

EVENTS

“Volunteers Are the Cream of the ‘Community’ Crop” Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Please join us as we celebrate, acknowledge, and honor our volunteers with an ice cream social. Raffle prizes and a complimentary gift for all guests.

Location TBD

Thu., Sept 8 @ 5:30PM-7PM

Please RSVP to

TeresaT@LCSLO.org

or call for more info

Creek Day & Coastal Clean-Up 2011

We need your help! Join us along with hundreds of other volunteers for our annual creek clean-up. For more info www.creekday.org.

To sign up, e-mail

TeresaT@LCSLO.org

or call 544-9096 ext. 18

Sat., Sept 17 @ 9:00AM-12:00PM

Meets at Santa Rosa Park, SLO & various locations county-wide

Waterfest & Conservation Celebration

Bring your friends and family for a day of fun to celebrate an all inclusive conservation event showing the impact of how local action has far-reaching effects.

Sat., September 24 @ 10AM-2PM

Charles Paddock Zoo, Atascadero

VOLUNTEER DAYS!

Cape ivy removal at Lower SLO Creek. All ages welcome. Please e-mail volunteer@LCSLO.org to get info or to reserve your spot!

Sat, July 16 @ 9AM-12PM

Sat, Aug 20 @ 9AM-12PM

Sat, Sept 17 @ 9AM-12PM

Don't miss out!
For the most updated info on member hikes, volunteer days, or other events, visit www.LCSLO.org and click on the “Events Calendar” link.

Home on the Range Protected Forever

There's no place like home. In the case of **Nick Ranch**, the land has been home for six generations who have earned their livelihood in ranching since 1918. It's also home for all kinds of wildlife, including wild turkey, quail, deer, bobcat, mountain lion, bear, and even the occasional condor up above. Open valleys provide abundant pasture to the Nick's carefully selected herd of grass fed cattle.



Photo by Bob Hill

A scenic view of Nick Ranch, a working family ranch that includes six generations of ranchers.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLO) considers it a priority to work with folks like **Fred & Donna Nick** to help protect and conserve their family's home ranch, located east of Pozo. Supporting ranching and farming families is important for maintaining local food supplies and retaining the character of San Luis Obispo County.

“My family has enjoyed working with LCSLO on our recent conservation easement. The staff was readily available and always able to clarify items or answer questions quickly. As a child, I thought everybody had a backyard like ours. As an adult, I realize how my parents (and grandparents) must have struggled and sacrificed to keep our Ranch intact. Instead of selling off during hard times, they were saving to purchase adjacent property. With more growth forcing wildlife out of their habitat, we feel happy and proud knowing that because of this conservation easement, ‘all the little critters’ (as my Dad says) will always have a home here on the Nick Ranch.”

—Juanell Nick Hepburn, daughter of Fred and Donna Nick

This conservation project took an important step forward when the **California Wildlife Conservation Board** (WCB) awarded a \$2,370,000 grant at its June board meeting for us to purchase a conservation easement permanently protecting 1,337 acres at the Nick Ranch. Funding for the project was provided as part of the WCB's program to administer the Rangeland, Grazing Land, and Grassland Protection Act of 2002.

“I am especially proud of this partnership with the Nick Family and the WCB to protect a unique, local agricultural operation and family ranch. This signature project also protects important wildlife and oak woodland habitat, headwaters of the upper Salinas River, and is immediately adjacent to the Machesna Mountain Wilderness. We're honored by the trust that this partnership represents in our organization, and look forward to an enduring relationship of stewardship and care that builds upon this trust.”

