

## EVENTS

### Butterfly Hike at Black Lake Ecological Preserve

Join us for a light hike at Black Lake and learn about the monarch butterfly from Richard Welch.

Saturday, Feb. 12 @ 9AM

**This is a members-only event.** Space is limited. RSVP to Teresa TERESAT@LCSLO.org to reserve your spot and get directions!

### Conservation As Art

Bob Hill, Executive Director, will discuss The Land Conservancy's role in conserving these special places in relation to the Gems of the Central Coast exhibition.

Sun, Feb. 20 @ 3PM

San Luis Obispo Museum of Art  
1010 Broad St., SLO

### Gems of the Central Coast: A California Art Club Exhibition & Reception

The Art After Dark reception will feature stunning paintings that were captured *en plein air* of various landscapes on LCSLO lands. A portion of the proceeds will benefit LCSLO.

#### RECEPTION:

Fri, March 4 @ 6-9PM

#### EXHIBITION:

February 18 thru March 27

San Luis Obispo Museum of Art  
1010 Broad St., SLO

### VOLUNTEER DAYS!

Cape ivy removal at Lower SLO Creek. All ages welcome.

Please e-mail Teresa

TERESAT@LCSLO.org to get info or to reserve your spot!

Sat, February 12 @ 9AM-12PM

Sat, March 12 @ 9AM-12PM

### California Native Plant Week

Newly enacted, this measure proclaims the 3rd week of April as California Native Plant Week to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

April 17-23, 2011

## Hidden Gem of the Dunes

As the first rains of the season fall on the Central Coast, a flush of new life can be found underfoot, including the diminutive **Nipomo lupine** (*Lupinus nipomensis*).

Nipomo lupine is a small, low-growing, annual wildflower species restricted to the Nipomo mesa. In 2000, after seeing declines in Nipomo lupine populations arising from habitat conversion, competition by non-native, invasive African veldt grass (*Ehrharta calycina*), and predation by pocket gophers, the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) officially listed Nipomo lupine as an **endangered species**.

In 2004, with funding through the **Dunes Collaborative**, The Land Conservancy began conducting an annual population census to monitor this imperiled species. As with any annual plant, population size and success is tied directly to climatic conditions, so wide-ranging variation is common and expected.

Since starting the census, LCSLO staff has watched this species decline to a low of 139 individuals in 2008. However, 2009 and 2010 census results are showing a steady recovery rising from 139 to 531 in 2009 and 1135 individuals in 2010. Determining the factors contributing to this rebound is difficult; however, increased invasive species control by LCSLO in Nipomo lupine areas coupled with the consistent quality rain events of 2010 no doubt play a critical role.



*Nipomo lupine in flower with lady beetle for scale.*

Photos by Daniel Bohlman



*Nipomo lupine seedling with pen for scale.*

***“With fall and early winter offering consistent quality rain events, the 2010-2011 growing season is shaping up to be a good one for Nipomo lupine.” -Daniel Bohlman, Director of Conservation Science***

The Land Conservancy was once again awarded grant money through the Dunes Collaborative to continue census work this year and hopes to leverage these funds to bring more research dollars to help understand and protect this unique gem of the Nipomo mesa.

***For an opportunity to view Nipomo lupine, join The Land Conservancy's annual wildflower hike in spring. Check our events calendar on our website or Facebook for the most updated information. To find out how you can help support our local land restoration and stewardship projects, contact us at LC@LCSLO.org or call our office at (805) 544-9096.***



# Gone With Arundo

Another season of arundo (*Arundo donax*) removal has been completed in San Luis Obispo Creek, taking us one step closer to the ocean and complete eradication of this invasive species. Also known as giant reed, arundo looks a lot like bamboo and is known for causing flooding, exacerbating erosion, outcompeting native plants, and depriving animals of food and shelter in our local streams. Since 2002, The Land Conservancy has worked to remove arundo throughout our watershed and we've made it down to San Luis Bay Drive, south of San Luis Obispo. This is significant because we have passed the thickest stretch *and* arundo is known to invade in a downstream direction. In other words,

the closer we get to Avila Beach, the better! We carefully track our work and the status of each treated stand using GPS points integrated into sophisticated GIS maps. This allows us to make sure we have treated all the plants systematically so that none are missed and all are revisited for follow-up treatments.

