting guide during his summers off from school. He enjoys whitewater kayaking, rock climbing, music, and photography.

Sergio Valle is from the Southwest California Desert. He served in the U.S. Army and then as a Corps member in the California Conservation Corps. He has traveled to Australia to work on a restoration crew. He is currently a student of martial arts and enjoys weightlifting, kickboxing and grappling.

Black Lake Haunting

Local lore says that almost two hundred years ago, a woman drowned in **Black Lake** on the Nipomo Mesa. While no one has come forward to confirm this story, Agnes, as she is known to the locals, wanders around in a black ruffled Victorian style dress.

According to Dennis Hauck's *Haunted Places*, there's speculation that Agnes was murdered and later dumped into Black Lake. He writes that centuries later she haunts the location of her death. Again, she appears in a black Victorian dress with a full skirt, tall neck, puffy shoulders, long tight sleeves with black lace at the cuffs. She also wears her hair pulled up and long black jeweled earrings. Pretty detailed observations for a ghost sighting!

Even more disturbing, this ghost has absolutely no face, just a glowing eerie white light where her nose, eyes and lips would be. Agnes appears around midnight to walk across the surface of Black Lake. She has also been sighted on nearby Highway 1, scaring drivers and causing accidents.

As the owners of the property, our staff has worked out at Black Lake on numerous occasions but never encountered this ghostly apparition. Maybe our crew needs to stay out past midnight for the chance to meet Agnes!

Black Lake is one of several small, freshwater dune lakes. It is encompassed by land owned and managed by The Land Conservancy. The property is private and only accessible during guided hikes. Join us for a members-only hike at Black Lake in the spring and fall! See the Annual Event Calendar on page 11.



*Local Feature : Turley Wine Cellars

**This series features local Land Conservancy partners who help protect & steward local lands.*

Turley Wine Cellars has been producing award winning Zinfandels from old vines in California since 1993. In 2000, **Larry and Suzanne Turley** purchased a vineyard in the Templeton Gap featuring dry farmed old Zinfandel vines planted by Frank Pesenti in 1923, which had remained in the Pesenti family until purchased by the Turleys.

In 2007, the Turleys donated a conservation easement on that vineyard to LCSLO and became the first Purple Belt conservation property in the City of Paso Robles. They also provided additional funding to permanently steward the property.

As conservation partners the Turleys also have a giving spirit. If you have ever been to our *Annual Conservation Reception*, you've probably had a taste of their fine wine. The Turleys have generously donated their wine and services to our signature 25th anniversary event, *San Luis Beautiful: Art at the Octagon Barn* and to our Annual Reception for the past four years.

Turley Wine Cellars has recently announced that they are going all digital with their order forms, saving precious resources and streamlining the ordering process. Although they are moving towards the digital era, they promise that they will not ferment the wine with lasers!

Their passion and dedication results in some truly magnificent and bold red wines, as well as a scenic atmosphere for wine tasting surrounded by rolling hills, historic vineyards, and oak trees forever. Their fall wines really showcase what Turley is all about: "coaxing the best wines from single vineyard old vine sites, across a variety of terroirs." They have introduced the Heminway Vineyard Zinfandel to the Turley family of wines. Of course, favorites like the Hayne, Dogtown, and Pesenti are returning as well.

Don't just take our word for it, go see and taste for yourself! The tasting room is open every day of the week OR if we're fortunate enough to partner with them again, Land Conservancy donors may get a complimentary taste at next year's Annual Reception.

For additional information or questions about Turley Wine Cellars, visit www.turleywinecellars.com or give them a call at (805) 434-1030. They always look forward to "seeing old friends and sharing wines with new ones!"

Are you interested in a conservation easement or know someone who may benefit from one? If you are considering a conservation easement to preserve your property in perpetuity, the first step is to send us some basic information about the land. Please remember that establishing an easement is a process and not a single step. We would love to work with potential partners to evaluate whether or not this is the best option and help guide you through this process. **Contact us at LC@LCSLO.org or (805) 544-9096** to take that first step!

