



WONDERS

Placer Land Trust Newsletter

Volume X, Number 2

August 2011

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 3

Free docent-led TOUR at Harvego Bear River Preserve

Thursday, September 8

VOLUNTEER HAPPY HOUR at the PLT office to recognize volunteers and preview upcoming opportunities

Saturday, September 17

GREAT SIERRA RIVER CLEAN-UP
Join PLT at one of two spots on the North Fork American River
(see page 6)

Saturday, October 1

Free docent-led TOUR at Harvego Bear River Preserve

Saturday, November 5 PLACER CONSERVATOR

Dinner & Award Celebration
honoring an individual who has enriched the quality of life in Placer County through resource conservation

Contact us at (530) 887-9222 for details about these Placer Land Trust events.

Stream Restoration Funds Flow

by Jeff Darlington

Earlier this month, Placer Land Trust was pleased to receive word that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will award us with \$500,000 for stream and wetland restoration!

The restoration project will take place on PLT's 469-acre Swainsons Grassland Preserve in Lincoln, which contains diverse and intact vernal pool grassland and seasonal wetland habitat.

Prior to PLT acquiring the Preserve in 2005, a 15-acre section of the Preserve had been leveled and "checked" for irrigated pasture. This area had been heavily overgrazed, which caused degradation of the shallow creek that runs through the center of that parcel (a tributary to Coon Creek).

However, with receipt of the mitigation funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PLT will be able to restore this area's natural function.

The funding will restore 1,800 linear feet of riparian habitat, re-establish five acres of seasonal wetlands, and reseed/replant roughly 12 acres of grasslands.

PLT Land Manager **Justin Wages** will be working with Westervelt Ecological Services and other partners and volunteers to construct, maintain and monitor the restoration project.

Plantings will include several willow species, cottonwood, valley oak (from acorns procured from trees onsite) and native grasses. The creek will be fenced off to eliminate degradation caused by livestock. As a project enhancement, four Western burrowing owl artificial nesting systems will be installed in the adjacent grassland area.

The total acreage restored and protected will be 17 acres, with direct benefits to the property, habitat, water quality, and downstream water use.



Swainsons Grassland Preserve north of Lincoln contains a heavily impacted wetland and creek area that will be restored by PLT using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mitigation funding.

In This Issue ...

Protecting our State Insect
Blue & Green Anniversary Ball
Habitat Enhancement Projects
Great Sierra River Cleanup
Harvego Bear River Preserve Tours
Photo Contest Entries Needed!

From the Board Room

Bidding the Board a Fond Farewell

by Patrica Callan-McKinney

While I was working, I wasn't able to participate actively in a conservation organization, but I felt I was doing my part by sending a check and educating myself. My favorite organization was The Nature Conservancy. It made sense to me that in order to save any animal or plant, you had to permanently preserve habitat. I vowed that when I retired, I would go off to the jungle, sit in a tree and count birds and then get involved in something local.

Well, I retired and went off to Baja to count turtles (close), and wha-da-ya-know! There was an article in the paper that Placer Land Trust was looking for volunteers and Board members.

It made sense to me that in order to save any animal or plant, you had to permanently preserve habitat.

I joined Placer Land Trust & Nature Center in February 1997 as a Board member, and I found that all the energy and resources went to the Nature Center and nothing was happening in the land trust part. Somehow I became President. My interest was in promoting the land trust, so off I'd go to farmers' markets and fairs with my card table, a chair, brochures and a hand made sign and most likely raffle tickets.

I discovered no one knew what a land trust was, and I spent a lot of time explaining to some pretty hostile people that a land trust is not a bank and doesn't confiscate land. I took over editing the newsletter and kept track of members. During this time the Trust was able to raise some money, and I wrote our first conservation easement.

The major turning point for the Trust came from two generous donations and a grant which allowed us to



hire an Executive Director, and - with the help of a consultant - split the organization into two separate nonprofits. The Nature Center has continued to educate children throughout the area.

In the time around 2000-2003, my husband was ill and I was caring for my 97-year old mother, so I had to back off and turned the presidency over to **Bob Gilliom**.

