

# Protect, Steward, Thrive

The Newsletter for Land Trust of Napa County • Spring/Summer 2012



## acrebyacre

AWARDS & AUCTION

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Preserving the character of Napa County happens each day, acre by acre. Everyone can play a part in protecting the places we love, places that make Napa a magical area to visit and a unique place to call home.

Join us to celebrate our conservation heroes at the Land Trust of Napa County's inaugural Acre by Acre Awards & Auction. We'll honor their ingenuity, steadfast dedication and love for Napa Valley while helping raise much-needed funds to continue our important work.

To nominate an individual for an award, visit [acrebyacre.napalandtrust.org](http://acrebyacre.napalandtrust.org). Nominees and nominators must be Land Trust members. Auction lots will be available soon at [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org). If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please call 707.252.1135 or email [kimberly@napalandtrust.org](mailto:kimberly@napalandtrust.org).

### Acre by Acre

**Date:**  
October 13, 2012

**Time:**  
4:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Venue:**  
Kenzo Estate

**Tickets:**  
visit [acrebyacre.napalandtrust.org](http://acrebyacre.napalandtrust.org)

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Celebrate the Third Annual  
Land Trust Month in June (see pg 4)



## We Need Your Support

- Become a Member
- Volunteer
- Become a Corporate Partner

Visit us online at [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org)

## Letter from the CEO

The Land Trust has many exciting accomplishments to celebrate this year, and several celebrations to accomplish!

We are pleased to announce a conservation easement on the historic Trubody Ranch south of Yountville. This 121-acre working vineyard property has come down through three generations to its current owners, Jeff and Mary Page. This easement, encompassing 94 acres of the property, enables the family to preserve the property for farming in perpetuity, as well as protecting its native riparian borders as wildlife corridors.

We have also completed our Proactive Land Protection Plan, which charts a course for determining which lands should be given emphasis in our land protection programs. New maps, highlighting important conservation values, are helping us identify the areas with agricultural value, including rangeland, scenic open space, and land with high biological diversity.



On the celebration front, please join us for some engaging and entertaining activities to honor Land Trust Month in June. Our Dine, Wine, Shop & Stay program is a fun and easy way to help raise much-needed funds—simply mention the Land Trust at participating businesses during June and a portion of their proceeds will be donated to the Trust. Whole Foods Market Napa has also selected the Land Trust for its Nickels for Nonprofits program, running April through July. We have two parties scheduled to thank our generous donors and gracious volunteers. And some of our most popular field trips are highlighted during this special month.

We're also celebrating the career of John Hoffnagle, the Land Trust's longtime Executive Director. After 24 years of service, John is leaving to become the Executive Director of the Oregon State Parks Foundation in Portland, Oregon. John was the Land Trust's first full-time employee, and under his leadership we completed more than 150 projects, protecting over 53,000 acres—more than 10 percent of Napa County. He leaves the Land Trust on a strong financial footing, with a core membership of over 1700 people and a dozen volunteer-driven committees involved in a myriad of projects. We cannot thank John enough for his dedication and leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel Tranmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joel Tranmer



## Preserve Spotlight: Audubon-Cheyney

This 120-acre parcel is located within the Howell Creek (Bell Creek) Canyon, contiguous with Napa Hospital property and near the Devil’s Punchbowl. It was bequeathed by Bruchman R. Cheyney in 1991 to the National Audubon Society, who initially sought to sell it. But once the Land Trust began investigating the property, it became obvious that it had a very significant natural value and should not be sold for development. The Land Trust accepted ownership in 1992.

Meeting the Land Trust’s mission of preserving land that protects water resources, this property is part of the City of St. Helena’s Bell Canyon watershed. It also helps preserve biodiversity, protecting the only reported habitat in Napa County for water oozels (dippers), as well as habitat for Northern Spotted Owls. The site consists of chaparral on south-facing slopes and old-growth Douglas Fir/mixed hardwood on north-facing slopes, and also possesses a mature stand of mixed conifer forest and riparian vegetation.

## NEW! Special Field Trip Adventures for Members



As a benefit to our members and supporters, we look for opportunities to offer special members hikes and events through our Field Trip Program. In this new Member Series, we partner with landowners, guides or specialized instructors to provide a unique or rare experience on some of our protected lands.

Join us for adventures in the following categories:

- Arts: Express your creativity in the great outdoors through our Sketchbook/Mixed Media or Printmaking Series
- Yoga/Meditation: Find peace under the sun through our Yoga/ Meditation class May 19 and/or Hike/Meditation June 17
- Flora/Fauna: Specialists enhance your experience through our Rare Wildflower Walk, Birding and Owls on the Edge field trips April 25 and May 20

See outside back cover for upcoming field trips and events and visit [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org) for details.