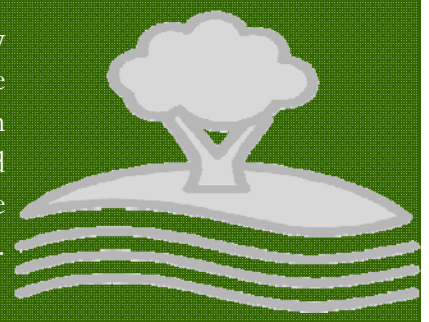


Photo by Kaita Detman Hooker



Photo by Eric Meader

Malani Anderson, Turley's Tasting Room Manager pours wine during our Annual Reception.



Santa Margarita Community Forestry

Fall days were full of life, service-learning activities, and interesting adventures on the oak trail, at the school forest and around town. Thanks to the many volunteers who've contributed in ways large and small. We continue to get a lot done and have fun working together. Here are some highlights:

Native Landscape

Volunteers **Amanda Richardson-Fritch** and father, **Jonas Richardson**, led this project to design and install a native landscape showcasing native grasses and perennials valued by Native tribes and/or ranchers. The landscape is located at the entrance to the *Learning Among the Oaks Trail* and will give students added opportunities to see, touch and smell the native plants included in hike lessons. Cal Poly forestry student **Valerie Grant**, the **Dave and Lee Cortina Family**, and **Bev Gingg** joined Amanda and Jonas to complete the plantings in October. Cub Scouts will be adding mulch in January and volunteers will provide care and watering until the plants are established.

Six Years of Learning Among the Oaks

In a nutshell (or acorn!), what a grand time we've had exploring the oak woodlands close to home! This fall, more than 350 students, teachers, family and community members participated in oak education activities on the LATO trail or at the **Great AgVenture** in Paso Robles. Cal Poly intern **Jillian Kreth** shared a 352 year old blue oak cross-section from the Sinton Family's Avenales Ranch with 4th graders for an oak awe moment. 6th grade student Oak Ambassador **Nathan Sharon** and Cal Poly intern **Kristen Reichardt** were among the many who contributed to another memorable season of outdoor learning experiences. Special thanks to key docents **Carol Sinsheimer, Jane Thomas, Glenn Sparks** and **John McCabe**; NRCS staff members **Margy Lindquist** and **Tina Vander Hoek**, Pacific Wildlife Care volunteers **Jeri Roberts, Kathy Duncan** and **Kelly Vandenhueval**; **Dr. John Perrine, Cal Poly Biological Sciences Department**; and to all of the Cal Poly interns, Santa Margarita School Student Oak Ambassadors, Faculty, Staff, and Parents.

School Forest Pruning Demonstration

In early December, Professional arborists and longtime SMCF volunteers, **Jack McCabe** and **Kevin Osborne**, used the now 14 year old valley oak at the school forest and local backyard-small trees to demonstrate proper pruning techniques.

Owl Nest Box & Wildlife Cameras

Morro Coast Audubon Society volunteers **Cheryl Lish** and **Doug George** worked with **Jane Thomas** and **Bev Gingg** to install an owl nest box on a coast live oak in the LATO trail area. Cal Poly student **Christina McAdams** has deployed two wildlife cameras in the LATO trail area. With technical guidance provided by Dr. John Perrine/Cal Poly Bio. Sci. Dept., Christina will deploy four more cameras and will be sharing and interpreting data collected with 4th-6th grade students enrolled in Santa Margarita School's 4-H After School Oak Naturalists.



All photos courtesy of SMCF

The Land Conservancy is a key partner in the University of California Cooperative Extension Learning Among the Oaks Program. The Land Conservancy holds the license agreement with Santa Margarita Ranch owners allowing educational use of 15 acres of private ranch land adjacent to Santa Margarita School. Trail access is restricted to approved docent-led hikes. LATO is supported by grants from the California Wildlife Conservation Board to UCCE, 2005 -2011. For more information, contact LATO Program Director Bev Gingg at 805-549-9319 or bingg@smcf.org

Reflections on a Decade of Service

By Beverly Gingg

For me, Fall 2011 marked the end of nearly ten years of service on The Land Conservancy's Board of Trustees. I had reluctantly made the decision to step down from the Board as I came to the conclusion that my passions and needs at home were stretching me too far. It wasn't an easy decision because serving on LCSLO's Board has been one of the most interesting and fulfilling experiences of my life.