It wasn't long before I agreed to be Treasurer when no one else would do it. This was literally a kitchen table operation. Money in - money out, and there wasn't much of it. I kept careful track of the few dedicated funds (God bless QuickBooks). I did the banking and paid the bills. Since I am a penny-pinching, need-to-know-where-every-penny-is kind of person, I enjoyed this job. As the Trust grew, and the books became more detailed and complicated, it was necessary to comply with rigorous general accounting standards. Ask Assistant Director **Jessica Pierce** about the hours we spent categorizing and numbering the accounts. Now, of course, the Trust has a CPA who keeps the books. I retired as Treasurer at the end of 2010.

(continued on page 6)



Natural Wonders Forever

PLACER LAND TRUST

11661 Blocker Drive, Suite 110
Auburn, CA 95603
(530) 887-9222
info@placerlandtrust.org
www.placerlandtrust.org



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fred Yeager, President
Rich Ferreira
Robert J. Gilliom
Jim Haagen-Smit
Gregg McKenzie
Thomas McMahan
Skip Outman
Mehrey Vaghti
Larry Welch

STAFF

Jeff Darlington, Executive Director
Jessica Pierce, Assistant Director
Jeff Ward, Stewardship Manager
Justin Wages, Land Manager
Karrie Thomas, Community Relations Mgr
Janet Voris, Project Manager

MISSION

Placer Land Trust is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to working with willing landowners and conservation partners to permanently preserve natural and agricultural land in Placer County for future generations.

WONDERS is the seasonal paper newsletter of Placer Land Trust. Sign up at www.placerlandtrust.org for our monthly e-newsletter to save paper! All material and photos are property of Placer Land Trust unless otherwise noted.

Vol. X, No. 2, August 2011

State Insect Shows its "face" at Shutamul

by Erin Tarr

In 1929, California chose the California dogface butterfly (*Zerene eurydice*) as the official state insect. This butterfly has a range from San Diego County to Sonoma County and is usually found in mountain and foothill locations. Its host plant is false indigo (*Amorpha californica*), which adults use as a nectar source and a place to lay eggs and caterpillars use as a food source.



California State Insect: dogface butterfly at Shutamul Bear River Preserve

Tipped off by a recorded sighting of the plant catalogued by the California Native Plant Society, local naturalist/birdwatcher and practicing amateur lepidopterist **Deren Ross** found false indigo at Placer Land Trust's Shutamul Bear River Preserve in 2008.



Deren Ross

Ross visited Shutamul annually for the next two years documenting many dogface butterflies. He later learned from Professor **Art Shapiro** at UC Davis that the life history was not well understood especially for over-wintering adults. Ross seized this opportunity

(continued on page 5)

Placer Partners

Support the businesses that
protect Natural Wonders Forever



- | | |
|---|--|
| Adams & Hayes Law | Nevada Irrigation District |
| Allen Communications | Perfect Parties by Mo |
| Andregg Geomatics | Placer Community Foundation |
| Armrod Charitable Foundation | Placer County |
| Aronowitz & Skidmore Law | Placer County Water Agency |
| Auburn Creekside, LLC | Placer Vineyards
Development Group |
| Auburn Printers &
Integrated Marketing | Pride Industries |
| Blast Advanced Media | Rocklin Teachers Professional
Association |
| Burdick & Co. | Robinson, Lyon, & Fulton |
| California Wildlife Foundation | Sierra Business Council |
| Capital Public Radio | Sierra Foothills Audubon Society |
| Dutch Flat Books | Teichert |
| ECORP | The Firehouse Restaurant |
| Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust | The Rustic Table |
| Falik Family Fund | Trailscape, Inc |
| Harry & Karen Wyeth
Charitable Fund | Trust for Public Land |
| Harvego Family Foundation | Union Pacific Foundation |
| Harvego Real Estate, LLC | Wes Davis Photography |
| Kenyon Yeates LLP | Westervelt Ecological Services |
| Kindred Spirits Fawn Rescue | Wildlife Conservation Board |

Become a Placer Partner

Help protect the quality of life that makes Placer County a fabulous place to live, work, and play! For more information see www.placerlandtrust.org/partners, call **Karrie Thomas** at 530-887-9222 or email karrie@placerlandtrust.org.