# Land Trust Month in June

Land Trust of Napa County is commemorating Land Trust Month in June in a variety of fun and engaging ways. Join us to celebrate!



Our Dine, Wine, Shop & Stay Fundraising Program supports local businesses AND the Land Trust. Simply mention the Land Trust at participating restaurants, businesses, wineries or hotels and a portion of the proceeds from your bill will be donated to benefit the Land Trust of Napa County. This program runs the entire month of June, but only certain days apply. Please visit [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org) for information.

## Corporate Partners

The Land Trust is grateful for the support and generosity of the following local businesses:



AUBERGE DU SOLEIL



## Field Trips Celebrating Land Trust Month

June 3	Trancas Crossing Family Walk	E-1mi-+
June 4	Moonlight Hike at Tuteur Ranch	M-4mi-++
June 10	Henry Road Walk	E-2mi-+
June 16	Napa River Kayak/Canoe Trip	
June 17	Member Series: Hike/Meditation Wildlake Ranch	
June 24	Maggie's Peak	V-6mi-+++

For details, visit [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org).

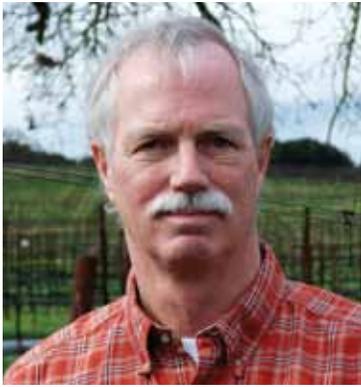
## 5¢ at Whole Foods Helps Land Trust!

Whole Foods Market Napa has selected the Land Trust for its Nickels for Nonprofits program April – July 2012. For each reusable bag you bring in when you shop, Whole Foods Market will give a wooden nickel refund. To donate, place your nickel in the box designated for the Land Trust of Napa County.





# Welcome New Board Members



### Jim Verhey

Experience: Jim is the founder and CEO of Verhey Advisors, which assists individuals in successfully purchasing and establishing ultra-premium vineyard and homesite properties in Napa Valley. He is also founder and CEO of

Premiere Viticultural Services, which helps growers and wineries respond to the complexities of producing world-class winegrapes on a consistent, cost-effective basis. Previously, Jim was one of the managing directors of Silverado WineGrowers. He also served as a director of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers, and is currently a director and treasurer of the Oak Knoll District of Napa Valley.

Jim has held numerous senior financial and operational positions in both public and private companies since beginning his career at Price Waterhouse. He lives with his family on a 21-acre vineyard.

Hobbies: Skiing, traveling, hiking, reading

*“I joined the Land Trust because we, as property owners in Napa County, have an obligation to be not only stewards of our own properties, but also stewards of agriculture and open space throughout the entire county. If we don’t protect and preserve the beauty and uniqueness of Napa County for future generations, no one will. That is our responsibility and that will be our legacy.”*



### Jennifer Putnam

Jennifer is the Executive Director of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers, tasked to preserve and promote Napa Valley’s world-class vineyards. She and her committed team have grown the organization from 324 members in 2004 to 600 today.

Jennifer earned her Master’s from UC Davis, focusing on viticulture and geology. Her background includes managing guest ranches; hospitality and events; wilderness management with the U.S. Forest Service; and seven years as a backcountry guide in Yosemite National Park. A Humboldt State University graduate, she has been an outdoor enthusiast since heading for the hills on her first horse at age five. She lives in Napa with her husband and two-year old son.

Hobbies: Horseback riding, hiking, gardening

*“I joined the Land Trust Board because I strongly believe in the preservation of land and open spaces. The Napa Valley Grapegrowers works to ensure that the Ag Preserve is strong and that Napa vineyard lands are protected. The Land Trust work is wholly complementary to our mission—they preserve land into the future. The happiest communities I’ve seen all have a daily, integrated relationship with the natural world. I support the Land Trust for many reasons, but the truest is simply that: the outdoors is good for us.”*

## June Jubilee Volunteer Picnic: June 9

Green Valley Ranch  
RSVP at 707.252.3270



## Conservation Easement for Historic Trubody Ranch

The Land Trust of Napa County is pleased to announce a conservation easement on the Trubody Ranch south of Yountville. This means the historic property will remain in agriculture in perpetuity. Located in the middle of the valley floor in the Oak Knoll District, this 121-acre working vineyard property, of which 94 acres are now protected, has come down through three generations to the current owners, Jeff and Mary Page. The property has well-established riparian cover and huge Valley Oaks. Dry Creek, which forms

the easement's southern boundary, is a safe haven to the coyotes, bobcats, hawks, owls and other wildlife that also call this land home.