*"I am truly humbled by the community support for this project, specifically the landowners that have given us access to their land, and the many funders that have brought forward resources that make the project possible. We are getting so close to reaching our goal and we can't wait to cut down that last stand of arundo."*—Kaila Dettman, Deputy Director

This season our work would not have been possible without assistance from the Avila Beach Trustee Council, the California Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, the San Luis Obispo County Ag. Commissioner and Weed Management Area group, Caltrans, the Santa Lucia Flyfishers Club, the California Conservation Corps, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), and numerous volunteers and private landowners.

Photos by Judith Hildinger



*Working diligently alongside our restoration crew, members from the California Conservation Corps offer extra hands to remove massive amounts of arundo.*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- If you see arundo sprouts (less than 6 feet tall and fewer than 8 individual canes) on your property, please remove them immediately by digging them out, being sure to get all the roots. Remember that the canes can stay viable, or resprout vegetatively, for up to 60 days following removal.
- If you find mature arundo stands in your yard and want to remove them, please contact us and we can provide you with tips on the most effective way to kill the plant.
- If you find a mature arundo stand on your property in or near a stream channel, please give us a call. We will likely be able to come and remove it for you. Please remember that significant removal of vegetation, native or not, may require a permit so please check with local agencies before moving forward with removal in a stream.
- If you see an arundo anywhere, please let us know!



*This is how vast and damaging arundo can be, as evident in the lower San Luis Obispo Creek area. Arundo can grow as high as 24 feet tall!*

# 1<sup>st</sup> Class Corporate Philanthropy in Action at the Barn

Corporate philanthropy is on the rise. There are many reasons why companies open their coffers for charitable giving. One reason we often hear over and over again is the phrase of “giving back to the community”. What does this really mean? In the case of several local companies, it means targeting dollars toward everything from trailheads to historic building renovation to local youth education, to make a difference here in San Luis Obispo County. Not only does their investment make the employees feel good about the company they work for, but it also lets community members see the giving spirit of that particular company.

Recently, The Land Conservancy’s Octagon Barn Center project has been the beneficiary of corporate philanthropy from several local companies.

In the fall of 2010, a fundraiser organized by **Promega Bioscience’s** Green Team and Community Action Team benefitted **LCSLO**. Their internal fundraiser raised \$1,200 for the Octagon Barn project and specifically toward the Bob Jones City-to-the Sea Trailhead. Promega employees hosted a company-wide luncheon and raised \$600 in proceeds. The company matched the donation with another \$600. Respecting the environment and preserving our natural surroundings are a part of Promega’s core values. Because their philosophy is similar to LCSLO’s, it was a natural fit for this partnership.

At the December Octagon Barn Holiday Lighting Ceremony, **PG&E** presented a generous check for of the Barn’s Milking Parlor. PG&E is funding \$10,000 of the proposed renovation of the Milking Parlor.

“PG&E is proud to support the Milking Parlor as a center of sustain-



PG&E’s **Patricia Wilmore** passes a \$10,000 check to LCSLO Board Trustee, **BK Richard**.



(l. to r.) Promega committee members **Amanda Barger, Dave Good, Laurent Bernad, and Jaime Dwight** along with **Bob Hill**, LCSLO Executive Director & **Kris Yetter**, General Manager of Promega.

ability and as a regional showcase.”

—**Patricia Wilmore, PG&E’s Local Area Manager of Government Relations.**

Most recently, **NRG Solar** awarded \$2,500 for environmental stewardship and education, specifically towards the Octagon Barn Center for sustainable renovations.

“NRG Solar provides safe, clean electricity from renewable solar power that benefits all Californians, and this renovation project demonstrates the same initiative on a local level by highlighting sustainable development. Being good corporate neighbors and making contributions to improve the local communities where our employees live is a big part of how our Company operates.”—**Tom Doyle, President of NRG Solar**

We are so grateful for all these funding opportunities. Our hope is that more great companies will take notice and realize the vision of the Octagon Barn Center and all of its endless possibilities as a community gathering place to promote local agriculture, recreation, history, and education.