20th Anniversary

Thank you
Sponsors

Blue & Green Ball

20th Anniversary Sponsor (\$10,000)

Auburn Printers



Champion of Natural Wonders (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust
Kindred Spirits Fawn Rescue
The Rustic Table
Trailscape



Local Leadership Circle (\$500 - \$999)

Andregg Geomatics
Aronowitz & Skidmore Law
ECORP
Perfect Parties by Mo
Placer Vineyards Development Group
Rocklin Teachers
Professional Association
Robinson, Lyon & Fulton
Wes Davis Photography

Placer Partners (\$250 - \$499)

Adams & Hayes Law
Foothill Farmers' Market Association
The Foothills Wine Club
The Handyman Co.
Huber Property Management
Lifecycle Celebrations
Placer County Farm Bureau
Placer County Water Agency
PlacerGROWN
Placer Nature Center
Leslie Warren

Placer County Steward (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

PRIDE Industries, Inc.



Friend of the Blue & Green Ball (\$150 - \$249)

Mary Bardellini & Associates
Cafe Zorro
Casque Wines
Catta Verdera
Diane Cornwall
Denio's Roseville Farmers Market
Flying Mule Farms
John Krogsrud
Gary Liss & Associates
Hoppy Brewing Company
Lone Buffalo Vineyard
The Nelsen Law Firm
Skip Outman
Performance, Inc
Rancho Roble Vineyards
R.E.I.
Roper's Jewelers
Snowy Peaks Tree & Berry Farm
Sudwerk Brewery
Take Note Troupe

Supporter (\$50 - \$149)

Depoe Bay Coffee Co
Design 979
Patty Dong
Foothill Farmers' Market Association
Holistic Health and Bodyworks Center
Les Schwab Tire Center
Magnussen's Auburn Toyota
Meadow Vista Flower & Berry Farm
The Natural Trading Company
Pescatore Wines
Pilz Produce At Hillcrest
Keith Smith
Snow's Citrus Court
Uptown Signs
Wise Villa Winery
Larry & Linda Welch
Whole Foods
Wild Bird Station
Wildflower

Revelers at the Blue & Green Ball



Stewardship Report

by Jeff Ward

Habitat Enhancement & More

Placer Land Trust continues to work hard to enhance the properties we've protected, and we anticipate being very busy this fall with numerous projects, ranging from native plant and habitat restoration to trail building.

In addition to the riparian restoration project at Swainsons Grassland Preserve (see page 1), there are three major enhancement projects on tap for this fall.

Habitat restoration will take place on Doty Ravine Preserve in Lincoln. Restoration efforts will include removing invasive plants and planting native trees, shrubs and flowers. We will have two Eagle Scouts candidates working on the project as well as youth from the Sierra Native Alliance. The outcome will be enhancements to wetland, riparian, and grassland habitat on approximately 92 acres of the Preserve.

Last year PLT completed an initial phase of our Canyon View Preserve Restoration Project, utilizing funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. We were able to complete streambed enhancement and stabilization in the lower section of Sierra Canyon Creek to reduce erosion and sedimentation in the creek and in the North Fork American River. We also completed two shaded fuel breaks on the Preserve to reduce fire hazard.

This fall, we plan to begin construction of the Phase 2 of the Canyon View Riparian Habitat and Trail Project funded by the California Resources Agency through the Proposition 84 River Parkways funding. This will include construction of a 1.5-mile interpretive trail on the Preserve that will showcase the restoration project and provide education about the American River watershed. We'll also work with volunteers to plant native trees, shrubs, and flowering plants along the new trail in an effort to re-establish food sources and

host plants for native pollinators (like butterflies) and numerous bird species. We're also in the process of planning and designing additional stream stabilization and enhancement in the upper reach of Sierra Canyon Creek, with construction to begin in spring 2012.

PLT is also ramping up efforts to provide public access on some of our Preserves. For example, we're building a small neighborhood trail through a section of the Stagecoach Preserve in Auburn this fall. We'll work with volunteers to clear and construct a trail corridor through a section of the Preserve that runs from Foresthill Avenue to Russell Road.