—Bob Hill, Executive Director

We express our sincere appreciation to the California Wildlife Conservation Board, specifically **John Donnelly, Dave Means, Marilyn Cundiff, and Liz Yokoyama** for coordinating the funding efforts to accomplish this outstanding project. Many thanks to the Nick Family for their commitment to land conservation! The conservation easement is expected to close in August. *Read more about Nick Ranch on the next page.*

Savor the Flavor of Conservation

The family-owned and operated **Nick Ranch** produces USDA certified 100% organic grass fed beef. Their philosophy is that products from pastured animals are ideal for your health because similar to wild game, they contain the amounts and kinds of nutrients that your body “expects” to be fed. Switching to grass fed meat products may reduce the risks for a number of diseases, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and cancer. Furthermore, purchasing locally from the Nick Family supports land conservation and gives an appreciation for where your food comes from.



To learn more about the many benefits of grass fed beef and information about the Nick Family, visit www.enjoygrassfedbeef.com. We hope our readers will become Nick Ranch customers, so to entice your appetite, we offer a recipe developed by Fred and Donna’s granddaughter, **Johnnie Mae Yates**:

POZO MOUNTAIN EASY BRUSCHETTA BURGERS

- 1 lb Nick Ranch Grass Fed Ground Beef, defrosted
- 4-5 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 2-3 T Balsamic vinegar
- 2-3 T extra virgin olive oil
- 2 or 3 Heirloom tomatoes in various colors, diced
- 3-4 T fresh Basil, chiffonade
- 2 T Parmesan cheese, freshly grated
- ¼ C mayonnaise (not light)
- Sea Salt & Fresh Black Pepper
- 1 pkg Dr Tedone’s Mozzarella Cheese
- 1 Loaf Ciabatta Bread or 4 Ciabatta Rolls

Easy Preparation:

Heat grill with both a hot and a medium area for cooking the patties. Using the Grass Fed Ground Beef, form Patties into the desired sizes. Season them well on both sides with Salt & Pepper. Allow to come to room temperature while preparing the rest of the ingredients. In a small glass bowl, add Diced Tomatoes, minced Garlic, 2-3 T Basil chiffonade, Olive Oil & Balsamic Vinegar. Mix well. Set aside. Place Patties on the hot area of grill to sear in juices, move to the cooler area on grill after 1 minute on each side. Allow to finish cooking to your desired doneness*. Slice Mozzarella to place on top of Patties when they come off grill. In a small mixing bowl, whisk the mayonnaise, grated Parmesan & remaining Basil. Remove Patties to a warm platter, top with cheese, tent loosely with foil. Toast Ciabatta Bread, and then cut into serving size pieces to make a sandwich top & bottom. Spread the Basil Seasoned Mayonnaise on both halves of the Ciabatta Bread. Place a Mozzarella covered Pattie on the bottom Bread and finish with a generous scoop of Tomato Basil Topping. Season with Salt & Pepper to suit your taste. Enjoy!

*Grass Fed cooks 30-40% faster than store bought feedlot beef. To cook 1/2 inch patties allow 4-5 minutes for rare or 5-6 minutes for medium. To cook 1-inch patties allow 7 minutes for rare and 8 1/2 minutes for medium. Cooking well is not recommended. An alternative is to sear the burger using olive oil before seasonings. Check internal temperature of patties by using a digital thermometer, 160 degrees is recommended.



Where’s the Grass Fed Beef?

Nick Ranch 100% Grass Fed Certified Organic Beef is delivered direct from Nick family’s ranch to your family’s door.

- Local delivery service is FREE within San Luis Obispo County.
- Orders outside the County are shipped by FedEx from the ranch.

To order and schedule a delivery, call (805)438-4875 or email sales@beyondorganicgrassfedbeef.com

Restoration Projects: A Step-by-Step Summary

The Land Conservancy (LCSLO) uses a comprehensive approach to land protection that involves much more than simply buying land. One key component of this philosophy is the restoration and enhancement of sensitive natural areas. Deputy Director **Kaila Dettman** shares the dirt on what it takes to make a restoration project happen from start to finish.