*If you would like to learn more about the Octagon Barn Center project or are a company interested in becoming a sponsor or partner, we’d like to hear from you. You can check out [www.octagonbarn.org](http://www.octagonbarn.org) for more information and current news about the Barn’s progress.*



A project from NRG Solar.

Photo courtesy of NRG Solar

Photos by Teresa Tibstra

## Cape Ivy Chokes Steelhead

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County was recently awarded approximately \$43,000 in grant funding to the restore 1.5 miles of the **Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve**, to improve local fish habitat, especially for threatened steelhead.



*Cal Poly students get their hands dirty removing cape ivy from Lower SLO Creek!*

The Land Conservancy's Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve Habitat Enhancement Project involves extensive community outreach and volunteer participation. In one year, **500 volunteers** are expected to contribute **3,000 hours** of work removing invasive cape ivy and replanting new native vegetation.

Removing the invasive species, cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*), and re-vegetating the stream banks with native plant species improves habitat for the south-central California Coast steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) population in San Luis Obispo Creek.

***"This grant provides critical support for our volunteer program and serves as the catalyst for sustainable habitat restoration and stewardship of our Lower San Luis Obispo Creek Floodplain Preserve. We are very thankful for the opportunity to do this***

***valuable work ."*** -Kaila Dettman, *Deputy Director*

### **WE NEED YOU! PLEASE CALL ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.**

Those interested in working on the stream enhancement, both cape ivy removal and native plant revegetation, at the Lower San Luis Obispo Creek site, can sign up as a volunteer at [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org). We have volunteer days open to the public, or we can arrange a specific day for a large group (scout troop, sorority/fraternity, Service Day, work-related paid time off, etc.).

Any and all agencies, organizations, and individuals (kids welcome, too) can come and volunteer! Contact Teresa at (805) 544-9096 ext. 18 or e-mail [TERESAT@LCSLO.org](mailto:TERESAT@LCSLO.org) to get more information.

We have upcoming volunteer days on **Saturday, February 12** and **Saturday, March 12**. Call or e-mail to reserve your spot!

## Lending a Hand, Learning From Nature

The Land Conservancy has gained more hands on the ground with the cape ivy invasive species removal by partnering with the **Outside Now Academy**, a small, private school program for ages 12 to 19.

The types of activities that are of interest to the students and help guide the curriculum are topics such as sustainability practices, natural systems, eco-literacy, bird language, animal tracking, and edible, medicinal plants. Some of their accomplishments this past year include constructing solar and cob ovens, making a Newtonian telescope, growing, harvesting, and canning food, visiting local ecosystems, and many more nature-related learning activities.

The Land Conservancy is delighted to continue partnering with the Outside Now Academy on outdoor volunteer opportunities!



***Outside Now Academy students remove the invasive cape ivy from the floodplain.***

## Who's New on the Crew?

We have beefed up our Restoration Specialist Crew to keep up with the challenges of continuing restoration work. We are pleased to present a crew that has many different talents, backgrounds, and professional skills that will enhance the restoration program area.

**Amy Brown** graduated from UC Santa Cruz with an Environmental Studies degree. Since then, she has held a variety of jobs, including two years of Ameri



*Amy Brown, Restoration Specialist*

Corps in the Pacific Northwest as a restoration technician, snowboard instructor, naturalist instructor, and several positions with USGS and NPS as a biological science technician growing and planting natives and performing research plots. She has worked in Sequoia and Yosemite National Parks, Mesa Verde, and most recently, Mount Rainier National Park in Washington.

In her free time, Amy enjoys traveling, backpacking, hiking, Frisbee golf, cooking, eating good food, watching hockey, and hanging out with her cats.



*Rachel Hill, Restoration Specialist*

**Rachel Hill** recently completed her degree in Wildlife and Wildlands Conservation at Brigham Young University. She has enjoyed a variety of posi-

tions throughout Utah, including several seasons as a Biological technician and a year of archaeological field research. She is happy to be returning to her home state of California.

She plans to pursue a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture, with an emphasis in native plants and design.

**Tim Cole** has also returned to the Restoration Specialist staff. He likes us so much, he came back! We are excited to have them all as part of our team. Welcome!

**Dan Kobylenski** graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a BA in Environmental Studies. In 2010, he moved back to the Central Coast, this time living in beautiful San Luis Obispo.