Before I was called to serve on the Board, my husband Bryan and I had been strong supporters of The Land Conservancy's mission. Growing up on a local cattle ranch, I understand the need for and the value of using voluntary, cooperative measures to achieve conservation goals. I've been humbled by the sacrifices, hard work and perseverance of farm and ranch families who've come to The Land Conservancy to find help keeping their land in agriculture for future generations.

With a range of complex land conservation and restoration project proposals, stewardship challenges and management issues to consider, fellow Board Trustees and I didn't always agree. It was during times of disagreement that I was most impressed with the Board and with LCSLO's Executive Director and Staff. Discussions were always thoughtful, respectful, and mission-centered. I often returned home from meetings feeling incredibly lucky to work with such an outstanding group of people and to be part of something with such a lasting and visible impact on the quality of life for people and wildlife on the Central Coast.

From the dunes to the oak woodlands to the plain, from coastal forests to the Octagon Barn and the Bob Jones Trail, The Land Conservancy's work touches us in a myriad of beautiful ways.

Fall 2011 also marked six years of **Learning Among the Oaks** at Santa Margarita Ranch and fifteen years of **Santa Margarita Community Forestry** projects (smcf.org). The Land Conservancy has been a major part of the success of both of these endeavors. Bryan and I will continue to be strong supporters of The Land Conservancy, and my work in Santa Margarita will continue. As much as I've enjoyed service on the Board, I love exploring the oak woodlands with kids and teaching science even more. That's where I hope to spend more time in 2012. I'm grateful for the wonderful opportunities and relationships that have brought me to this point.



Students join **Beverly Gingg** in exploring science concepts from their outdoor classroom.

Photo courtesy of SMCF



Photo by Curt Bentzinger

Beverly Gingg was designated as an Honorary Trustee in January 2012 for her decade of outstanding service to LCSLO. Her passion for connecting people, especially children, with the magic of local lands helped establish the **Strength In Numbers Fund**.

This special fund aims to increase public support for conservation through education, outreach and volunteerism. You can designate a donation to this program area or other specific programs by visiting LCSLO.org or calling 544-9096.

*Thank you, Beverly, for your exceptional dedication to
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.*

Local People, Local Land



Photo by Wende David

Doug Britton (above) and PG&E employees (below) **Nathaniel Fugmann, Brian Engleton, Sarah Risley, and Natalie Schaefer** wrap up the FishAmerica project during our final volunteer planting days.



Photo by Andrew Bui



Photo by Andrew Bui

Zack Meyer (left) and **Sophie Wilcox** (above) get their hands dirty planting natives at Lower SLO Creek.



Photo by Wende David

LCSLO Staff, Board, family and friends (right) share great food and gratitude during our holiday party at the Neon Carrot.



Photo by Eric Martin



Photo by John DiNunzio

Bob Hill engages a group for an interpretive walk at **Elfin Forest** in Los Osos (above). Volunteer docent hike leaders, **Mary Sampson** and **Rob DeGraff** (below, far right) lead a group around **Blake Lake Ecological Area**.



Photo by Rob DeGraff



Photo by Dennis Eamon Young Photography

Mark Jordan (above, left) from *Utility Telephone* was the honorary light flipper during the Octagon Barn Holiday Lighting.



Photo by Dennis Eamon Young Photography

Bob Hill, (left) and Board Trustee, **BK Richard** (right) share the recent accomplishments of the Octagon Barn project with **Supervisor Adam Hill** (center) during the Lighting Ceremony.