We have implemented many restoration projects over the years; some ambitious, some minor, many in our local streams, and many in the **Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes**. All of the projects are complex. Most restoration efforts start years before a project is actually implemented, beginning with an idea or a new opportunity. Once a project idea has taken shape and the landowners are onboard, staff and interns get to work drafting project funding proposals for competitive grant programs, available mitigation funds, or other private sources. Sometimes grant programs are based locally. However, we frequently compete at the national level with other well-deserving non-profit organizations. Once submitted, it can take six months to a year before funds are awarded. The majority of

restoration projects are self-funded, (grants or other private funds are secured to perform the work and all costs are covered). Some restoration projects contribute funds to support other mission services within the organization.

Once funding has been secured, we pursue the appropriate permit approvals for the project. Since we work almost exclusively in environmentally-sensitive areas, some level of permitting is usually required. We go through the same channels that a homeowner, a developer, or an agency goes through to get a project approved. As applicable, LCSLO gets permits from **the County of San Luis Obispo, the California Department of Fish and Game, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service.**

We have our own qualified staff to perform a lot of the tasks associated with restoration projects. However some projects require the expertise of a licensed contractor, the background of a biologist approved to handle California red-legged frogs, or the hard-working enthusiasm of a large group of **California Conservation Corps** members. In these cases, projects are subcontracted with local companies or non-profit organizations to round out the project team. As the implementation date gets closer,

supplies and materials are secured for the project, ranging from simple items such as irrigation fittings from a local hardware store to complex orders for thousands of native plants from **Growing Grounds.**

Once funded, permitted, staffed, and supplied, restoration work can begin! Most stream projects are implemented in late summer and early fall when stream flow is at its lowest, bird nesting season is complete, and there is little chance for rain. The Dunes projects are usually implemented in the late fall and winter to avoid western snowy plover nesting season and to control invasive species that proliferate during that time.

When installation is finished, we maintain and monitor restoration project sites until they are successful, meaning they have met the criteria set by permits and as promised to funders. Usually this takes three to five years, sometimes longer if drought, or other unforeseen damage occurs such as hungry deer or severe flooding.

“This all sounds like a lot of work, and it is. However at the end of each project we are amazed by the recovery of native plants and the wildlife we witness in the areas where we work. It makes it all worth it.”

—Kaila Dettman, Deputy Director



BEFORE: project installation at Cheda site



AFTER: a restoration success story

In Memory of Barbara

This spring we received sad news about our colleague and friend, **Barbara Baltimore**, who passed away. A committed volunteer and passionate conservationist, Barbara supported The Land Conservancy's work for nearly a decade. She dedicated thousands of hours of volunteer time and expertise to the protection and restoration of local lands. Her diverse skills were put to use on projects ranging from pulling weeds, to technical database development and geographic information systems, and creating educational programs for children.

“As a regular volunteer for so many years Barbara held a special place among our staff. She could be trusted with complex tasks and was dedicated to seeing all projects through to completion. Her keen science mind, volunteer spirit and humble manner are the hallmarks of a true conservationist. Many of us feel honored to have learned from her.”

– Wende David, Director of Development

In addition to all that she gave in her lifetime, Barbara bestowed a generous legacy gift upon her passing that will allow her conservation ethos to continue forever. She had worked closely with staff to make her philanthropic intentions known and felt a tremendous sense of comfort in her decision. By including The Land Conservancy in her estate, Barbara significantly grew our *Core Conservation Endowment* held at the **San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation**. Furthermore, her generous gift also helped establish the *Healthy Lands Forever Endowment*. This fund provides critical resources required to act as stewards and defenders of every property under our watch - forever.

We will miss Barbara and feel grateful to have known her. As a small token of our appreciation, we have honored Barbara as *Volunteer Emeritus* and established the *Barbara Baltimore Volunteer Award*.



Photo by Wende David

Planning for Permanence

Our nonprofit has a unique mission centered on perpetuity. We recognize the serious responsibility that *forever* represents, and have prioritized strategic goals that will ensure The Land Conservancy's permanence in San Luis Obispo County. One goal centers on building membership in the **Terra Firma Society**, The Land Conservancy's planned giving club. Planned gifts are the primary method used to build our endowment funds and to secure our long-term financial stability.