*Dan Kobylenski, Restoration Specialist*

Prior to working with LCSLO, Dan was employed by California Land Management, managing the Point Buchon Trail in Montana de Oro State Park. Dan enjoys making summer backpacking trips in Lake Tahoe's Desolation Wilderness and hiking Half Dome every year.



*Max Mehlman, Restoration Specialist*

**Max Mehlman** was born and raised in Albany, New York. During his childhood, he and his family spent many summers canoe camping throughout the Adirondack and Catskill Mountain ranges.

Max moved to coastal New Hampshire where he attended the University of New Hampshire. Studying psychology and biology, he completed a wide range of research projects as an undergraduate. After graduating, Max worked at an island

marine laboratory in the Gulf of Maine, studying the courtship behaviors of bowerbirds in the Australian outback and examining the complex social structures of the cooperative breeding Acorn Woodpecker in the Carmel Valley.

Max is having a blast living in San Luis Obispo and enjoys the opportunity to explore all the wonderful habitats the County has to offer.

# What is 1% to You?

**F**ounded in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder and CEO of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, owner of Blue Ribbon Flies, 1% For the Planet (1%FTP) has made it to San Luis Obispo! The network is a growing global movement of over 1,400 member companies – small and large – in 38 countries, that commit to giving 1% of their sales back to the planet, via donations to nonprofit partners actively engaged in creating a healthier planet. With more than one new business joining the 1%FTP movement each day, 1%FTP has become recognized as the leading certification mark for businesses achieving the gold standard in corporate giving.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County was recently approved as a partner agency of 1%FTP network, which has donated over \$50 million to over 2,100 non-profits worldwide that support causes related to sustainability and environmental efforts. The Land Conservancy staff are very excited to be part of that 2,100 non-profit network.

*“The intent of 1% for the Planet is to help fund these diverse environmental organizations so that collectively they can be a more powerful force in solving the world’s problems,” -Yvon Chouinard, founder of 1%FTP.*

Local businesses in San Luis Obispo County have the exciting opportunity to become members of 1%FTP, just like Patagonia and Blue Ribbon Flies. This occasion for local businesses owners or farmers to provide an alternative pool of funding to nonprofits, who seek financial support, is one of local collaboration. The Land Conservancy hopes to receive funding from 1%FTP members so that they may continue working to set aside local lands for wildlife, recreation, ranching, and farming.

## Local Businesses Partnering with 1%FTP

California businesses currently donating 1% include Cliff Bar, Figi Water, Paramount Citrus, Quicksilver, Southern California Vacation Rentals, Volcom Inc., Vyayr Fitness, and well-known music revelation, Jack Johnson. Your local business can become a member of 1% today and become part of this global environmental network.



# A+ For Acorns!

Photos by Herb Kandel



*The Nipomo High School acorn team in action!*

**A**fter the crisp airs settle from the fall season, the Central Coast looks for rain to fill the sky in the winter months – but not this early December! On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010, a group of about 12 Nipomo High School students with their teacher, Donna Kandel, volunteered to collect acorns. What a great hands-on activity and a way to appreciate the outdoors!

Local neighbor, Jim Fenstermaker, hosted the Nipomo High students, and he thoroughly enjoyed have students help with the gathering work. Since it was late in the season, the team was able to pick the freshly

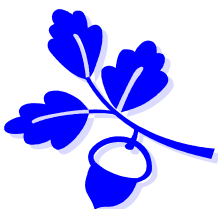


*Merilin Jimenez and Melissa Jimenez find labor saving techniques.*

fallen acorns, sift through them to pull out all of the bad acorns, and then spread them on tarps to let them dry.

The Nipomo High School volunteers who participated include: **Katie Lee, Lisa McGlothlin, Jenna MacCarley, Nydelle Zarate, Mike Sween, Merilin Jimenez, Melissa Jimenez, Yessica Santiago, Rebecca Flores, Eric Mendoza, Daniela Dahla, and Felix Rubner,** and Nipomo High School instructor, **Donna Kandel.**

Thank you Nipomo High School student volunteers for an outstanding job collecting the acorns!



