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Window on Wildlife

Deer, black bear, and bobcat observed through motion-activated wildlife cameras on LTNC's preserve lands. Story on page 3.

'Tis the Season!
See page 5 for the perfect holiday gift!

Letter from the CEO

It's been very exciting for me—still in my first year—to see all the things happening at the Land Trust. And it has been especially heartening to see so much support for these activities provided by so many volunteers and supporters. In September, we held a very successful fundraising event and awards ceremony, our Acre by Acre Awards & Auction. I want to thank everyone who worked on this, especially our Jeans & Jewels Night event Chair Patricia Butler and lead staff Kimberly Barrett. Thank you to everyone who joined us at the event, to our supporters, record number of sponsors and all the donors. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we simply could not have done it without you.



We are currently working with a number of landowners on several promising land conservation projects, including some very generous potential donations, and we hope to have some exciting news on these projects soon. The Land Trust has completed 150 projects including 123 Conservation Easements, with landowners around the county, protecting 53,000 acres to date. This is a clear demonstration of the Land Trust's ability to work with a wide range of landowners. In our new strategic plan, we have identified another 180,000 acres that are priorities for protection—we still have a lot to do! One of our clear priorities will be to increase the pace of conservation.

Another priority is to build our stewardship capacity—our ability to responsibly manage the 6,600 acres we own as preserves. It is clear that the work of conservation continues after the real estate transaction closes. We have developed a set of management plans for these preserves, with a growing list of priorities, and we are very pleased that we are receiving a great deal of help from a growing body of volunteers who are helping with everything from habitat restoration to trail maintenance. Additionally, we are about to complete another successful year of monitoring all our easements, something that would not be possible without the help of over 40 volunteer easement monitors. Thanks to you all for your ongoing dedication to this important work.

And as we come to the end of the year, we know how much we depend on the generous support of our members and all our donors. At year-end, we would like to ask you to consider a special gift for the Land Trust. We will be sending you a letter, asking for your support. Your gift will accomplish something very tangible and very lasting. What's more tangible than land? And you'll be helping protect land forever. So your gift will provide real value for a long, long time.

Thank you again and Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Parker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Doug Parker, CEO

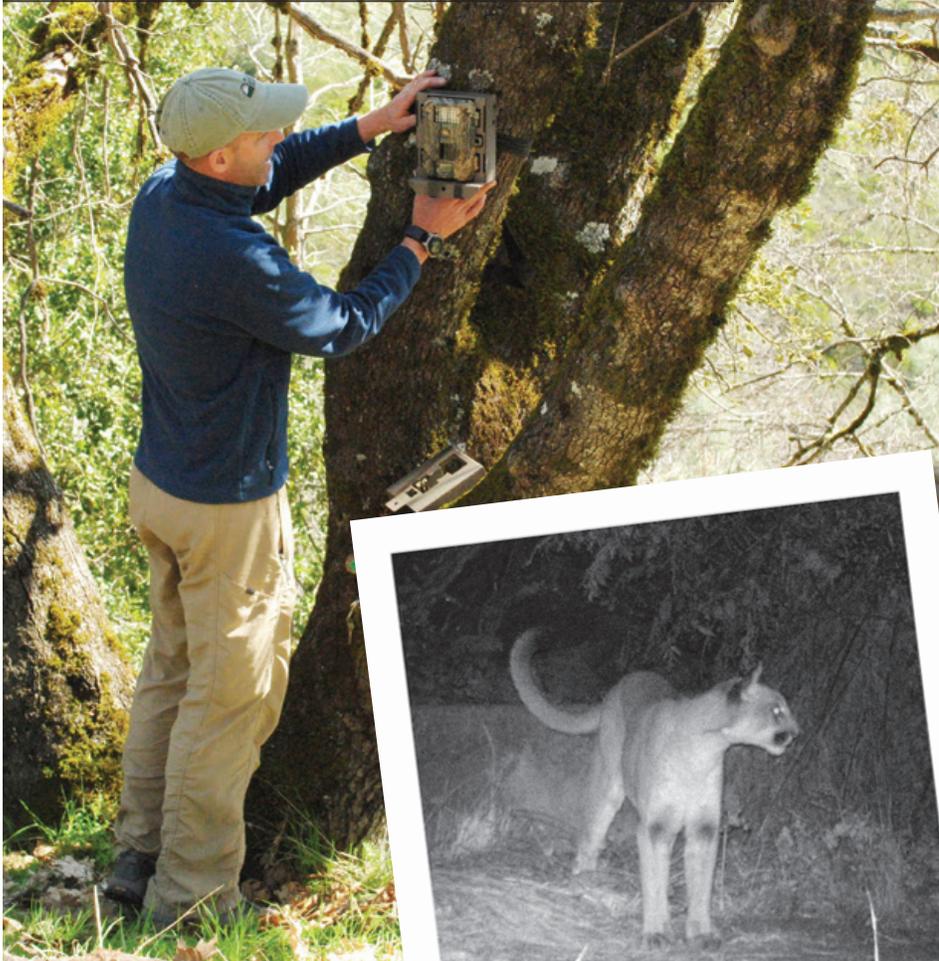
To contact Doug, call 707.252.0435 or email doug@napalandtrust.org.