When we learn that a supporter has included us in their estate plans, it humbles and inspires us. As staff this renews our energy and gives greater meaning to our daily work tasks. As community members this encourages us to give more generously of our own time and treasure. And as a team of conservationists this creates opportunities

for celebration because these acts unexpectedly advance our ability to save special places in San Luis Obispo County.

Consider your own personal goals and how they fit our mission to protect and restore local land for the benefit of people and wildlife. You have the opportunity to conserve our “SLO” way of life for future generations. You can decide to leave a legacy of protected lands. We would be honored to help make your dreams come true.

The Land Conservancy can help you, your family and your financial advisor explore options that will benefit the people and places you love. Contact Wende David, Director of Development at (805) 544-9096 or visit our website www.LCSLO.org and click on “Join & Donate”.

Terra Firma Society **Planned Giving Brunch**

Tuesday, August 16
10am-11:30am

Learn about estate planning opportunities including a Q & A session with former LCSLO Vice President, **Herb Stroh**, of SJLM Law. Space is limited; RSVP required to LC@LCSLO.org or 544-9096 ext. 14 by **August 9**.

Stewardship: It's In the Details

If you own a home or a vehicle then you understand the basic tenants of stewardship: your responsibility to look after your property, to keep it functional, to make sure it serves the desired purpose, and so on. A quick glance around a neighborhood or parking lot will remind us that everyone has different standards of stewardship. What might be considered functional by some would be considered neglectful disrepair by others. The same challenge exists for land trusts tasked with stewarding conservation properties. This article explains how The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo (LCSLO) defined a standard of stewardship for lands we own. Additional articles will follow that describe in detail how we are putting stewardship into practice. Over the next several issues of **Landlines**, Director of Conservation Science, **Daniel Bohlman** will explore how we ensure lasting and effective stewardship for lands under our watch.

In our 27 year history, LCSLO has gone to great lengths to ensure the well-being of all lands we hold in conservation whether under easement or that we own outright.

In 2009, under the auspices of seeking accreditation by the **Land Trust Alliance**, we set out to formally define stewardship and prepare a stewardship policy to guide the oversight of properties that we own. In order to define exactly what is meant by the term “stewardship” we considered multiple contexts.

Webster defines stewardship as: *the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.*

Turning next to one of the pioneers of the North American conservation movement, **Aldo Leopold**, we found this wisdom: *“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it does otherwise.”*

Finally, we turned to our mission statement for guidance: *Through voluntary and collaborative measures, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County works to permanently protect and enhance lands having important scenic, agricultural, habitat and cultural values for the benefit of people and wildlife.*

Here we find our core conservation values, the “something” alluded to in Webster’s definition. These core conservation values are: **Scenic, Agricultural, Biological, and Cultural**. The next step was determining what *conduct, management, and supervision* would be required to *preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty* of our properties.

We developed our stewardship policy to prioritize healthy natural communities through the protection and/or enhancement of our core conservation values. At the same time, we recognize the intrinsic values which natural areas provide to people, and seek to facilitate access to these natural areas so long as access does not compromise core conservation values.

The resulting stewardship policy will be implemented through individual stewardship plans for every property we own. Each stewardship plan will consider four principal categories: **Conservation, Funding & Responsibility, Accessibility, and Outreach & Education**. *The next issue of Landlines will feature a detailed look at one of these stewardship categories and how it impacts the well-being of a conservation property.*



Black Lake Ecological Area thrives under good stewardship and controlled public access.

Photo by Judith Hildinger

*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.

*Local Feature : Ride Nipomo

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

Members of **Ride Nipomo** recently got their hands dirty cleaning up trash and large items dumped along Zenon Road on sensitive conservation lands. In addition, they helped re-establish overgrown trails, improve safety for trail users by removing and marking potential hazards, and modified trailheads to allow access to hikers and horses but block the site from ATVs, which are prohibited and harmful to sensitive wildlife in the area.