2012 Events Calendar



547 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Lisa Wise, President
Herb Kandel, Vice President
Valerie Endres, Treasurer
Pete Jenny
Jeff Jorgensen
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 Conservation Project Associate:
Stacey Smith
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 Coordinator: **Teresa Tibstra**
 Restoration Specialists:
**Jack Matthias, Sandra
 Quintana, Aaron Echols,
 Daniel Krist, Sergio Valle**
Landlines Editors:
**Wende David &
 Teresa Tibstra**

*Santa Margarita
 Community Forestry*
 Contact **Beverly Gingg** at
bgingg@smcf.org

January
 -Annual Conservation Reception

February
 -Love the Land Slideshow

March
 -Wildflower Dunes Hike

April
 -Learning Among the Oaks Trail
 Hike led by Oak Ambassadors
 -Earth Day Food & Wine Festival

May
 -Mother's Day Hike
 -Volunteer Restoration Day
 -Nick Ranch Tour
 - Paso Festival of the Arts

June
 -Father's Day Hike
 -Bob Jones Trail Scavenger
 Hunt
 -Membership Campaign Kick-off

July
 -Octagon Barn Open House
 - Stewardship Tour

August
 -Alamo Creek Ranch
 -Birding Adventure

September
 -Annual Creek Day Clean-up
 -Volunteer Restoration Day
 -Terra Firma Society Brunch

October
 -Make a Difference Day
 -Volunteer Restoration Day
 -Restoration Tour at Lower SLO
 Creek

November
 -Black Lake Ecological Area
 Hike
 -Conservation Expedition

December
 -Octagon Barn Holiday Lighting
 -Hidden Springs Christmas Tree
 Farm Tour

Please note that events are subject to change. This is not an inclusive list. For specific dates and further details, please visit our Events Calendar at www.LCSLO.org for the most updated info.

Special Acknowledgments

Thank You

- **Dan Levi** for the generous donation of a large plotter.
- **Bike Coalition** for the donation of an around-town cruiser bike.
- **Beverly Hensel** for the generous donation of a large shed.
- **Mary Sampson** and **Rob DeGraff** for our year-end appeal photo shoot.
- **Silver Streaks** for stuffing our year-end appeal cards.
- Special Events & Fun Committee Members **Kathy Cohon, Carol Courcy,** and **Peggy Whitson** for the yummy treats at the Octagon Barn Holiday Lighting.
- **Melissa Sparks**, Former Restoration Project Associate, for all your enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work. Best of luck to you!

2012 Membership Campaign Drive

If you're membership has expired, plan to renew in June 2012. We will solicit everyone for membership at the same time this spring as part of a county-wide campaign drive. We welcome your help encouraging new members to join, so stay tuned!

Wish List

- Folding card table
- Desktop computer (2008 or newer PC, 250g hard drive 1 g RAM)
- Steel vehicle loading ramps

*Donated goods are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated!
 Call 544-9096 to discuss your donation. Thank you.*



LANDLINES is printed on recycled paper. Sign up for our eco-friendly on-line newsletter and preview all the same great photos & stories in full color!

Shape the Future of San Luis Obispo County

The Land Conservancy's **Annual Members** are critical to our conservation mission and make it possible to be successful protecting and restoring local lands for the benefit of people and wildlife.

In addition to funding, our annual donors provide a very direct connection with the community we serve.

Membership benefits:

- **Free guided interpretive hikes** led by professionals to unique private lands
- **Special guest** at our Annual Conservation Reception
- **Social networking** with conservation professionals and community members
- **Invitations** to exclusive members-only events & property tours
- **Monthly updates** about special events, community projects and volunteer opportunities
- **Personalized "thank-you" letters** for each and every donation
- **Satisfaction** for contributing to active and permanent local land protection

Join Today or Watch Out for our 2012 Membership Campaign in June!

You can make a recurring monthly donation or sign up for automatic renewals online at www.LCSLO.org. Click the Donate button. Or contact Teresa or Wende at 544-9096 to discuss your membership by phone.

You can also help by signing up a friend, neighbor or co-worker as a new member. The more community support we have for our mission, the more successful we'll be.