## Easement Incentive Renewed

**C**onservation easements allow private landowners to permanently retire development rights to protect significant natural resources. The enhanced conservation easement tax incentive opened the door to voluntary, landowner-led conservation on millions of acres of important natural resources across the country including wildlife habitat, farms, and ranchlands.

On December 17, 2010, the President signed into law The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, which also renewed a federal income tax deduction as a conservation easement incentive that enables family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners to get a significant tax benefit for donating a conservation easement on their land. Landowners who protect their land with a conservation easement in 2010 or 2011 can now enjoy these benefits:

- Deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year (up from 30%);
- Deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income if the majority of that income came from farming, ranching, or forestry; and
- Continue to take deductions for as long as 16 years (previously 6 years).

Without the enhanced easement incentive, a farmer or rancher earning \$50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement worth \$1 million could take a total of no more than \$90,000 in tax deductions! Under the enhanced incentive, that landowner can take as much as \$800,000 in tax deductions – still less than the full value of their donation, but a significant increase.

**Donating a conservation easement requires careful planning and consideration. To learn more about the enhanced conservation easement incentive or questions about conservation easements, please call us at (805)544-9096.**

## IRA Charitable Rollover Reinstated

**T**he IRA Charitable Rollover was first enacted on August 17, 2006, as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and has been reinstated for 2011. Since the provision was first enacted, Americans have contributed millions of IRA dollars as contributions to nonprofits -- including land trusts like The Land Conservancy.

The IRA Charitable Rollover and other critical giving incentives have been reinstated through 2011 as part of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. **The provision allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to public charities without having to count the distributions as taxable income.**

- Taxpayers age 70½ and older are required to make annual distributions from their IRAs which are then included in the taxpayers' adjusted gross income (AGI) and subject to taxes. *The IRA Charitable Rollover permits those taxpayers to make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without counting them as part of their AGI and, consequently, without paying taxes on them.*
- A donor's total combined charitable IRA rollover contributions cannot exceed \$100,000 in any one year.
- Eligible Charities. Charitable contributions from an IRA must go directly to a public charity that is not a supporting organization. Contributions to donor-advised funds and private foundations, except in narrow circumstances, do not qualify for tax-free IRA rollover contributions.
- Eligible Retirement Accounts. *Distributions can only be made from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts or Roth IRAs.* Charitable donations from 403(b) plans, 401(k) plans, pension plans, and other retirement plans are ineligible for the tax-free treatment.
- Directly to the Charity. *Distributions must be made directly from the IRA trustee payable to the public charity.*
- No Gifts in Return. Donors cannot receive any goods or services in return for charitable IRA rollover contributions in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.

Written Receipt. In order to benefit from the tax-free treatment, donors must obtain written substantiation *of each IRA rollover contribution from each recipient charity.*

Please call us at (805) 544-9096 (or your IRA custodian) for more information if you would like to use this tax incentive to help  
The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County protect local lands.

## Volunteer Profile: Mike di Milo

What is the best thing that has happened to Mike di Milo since he started volunteering at The Land Conservancy? Meeting great people is what Mike appreciates. The worst thing he finds is that his time is even more limited. Mike began volunteering his services when he was invited by one of our Board members to help with educational and interpretive planning for the Octagon Barn, specifically the Milking Parlor. Ever since then, Mike serves on the **Agricultural Education Committee**. He has been surprised to learn of all the dedication and amount of time and effort that many volunteers contribute to LCSLO projects!

*“Volunteering offers a variety of opportunities for one to contribute to our community, making it a better place both environmentally and socially. In addition, through volunteering, one has the unique opportunity to learn from others who have expertise and skills in a diversity of professional fields. The result is that through volunteering, one gets as much or more than they give, without necessarily being aware of it at the time. Finally, through this process, a volunteer develops skills and experience that will help them in other endeavors, as well as having increased value as a volunteer with LCSLO.” -Mike di Milo.*



Mike combined his background in education and natural resources management to create **Science Discovery**, an education development company. Mike and his staff also lead field trips at local landfills, wastewater treatment facilities and recycling centers. You can learn more about Science Discovery at [mysciencediscovery.com](http://mysciencediscovery.com). Mike earned his BS from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and worked as a naturalist for several years after graduating.