“It is exciting to partner with an organization whose members are passionate about accessing, understanding, and preserving local lands. As the saying goes, you only save what you love and you only love what you know. One only has to spend a day on the trail with Ride Nipomo to know they really do love the lands of Nipomo.”

—Daniel Bohlman, Director of Conservation Science

Photo by Judith Hildinger



Kathleen Canyon's Overlook in Black Lake Canyon.

Ride Nipomo Equestrian Trails Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting equestrian interests in South San Luis Obispo County. The group primarily focuses on trail riding by maintaining existing horse trails while actively seeking the establishment and recognition of new trails throughout the region. Another Ride Nipomo goal is to ensure that Nipomo continues to remain a horse "friendly" community as the personality of the community evolves.

The Ride Nipomo Board actively participates and engages in Planning and Zoning hearings, development workshops, and other community meetings to promote the needs and benefits of equestrians. In addition, Ride Nipomo members get out and physically dig, shovel, rake, and haul chips to build and

maintain trails throughout the community. Many hours are donated annually, and new eager workers are needed and welcome to join. Work days and group rides are planned throughout the year. Visit <http://ridenipomo.com> for group updates or join Ride Nipomo as a member to receive periodic riding information.

*The Land Conservancy offers a hearty thank you to Ride Nipomo, especially the members who continue to help steward our unique conservation properties in **Black Lake Canyon**.*

Happy Trails for Gary Felsman

After serving on **The Land Conservancy Board of Trustees** for over a decade, **Gary Felsman**, has announced his decision to step down. But Gary's departure from the Board is simply a shift in his role as one of the key conservation leaders in San Luis Obispo County. He will continue to serve on the Land Committee, assist with web-related tasks, and remain an active supporter of the organization.

“It was a hard decision for me to make. But I thought it was time after 10 years of service shepherding The Land Conservancy through two directors and watching the organization grow.”

Gary led the organization as Board President and Vice President for multiple terms. He was instrumental in the preservation of Hearst Ranch and the creation of Bishop

Peak Natural Reserve where the well-traveled "Felsman Loop Trail" was named in his honor. It is likely that you'll find Gary on a nearby hiking trail. When you do, please thank him for his generous service to our community.

On behalf of the staff, Board, members and future generations -- Our hat's off to you, Gary!

Photo by Darlene Felsman



Gary Felsman, doing what he loves best—hiking!

Volunteer Profile: Doug Britton



Volunteer superhero, **Doug Britton**, pictured with his handmade trekking pole.

If there ever was a Cape ivy crusader, **Doug Britton** would play the part well. Doug came to us wanting to do his part in helping the environment. We introduced Doug to the Cape ivy removal project at Lower SLO Creek, and he has been our champion volunteer ever since.

“The first time I turned out to volunteer and looked at what was to be done, I felt overwhelmed. It seemed to be an insurmountable task. But by the second time I was on site, I was seeing progress. I now think that the Cape Ivy Eradication Project is doable.”

Doug’s family settled in the Nipomo area when he was young. Growing up on the Central Coast, Doug saw a lot of untouched, pristine wilderness. His family comes from generations of farmers who have a special connection to land. One of the main reasons that Doug volunteers is to give the next generation the opportunity to do and see the same things he experienced as a young boy.

In his professional realm, Doug is an “under employed” construction worker, mostly an electrician and tile setter but experienced with projects from nuclear power plants to outhouses and “all things in between”.

In his free time, Doug loves to cook and tend to his organic garden. Doug walks many trails and has been hiking his whole life. He lives in the middle of a eucalyptus stick farm so he converts the sticks into trekking poles. His craftiness also includes making candlestick holders and incense burners from eucalyptus wood. Reading military science-fiction is a satisfying pastime, too.