PLT will be seeking volunteers to help with many of these enhancement projects, including the pollinator trail plantings, invasive plant management and trail building. If you are interested in volunteering with Placer Land Trust, please contact us at (530) 887-9222.

Dogface at Shutamul

(continued from page 3)

to conduct a scientific study documenting the dogface life-cycle.

Ross has visited Shutamul weekly this summer with PLT Stewardship Assistant **Erin Tarr** to conduct male/female butterfly counts and observe behavior patterns. This exciting study has recorded many facets of the dogface lifecycle; they've observed eggs being laid on the false indigo ... and now the caterpillars are busy munching away at the plant.

Ross plans to continue collecting data at Shutamul in the months and years to come adding to the scientific community's understanding of the state insect.

Callan-McKinney Bids Farewell

(continued from page 2)

I chaired three fund-raising events. That was the most fun for me. I love parties, and I met so many incredible people at Placer Land Trust events – especially among the agricultural community.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be among those who have served on this Board. From the beginning, this has been a hands-on, very involved group.

When I began, the Trust owned 26 acres on the American River and had about \$6,000 in the bank. Today, Placer

Land Trust has protected 7,171 acres and has millions in stewardship endowments.

Naturally the work has shifted from the volunteer Board to a very committed, competent, young, paid staff. I am so proud of them. Placer Land Trust is in good hands.

These past 14 years have been a very special time in my life, and I am satisfied that I have contributed to the success of Placer Land Trust.

My passion for land preservation is still strong, but it's time for me to move on and to get my "hands on" a new endeavor.

When you invest in Placer Land Trust you support yourself, your family, and your community. Forever.



Natural Wonders Forever



Clean Air & Water
Trails & Recreation
Agriculture & Tourism
Wilderness & Wildlife

Harvego Bear River Preserve Tours

Join us for docent-led tours on Harvego Bear River Preserve. Tours are continuing on the first Saturday of every month through October.

To RSVP contact **Becki Hoehn** at (530) 887-9222 or RSVP online: www.placerlandtrust.org.



Great Sierra River Cleanup

PLT Hosting Two Locations on Sept. 17th

Join PLT to clean up two streams in the American River watershed as part of the third annual Great Sierra River Cleanup, September 17!

During the first two years of the Great Sierra River Cleanup more than 7,500 volunteers have joined together to remove over 270 tons of trash and recyclables from Sierra streams that supply the State of California with 65 percent of its water.

This effort, led by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, promotes good stew-

ardship on all of our waterways, from the source to the sea.

For more details, contact PLT Outreach Assistant **Becki Hoehn**.



Become a Member or Renew your Placer Land Trust Membership today
Visit www.placerlandtrust.org to become a member & learn about other ways you can get involved.

11661 Blocker Drive, Suite 110
Auburn, CA 95603
530-887-9222



Thank You Placer Land Trust Supporters



Donations made from April-July 2011

Grants

Union Pacific
Foundation
\$7,500



Liisa Stark (center) presents PLT with a grant check from Union Pacific Foundation.

Millennium Club (\$1,000+)

Norma Brink
Tom McMahan
Dennis & Nancy Meyer
Ron & Kathy Meyer
Trust for Public Land
Harry & Karen Wyeth

Placer Protectors (\$500-\$999)

Paul & Diane Aronowitz
Cathy & Jim Haagen-Smit
Janie Naffz
Nevada Irrigation District
Theresa Serafini
Christine Turner
Fred & Denise Yeager

Land Stewards (\$250-\$499)

Eleanor Button
Patricia Callan-McKinney
Howard Clunn
Karl Mertz, Jr.
Russell & Kimberly Nash
Mark Perry
Recology Auburn Placer
Richard & Louise Wiesner

Century Club (\$100-\$249)

Auburn Ravine Ranch, Inc.
Jim & Joyce Bachman
Lisa Bloom
Blue Goose Produce

Century Club (continued)