When Mike isn't hard at work or volunteering, he likes to ride his motorcycle on back roads, take easy day hikes, attend concerts, work on his house, watch professional ice hockey, and play guitar.

## Volunteers Bring Us One Step Closer to Accreditation

As we began preparing for the national accreditation process for land trusts, our staff realized that we needed to adhere to new guidelines for our records. The Land Conservancy has a dedicated group of weekly office volunteers who have helped meet accreditation requirements and improve availability and access of land documents and files. These volunteers include **Laura Cornett, Ted Aclan, Joyce Witt, and Pam Cabak**. Overseeing this group of volunteers, Margo Clark, Conservation Projects Manager, had them re-organizing our land files according to the Land Trust Alliance Standards & Practices.

*“Our volunteers have saved us hundreds of hours of staff time in preparing us for accreditation. I've learned to appreciate the different skill sets of each individual. This type of project is time-consuming, and it had to be done. It was an eye-opener to realize the amount of work these volunteers accomplished. In doing so, I was also able to create a Standard Operating Procedure for future projects. This is an accomplishment that we should celebrate.” -Margo Clark, Conservation Projects Manager*

With their hard work, we are re-organizing our Stewardship and Land Projects binders and files. Originals are going into permanent offsite file storage with **DocuTeam**.

**Thank you** Laura, Ted, Joyce, and Pam for always coming into the office with enthusiasm and eagerness to lend a hand, whatever the project may be. We are forever grateful for your tremendous gift of time and talent!

*For more information on ways you can become an LCSLO volunteer, in the office or in the field, please e-mail us with your interest at [volunteer@LCSLO.org](mailto:volunteer@LCSLO.org) or go to our website [www.LCSLO.org/volunteer.html](http://www.LCSLO.org/volunteer.html), download the Volunteer Profile Form and send it in!*

# Winter News from SMCF

## Santa Margarita is the Gateway to the Carrizo Plain National Monument!

**T**he Land Conservancy, through Santa Margarita Community Forestry, is the local nonprofit partner required for official recognition of Santa Margarita as the Western Gateway for visitors to the Carrizo Plain National Monument. Our mission is to educate the public on the Carrizo's unique resources and opportunities by promoting Santa Margarita as a Gateway community.

Photo by Beverly Gingge



Guests enjoying the soup fare at the Carrizo Plain National Monument kick-off celebration. Images from the Carrizo Plains (below).



Gateway committee members, including **Supervisor Jim Patterson** and representatives from the community and partner organizations, held a special kick off event this past January at The Range. **Sue Andros, Robert Campbell, George Sullivan, and Ryan Cooper** were event co-chairs

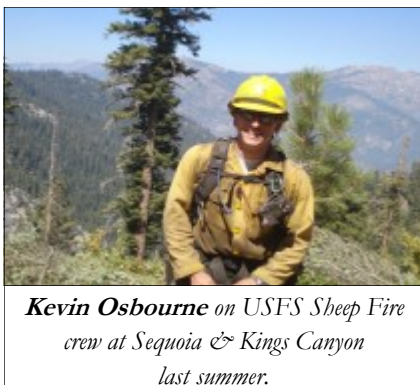
working with others on the committee who made this a successful evening and a promising year for Santa Margarita!



Photos by Valerie Endres

## Cal Poly – SMCF Forest Project Assistant Returns for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of Service

**Kevin Osborne**, a graduate student in Forestry at Cal Poly, began his service as SMCF Forest Project Assistant in September 2008. Before coming to Cal Poly, Kevin earned his undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from the University of Notre Dame. Growing up in Oak Forest, IL, a suburb of Chicago, Kevin always wanted to find a career that would take him to the western US and involve working outdoors. According to Kevin, *forestry fills both of those goals perfectly!*



Kevin Osborne on USFS Sheep Fire crew at Sequoia & Kings Canyon last summer.

Kevin returned this fall for his third year assisting with SMCF tree planting and care as well as Learning Among the Oaks activities after an exciting summer working for the US Forest Service. Working on a wildland fire crew that specialized in managing naturally ignited fires for forest and resource benefit, Kevin took fire behavior, weather, and smoke observations to determine the impact a fire has on a given area of the forest. **"I look**



Planting valley oak, Kevin with **Jena Tepe** (L) and **Vern Stewart** (not shown). Vern said he had a really great time planting with these kids. Vern has helped plant and care for a lot of trees in Santa Margarita over the years and just celebrated his 80th birthday. Happy 80th Vern!