Doug recently achieved a major accomplishment—he recruited his fifteen year-old niece to come out and pull Cape ivy! His enthusiasm and passion are so infectious! We’re lucky to have such a dedicated and unique superhero on our team! *Thank you so much, Doug, for your dedication, enthusiasm, and volunteerism.*

Sunny Outlook With Summer Interns

We are thrilled to introduce **Scott McCann**, Restoration Stewardship Intern and **Carolyn Tran**, Watershed Volunteer Coordinator Intern for this summer.



Scott McCann, Restoration Stewardship Intern

Scott is from West Covina just east of Los Angeles. He started at Cal Poly in 2008 and is studying Forestry in the Natural Resources Department with a minor in Soils. He hopes to one day establish a career in soil science. Scott will assist the Restoration Project Manager in summer project maintenance, invasive species removal, and LCSLO land maintenance. Scott likes to fish, ride dirt bikes, play the drums, and is a huge Lakers fan!

Carolyn will assist in coordinating our largest volunteer event, Creek Day Clean-up, as well as help to coordinate volunteers for our Cape ivy removal project at Lower SLO Creek. Carolyn is a senior-to-be at Cal Poly, majoring in Environmental Management and Protection. She is originally from Fremont, but now considers San Luis Obispo her second home. Though she always had a

great appreciation for nature, her coursework and peers have opened her eyes to the many possibilities that the outdoors hold and she hopes to maintain its beauty through her line of work. When she is not in class or at work on campus, Carolyn enjoys doing crafts, cooking, thrift-store shopping, and seeking adventure wherever it can be found.

Welcome aboard Scott and Carolyn. We hope you enjoy your summer with us!



Carolyn Tran, Watershed Volunteer Coordinator Intern

Mustang Nature Detectives Sleuth to Success

Artist, naturalist and longtime Land Conservancy supporter **Marguerite Costigan** put on her Chief Nature Detective cap for presentation of the **6th Annual Nature Challenge Awards at Santa Margarita School** this past June. Sixth grade student **Megan Johnson** received the Most Outstanding Nature Detective Award and third grade student **Yaara Cherbinsky** received the Most Outstanding Jr. Nature Detective Award. Additionally, ten students were honored with Outstanding Nature Detective Awards. Congratulations to Yaara, Megan, and all of Santa Margarita's outstanding nature detectives!



6th grade student and Most Outstanding Nature Detective **Megan Johnson**

For the past six years, Marguerite has prepared monthly clues to accompany a photo of a living organism or rock found in the local environment. With encouragement from Santa Margarita School teachers and nature lover, school librarian **Nancy Zuniga**, students use reference books and online resources to identify the NC subject. Retired teachers **Sharon Drake** and **Betty Williams** tabulate the monthly entries and student council leaders handle the monthly prize drawings. It's been a very popular, fun project and we're looking forward to a 7th year starting in September.



3rd grade teacher **Michael Klatt** and Chief Nature Detective **Marguerite Costigan** with Most Outstanding Jr. Nature Detective **Yaara Cherbinsky**

Photos courtesy of SMCJF

Oak Ambassadors Shine on the LATO Trail

Ten Santa Margarita School 5th and 6th grade students completed training this spring and received appointments as **Oak Ambassadors** for the **University of California Cooperative Extension's Learning Among the Oaks Program**. Newly minted Oak Ambassadors then joined **Beverly Gingg, Carol Sinsheimer, Kristen Reichardt, Jillian Kreth, Kevin Osborne, and Jena Tepe** in leading hikes and presenting interpretive stations for more than 350 students, families and community members in April and May. "It was awesome!" summed up one young participant of the Oak Ambassador Program.

"...Learning Among the Oaks at Santa Margarita Ranch confirms my belief that good people develop good projects and together, grow into magnificent examples of what can be accomplished when people work together...I am confident the program will motivate and inspire students to become our future conservationists."

—Marilyn Cundiff, Program Manager for the California Wildlife



Congratulations to Oak Ambassadors **Hope, Nathan, Tyler and Carson** and to Jr. Oak Ambassadors **Zach, Ellie, Nolan, Carmen, Christina, and Emma!** Students are shown with **Bev Gingg, Kristen Reichardt, Jena Tepe, and Dr. Deborah Bowers** (Seated, center), Principal and now the new Superintendent of the Atascadero Unified School District.