James & Cyndi Brinkhurst
Kim Brown
Burns Ecosystem Solutions
California Wildlife Fdn
Richard & Pamela Cushman
Patty & Dennis Dong
James Durfee
Kathleen & Perry Edwards
Kim Erickson
Gary Estes
Margot & Jeffrey Fulmer
Susan Hanks
Sandy Harris
Valerie Harrison
Virginia Dains & Bob Holland
Jim & Pat Holmes
Mary Hynes
Tom Jasper
Joan Jernegan
Karen & Gerald Johnson
KCM
John & Marlene Knox
Labadie Farm
Frank Laurich
Richard Laursen
David & Denise Long
Loomis Basin Veterinary
Clinic
Patricia & Don Malberg
Gregg McKenzie
Karl Mertz Sr.
Randy Millard
Gerald & Gail Mohlenbrok
Linda Mottet & Dwight
Mukuno

Century Club (continued)

NeonSign.com
Paul & Barbara Ogden
George Palma
Donald & Virginia Parker
Jack Remington
Kirsten Reynolds
Deren Ross
Shandon Schmeiske
Michael Shimizu
Sierra Cascade Land Trust
Council
Skover & Sons Construction
Keith & Mary Sparks
Edmund Sullivan
Janet & Mark Thew
James Tilton
Firouz Vaghti
Ed Walker
Phil & Kathy Weber
Ken & Jenness Willmarth
R. Mike Wilson
Wilson, Wilson & Taylor

Friends (\$50-\$99)
David & Elaine Applebaum
Barbara Baumgarner
George Beland
Britton Brown
Cyndi & John Darlington
Eisley Nursery Inc.
Randolph Elder
Robert & Eileen Ferber
James & Elizabeth Fuller
Rowland Gaal
Lyndell Grey

Does your company have a Community Giving Campaign?

Double your donations to Placer Land Trust by having your employer match your contribution. Contact your company's HR Dept. to learn how to participate, or give us a call: (530) 887-9222. Placer Land Trust is a member of EarthShare of California.



Participating Companies

Kaiser Permanente
Hewlett-Packard
National Semiconductor
PG&E Corporation

In-Kind Sponsors

Anderson's Sierra Pipe
Auburn Printers &
Integrated Marketing
Otow Orchards
Mountain Mike's Pizza
Confluence Kitchen
Foothill Organic Growers
Starbucks Coffee
The Pink Box
Rocknasium Climbing Gym
Foothill Organic Growers

Other (less than \$50)

Jack Barbash
Dennis Bowcut
Jaynie Caraway
Suzanne Domeny Or
Anne Evans
Barbara Fairchild
Keri Harvey
Nathan & Cara Jones
Charlene Kelty
Theresa Lutz
Eleanor McCalla
Laurie Morse
Richard Peterson
John & Ann Ranlett
Ernest Riley
Floyd & Shirley Sampson
Joan Sexton
Laurie Sweeney
Sheila Toner
Mehrey Vaghti & Thomas Toy
Waste Connections Inc.
Edward & Barbara Weiss
Wendy White
Robin Fujii & Timothy
Woodall
Anita & Bill Yoder

Thank
You!

CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

2011 Natural Wonders Forever Photo Contest

Submit images taken in Placer County that highlight the unique qualities of this region. Photos must be submitted digitally, and will be judged in the following categories:

- ✓ People in Nature,
- ✓ Placer County Wildlife, and
- ✓ Scenic Placer County

(All plants and animals represented in photos should be native species).

- ✓ **Submission: October 7, 2011.**
- ✓ Winning photographs announced at the Placer Conservator event on November 5, 2011.
- ✓ All photos considered for new Placer Land Trust wall calendar.

Photo submissions are property of Placer Land Trust; photo credit will be given for every reproduction. For more information on submission guidelines and to print accompanying forms, please visit our website: www.placerlandtrust.org/photo_contest.aspx or contact Outreach Assistant **Becki Hoehn** at (530) 887-9222.



*Placer Land Trust is turning 20 this year!
Please support us as we move into our third decade!*

Print newsletter sponsored by:



BUILDING AMERICA



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Auburn, CA 95603
11661 Blocker Drive, Suite 110
PLACER LAND TRUST

Natural Wonders Forever