Photo by Vern Stewart

**forward to sharing this and my many other experiences with the students and the community."**-Kevin Osborne

# Local People, Local Land

Photos by Judith Hildinger & Melissa Sparks



Celebrating our 2011 Annual Conservation Reception! Former Executive Directors, **Ray Belknap** pictured with **BK Richard** (l) and **Brian Stark** pictured with **Crystal Elwood** (mid). LCSLO guests enjoy the evening (r).



**El Camino Art Association** artists sell Octagon Barn shingles (l). **Mike Cook** and **Gary Felsman** with a friendly handshake. **San Lonie** folks, **Catherine Trujillo** and **Mignon Khargie**, with the Octagon Barn cut-out. **Mark Skinner** and **Daniel Bohlman** share some laughter (r).



**Wende David**, **Melissa Sparks**, & **Teresa Tibstra** know how to plan a party (l). Executive Director, **Bob Hill** thanking donors for all their support (mid). **Kaila Dettman** chats with **Claire Wineman** and another former LCSLO face, **Michael LeBrun** and wife **Susi LeBrun** (r).



Volunteers **Amanda Richardson-Fritch**, **Ivy Ku**, & **Kathy Cohon** in the kitchen (l). LCSLO restoration staff and friends, **Haylee Cornett**, **Dan Kobylenski**, **Amy Brown**, **Carlos Torres**, **Lauren Danner**, **Dana Chandler**, **Tim Cole**, & **Melodie Grubbs** (mid). Taking a break are Growing Grounds' **Simone Smith** & **Megan Hall** with **Judith Hildinger** (r).

## Year-End Appeal & LandLibs

Thank you to those of you who have already sent in your year-end appeal. We have received generous support and hope to continue doing so. We look forward to checking our mailbox daily! Also, please send in your LandLibs. We love to hear your stories!

## Special Acknowledgments

### Thank You

- **Arlynn and Ron Stark** for donating two ranch gates.
- **Bruce Smith** for fresh apples and the use of your orchard for our photo shoot.
- **Richard Granger** and **Brian Stark** for donating amplifiers for the Barn.
- **Silver Streaks** for envelope stuffing our year-end appeals. We love your enthusiasm!
- Thank you to our **anonymous donor** for the garden utility cart used at SMCF. They are excited to use it!
- **Shelley & Watson Gooch** for your donation of photo printing paper.
- **Cloud Star Corp.** for donating an awesome display to be used at the Octagon Barn Center. Thanks "Buddy"!
- **Poor Richard's Press** for their printing donation of the Octagon Barn cut-out.

### Special Thanks

#### 2011 Annual Conservation Reception Sponsors

- Utility Telephone
- Central Coast Brewing
- Turley Wine Cellars
- San Louie Magazine

### Congratulations

- It's a boy! Congrats to **Wende and James David** on the birth of their baby, **Jakob!**
- Congrats to raffle winners **Edna Juck** and **Shirley Hanrion** for each winning a one-of-a-kind hand-painted Octagon Barn shingle from artist **Joyce Pike!**

## Wish List

- **Metal dairy stanchion and milking equipment** (For historic display)
- **EZ-UP shade canopy**

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



547 Marsh St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Restoration Specialists: **Amy Brown, Tim Cole, Rachel Hill, Dan Kobylenski, & Max Mehlman**  
*Landlines* Editors: **Teresa Tibstra & Melissa Sparks**

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## Are You a Member?

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.

Annual membership categories:

- Student – \$10
- Sustaining – \$30
- Steward – \$50
- Patron – \$100
- Benefactor – \$250
- Guardian – \$500
- Visionary – \$1,000

Membership benefits:

- **Free guided interpretive hikes** led by professionals to unique private lands
- **Invitations** to exclusive members-only events
- **Social networking** with conservation professionals and community members
- **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

If you're not a member, join today!

You can make a recurring monthly donation or sign up for automatic renewals online at [www.LCSLO.org](http://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.

*Thank You for prioritizing local land conservation in San Luis Obispo County!*

