

The Land Conservancy OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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Volunteers Go Nuts in Nipomo 20,000 Acorns Collected for Future Restoration Planting

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County and the Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos received help this past Saturday from 50 volunteers who collected 20,000 acorns from native oak trees in Nipomo.

Of the nearly 100 pounds of total acorns collected, about 30% of the acorns were deemed inadequate for planting due to pest holes. Approximately 14,000 viable acorns were collected and prepped for storage. The volunteers collected the acorns by hand, then prepared the nuts for storage by soaking them in water to separate out the pest-ridden floaters. Once separated, the keeper acorns were dried and bagged for storage in a refrigerator over the winter. Cold storage not only prevents rot and disease, but it also signals natural conditions the acorn would undergo if left outside. This will encourage the acorns to sprout when planted during next spring's warmer weather.



“We had a very successful acorn gathering event, and we had fun experimenting with some interesting teamwork acorn drying techniques,” said Herb Kandel, Project Manager for the Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos and Board Trustee of the Land Conservancy, referring to a volunteer group that repeatedly launched wet acorns in the air and caught them on a tarp in an effort to remove excess water from the nuts (see photo left).

The acorns collected by the community volunteers will be used for future plantings at a restoration site in Nipomo near the historic Dana Adobe. Research and field-testing by Land Conservancy restoration staff has shown that oak plantings from native acorns have a higher success rate than planting pre-sprouted seedlings or large container stock.

The volunteer acorn collection event was held in conjunction with United Way Make a Difference Day. Coordinated by Cal Poly Community Center, nearly 40 student volunteers from Sigma Kappa Sorority and the American Marketing Association pitched in to “make a difference”. Additional community volunteers from Nipomo High School and Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos also supported the event.



The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore local lands for the benefit of people and wildlife. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 10,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.

The Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos (DANA) is a nonprofit group dedicated to promoting understanding and enhancing knowledge of the multiculturally rich Rancho Era, via the restoration of the historic Dana Adobe and the preservation and development of a 129 acre Rancho Nipomo, a living historic park. Visit <http://danaadobe.org> for more information.

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