The Land Conservancy serves as a major partner for LATO by holding the license agreement with Santa Margarita Ranch owners for use of 15 acres of the ranch for the educational trail. The Land Conservancy also provides technical assistance with stewardship and mapping projects and receives private donations to support the Cal Poly LATO intern stipends. For more info, contact Bev Gingg, LATO Program Director for UCCE and LC Board Trustee, at 549-9319 or bgingg@smcjf.org.

Photo courtesy of SMCJF

Watch Your Step! It's Snake Season

Restoration Field Crew Leader, **Melodie Grubbs**, enjoys the occasional encounter with snakes and other wildlife while out on the job. She wrote this article to give readers a better appreciation and understanding of our wild neighbors.

Snake season is upon us, and for those of us who love the great outdoors some basic guidelines can help prevent you or your pet from a painful encounter. To lessen your worries, realize that fatal snake bites are rare. The estimated chance of dying from a snake bite in the outdoors is approximately 1 in 10 million.

Most snake bites can be avoided by just leaving snakes alone. Snake bites occur because people try to kill or get too close to them.

Being cautious and alert are necessary skills to develop in the great outdoors. You should also wear proper clothing, like leather boots, long pants, or gloves depending on the activity you are doing. If you have a pet, keeping it on a leash can help prevent it from getting a snake bite. When hiking, it helps to remain on the hiking paths as much as possible. Remember to keep your hands and feet out of areas you cannot see. It is wise to leave all snakes alone, even if you know it is not venomous.

If you do happen to encounter a venomous snake in the San Luis Obispo area, it is most likely a rattlesnake. When a rattlesnake feels threatened, it will usually shake the rattles on its tail as a warning before it strikes. You could possibly hear this fast rattling sound, almost like a hissing, before ever seeing the snake. If you hear or see a rattlesnake, the following actions can prevent you from being bit:

- Stop what you are doing and remain still.
- Visually locate the snake and slowly back away from it.
- Maintain a safe distance from the snake.
- Do not attempt to hassle, relocate or handle the snake.

Become familiar with the common snakes in your area through a local field guide, and remember that these beautiful and dangerous creatures are a part of our open space...so let them have their space, too.



A baby rattlesnake blending in with its surroundings in the Nipomo area.

Photo by Melodie Grubbs

Carrizo Plain Up Close

Sixty-six participants thoroughly enjoyed Santa Margarita's first ever **Gateway Tour of the Carrizo Plain National Monument** this past April. Gateway Committee member, **Robert Campbell**, directed the day's activities, **The Porch** prepared great lunches, **Ride-On** provided a smooth trip, and tour guides **Dr. Roger Gumbs** and **Dr. Dirk Walters**, Professors Emeriti of Biology at Cal Poly, joined CPNM-BLM staff member **Ryan Cooper** in sharing their knowledge of the Carrizo's unique natural wonders.

The **Gateway Committee** hopes to present more, smaller tours in the future and possibly some special interest tours to provide affordable, interesting, and accessible outings for those who want to explore the Carrizo with a guide. The Committee felt the adventure turned out great, wildflowers or not, and are looking forward to next year's tour.

The Gateway Tour was presented in partnership with **Friends of the Carrizo Plain** and the **BLM-CPNM** with generous sponsor support provided by: **Ancient Peaks Winery, First Solar, Granada Farms, and Hanson.**

Thanks to all who participated and shared their ideas for the future.

Local People, Local Land

Photos by Kaia Detman



LCSLO Staff says farewell to another season with the Restoration Crew. The staff enjoyed an afternoon potluck with a few games of bocce ball at Emerson Park.

Photos by Teresa Tibstra



Rob DeGraff and Mary Sampson help out with the Festival of the Arts in Paso Robles (top). Budding conservationists enjoy making a keepsake frog during the Festival.