“Our conservation easements with the Land Trust not only enable our family to preserve this property for farming in perpetuity, but to also preserve its native riparian borders as wildlife corridors,” says Jeff Page. “We have long admired the work of the Land Trust of Napa County as an important community-based and -supported resource for the longterm protection of our valley.”

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## Get to Know our Volunteers



Aram Chakerian recently started volunteering for the Land Trust as both a hike leader and fundraiser for the Acre by Acre Awards & Auction event. Making the transition from years as an executive chef, facility manager and office manager at Oxbow Public Market, he is now the office manager for the Napa Valley Vintners Association.

“I feel we residents of Napa County owe a huge ‘Thank You’ to the Land Trust organization for all they do in preserving our valley,” says Aram. “My volunteering as much as I can gives back to them and their efforts. Without the Land Trust, the natural beauty in which we live would not exist at its current level. I love Napa and want to help sustain it for many generations to come.”

As a nonprofit, the Land Trust could not do its work without the bighearted efforts of our volunteers. Although we have a corps of over 250 individuals who donate over 2,000 hours annually, we can always use fresh skills and willing hands. To volunteer, please call 707.252.3270 or visit [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org).

## Foote Society

The Foote Society is the legacy giving circle of the Land Trust. It is named after founders Si and June Foote, who willed the Mt. George Botanical Preserve to the Land Trust, creating our first permanently protected property. You can leave your legacy by making a gift in your will or living trust to charitable organizations. For more info, please call 707.252.3270.

Please meet one of our generous heroes.

## Peter Joseph Callizo

Joe Callizo died December 14, 2011 at the age of 74. A native of Pope Valley, he graduated from UC Berkeley and later served in the U.S. Army as a dog trainer. Joe served on the board of the Land Trust of Napa County as well as many other local boards. As the longtime caretaker at the Land Trust's Wantrup Preserve, he participated in a 20-year-long restoration of Valley Oak Habitat—one of his proudest achievements. He planted more than 1,000 acorns, over 500 of which have germinated and thrived. A leading Napa County botanist, he enjoyed hosting and assisting graduate students and researchers, and was a frequent participant, lecturer and field trip leader for the Napa Valley Museum, Napa County Historical Society, California Native Plant Society, Sierra Club and more recently Preservation Napa Valley.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held May 20 at the Wantrup Preserve. Contributions in Joe's memory may be made to the Wantrup Preserve, Land Trust of Napa County, or the UC Davis-Pope Valley Scholarship Fund.



## Students Dig Napa County

Land Trust of Napa County has been partnering with the SLEWS (Student & Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship) program since 2011. SLEWS engages California high school students in habitat restoration projects that enhance classroom learning, develop leadership skills and result in real positive impact for the environment.



1700 Soscol Ave., Suite 20  
Napa, CA 94559

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## Upcoming Field Trips & Events

### April 2012

- 25 Member Series—Birding Dunn-Wildlake Ranch M-4mi-+
- 28 Wildlake Ranch Ranch Loop from Poppy Flat S-11mi-++
- 29 Maggie’s Peak Trail Run V-6mi-+++

### May 2012

- 5 Maggie’s Peak V-6mi-+++
- 5 Moon Walk at Dunn-Wildlake Ranch H-6mi-++
- 6 Oat Hill Mine Trail to Wildlake: Dual V-12mi-++
- 12 Archer Taylor Preserve Workday
- 13 Mother’s Day at Tuteur Ranch H-8mi-++
- 19 Member Series—  
Yoga/Meditation at Archer Taylor Preserve
- 19 Napa River Trail to Trancas Crossing E-2mi-+
- 20 Member Series—Owls on the Edge E-1mi-+
- 26 Aetna Springs to Wildlake Ranch: Dual S-11mi-++

### June 2012 – Land Trust Month

Please visit [napalandtrust.org](http://napalandtrust.org) for details and to register.



Maggie’s Peak

### Hike Rating

DIFFICULTY	MILES	ELEVATION GAIN
<b>E</b> = Easy	<i>See hike description for mileage</i>	<b>+</b> less than 1,000 ft (relatively flat)
<b>M</b> = Moderate		<b>++</b> 1,000 to 2,000 ft (some uphill)
<b>H</b> = Hard		<b>+++</b> 2,000 to 3,000 ft (lots of uphill)
<b>S</b> = Strenuous		<b>++++</b> over 3,000 ft (steep)
<b>V</b> = Very Strenuous		

For example, **M-3mi-+** is a moderately difficult 3-mile hike with less than 1,000 ft elevation gain.