Photo by Melodie Grubbs



LCSLO restoration specialist, Max Mehlman, fighting with jubata grass—and winning!

Photos by BCA



Photo by Herb Kandel



Mike & Jean Bush tour LCSLO's Black Lake. Mike is the new Executive Director at the SLO Botanical Gardens and an avid birder (above). Members of Trilogy participate on a dunes bike with LCSLO's Mark Skinner (left).



Volunteer groups help remove Cape ivy along Lower SLO Creek. Cal Poly's WOW Service Leaders (top, right), Grizzly Youth Academy cadets (right), and Boys and Girls Club of South San Luis Obispo County students from Oceano (above) spend their Saturday morning improving our local watershed.



Photos by Melissa Sparks & Sarah McCurcheon

Special Acknowledgments

Thank You

- **Mike and Susan Gleason** for donating 3 gallons of deck paint
- **Tolosa Winery** for donating wine corks for our kids' conservation craft project
- **Grace Romero** for donating 4 large trash cans
- **Catherine & Gerard Pardeilhan** for donating 2 saw horses
- **Gary Felsman** for donating a much-needed computer monitor.
- **Mary Sampson, Rob DeGraff, and Carol & Paul Courcy** for donating your time to table and help make cork frogs at the *Paso Festival of the Arts*
- **Ginny Austin** and the **Silver Streaks** for folding, stuffing, and sealing a big mailing project. Your smiling faces and enthusiasm are infectious!
- To our seasonal **Restoration Specialists**—thanks for a job well done and good luck to you!
- **SLO Donut Company, House of Bagels, Splash Café, San Luis Sourdough, and Panera Bread** for your yummy in-kind donations to our famished volunteers at Lower SLO Creek Preserve!
- We sincerely appreciate our large volunteer groups that help remove Cape ivy. With many hands on deck at once, you bring us closer to accomplishing our goal. Thank you **Outside Now, Americorps Watershed Stewards, Grizzly Youth Academy, Santa Lucia Fly Fishers, Grace Church, Boys & Girls Club of South SLO County, and Cal Poly groups: Environmental Council, Association of Environmental Professionals, Interfraternity Council, WOW Leaders, Student Community Services, and Poly Fly Fishers.**

Congratulations

- You did it! **Melissa Sparks** graduated from Cal Poly with a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Management and Protection, with a concentration in Environmental Policy.
- Kudos! The Land Conservancy received the **2011 Preservation Award** for the Octagon Barn from the **History Center of San Luis Obispo.**
- Ride on! **SLO County Parks** opened a new 1/4 mile section of the **Bob Jones City-To-Sea Trail** in Avila Beach that connects to 1st Street.

Wish List

- Saw horses (2) to continue work at the Octagon Barn
- Large outdoor shed (to store tools, supplies, equipment)
- Desktop computer (2008 or newer PC, 250g hard drive 1 g RAM)
- Experienced web designer willing to donate time and talent

Donated goods are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated!

Call 544-9096 to discussion 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!



547 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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Gary Felsman
Beverly Gingg
Pete Jenny
Jeff Jorgensen
Brooke Langle
Sue Luft
Penny Rappa
BK Richard
Ed Carson, *Emeritus*

Staff

Executive Director: **Bob Hill**
Deputy Director: **Kaila Dettman**
Director of Development: **Wende David**
Director of Conservation Science: **Daniel Bohlman**
Business Manager: **Crystal Elwood**
Restoration Ecologist: **Mark Skinner**
Project Manager: **Carlos Torres**
Project Associate: **Melissa Sparks**
Membership & Outreach
Coordinator: **Teresa Tibstra**
Field Crew Leader: **Melodie Grubbs**
Landlines Editors: **Teresa Tibstra & Wende David**
Summer Interns:
Restoration Steward Intern : **Scott McCann**
Watershed Volunteer Coordinator
Intern: **Carolyn Tran**



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

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. 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!