We Need Your Support

- Become a Member
- Volunteer
- Become a Corporate Partner
- Give the Gift of Membership this Holiday Season
- Donate to our Annual Fund

For more info, please see pg 5 and visit us online at napalandtrust.org.

Window on Wildlife: A View into Animal Life on LTNC Preserves



Land Stewardship Manager Mike Palladini installs camera on an LTNC preserve. Camera locations are not revealed in order to protect the animals.

For the past year, the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC) has been working with Felidae Conservation Fund (felidaefund.org) to monitor wildlife on LTNC's permanent preserves using motion-activated wildlife cameras. The project has yielded valuable information about how mammal species are using road and trail networks on preserve lands that will help to inform future stewardship strategies. The work has also produced outstanding images and videos of some of our most charismatic wildlife species. Cameras have confirmed the presence of mammals including mountain lion, bobcat, black bear, grey fox, coyote, mule deer, black-tailed jackrabbit, dusky-footed woodrat, striped skunk, grey squirrel, raccoon and deer mice. LTNC and Felidae plan to expand the project in the next year to include the installation of additional cameras at new locations and implementation of new data collection methods. Check out our wildlife image/video of the month at napalandtrust.org and stay tuned for more updates.



Field Trips



Our field trips highlight the areas we protect: farmland, water resources, vistas, recreational areas, and wildlife corridors. Hikes vary in difficulty from very strenuous to relatively flat walks. We also have boating and evening excursions. Everyone is welcome—we invite you to explore and appreciate these cherished areas.

Following are a few of this season's offerings:

November 23: Devil's Well

December 7: John Hoffnagle Loop

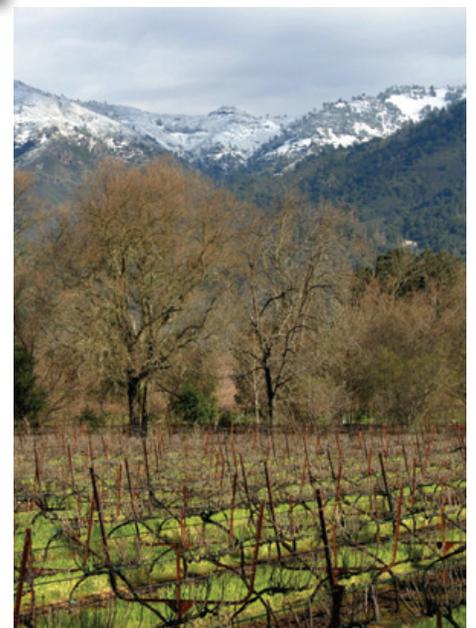
January 26: Linda Falls Preserve

**February 9:
Candlestick Photography Hike***

**February 23:
Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary**

*** For Land Trust members only—
a great reason to join and support us!**

For more listings, see pg 8. For details, to register or join as a member, visit napalandtrust.org or call 707.252.3270.



Acre by Acre Awards & Auction a Sparkling Success!



photos by Bob McClenahan

ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, we gathered at Odette Estate to celebrate and honor conservation heroes at the Land Trust of Napa County's Acre by Acre Awards & Auction. This year's Jeans & Jewels Night was an inspirational and fun-filled evening enjoyed by all as we congratulated our awards recipients and raised much-needed funds to continue our important mission of permanently protecting land throughout Napa.

Thank you to all who joined us, to our generous donors, sponsors, supporters, partners and volunteers, and a special thank you to our 2013 event Chair, Patricia Butler.

Congratulations again to our distinguished 2013 Awardees:

2013 Lifetime Achievement Award: Harold Kelly

Harold Kelly is an icon for land conservation and environmentalism in Napa County. Harold's involvement with the Land Trust began when he became a founding board member for the organization; he continued to serve on the Board of Trustees for 18 years. He served as treasurer in 1975 and president for two terms, 1982-86 and again in 1991. He is the Land Trust's longest continually active member.



As a Land Trust friend to Peggy Connolly, Harold was an essential conservation partner for her as she decided to donate the Connolly Ranch to The Land Trust. His constant advocacy and creative vision helped establish and maintain the Connolly Ranch Education Center. In addition to his work with the Land Trust, Harold was also a key catalyst for the creation of the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District in 2006. He served for several years as a publicly elected member of its board.

Harold's dedication has resulted in gaining countless acres of permanently protected land, robust regional parks and open space throughout Napa County. The impact of his life's work will continue to benefit this valley and its people long into the future.

Four Families: 2013 Acre by Acre Award Goes To

- Bruce & Martha Atwater
- Francis Ford & Eleanor Coppola
- David & Nancy Garden
- Ted & Laddie Hall



Four families have collectively protected 1,588 acres of contiguous land in the eastern hills of the Mayacamas Range, west of Rutherford on the northern flanks of Mt. Saint John. Generously donating easements over this broad stretch of land, these forward-thinking couples have protected the largest adjoining areas of land along the western side of Napa Valley in perpetuity. This vast easement includes rolling open grasslands, mixed hardwood and conifer forests, waterfalls, view shed, agricultural lands and significant portions of the Bear Creek and Heath Creek watersheds, collectively representing much of the beauty within Napa County. The work of these individuals together has made a tremendous impact on the Napa Valley.

They are:

Bruce and Martha Atwater, who donated 263 acres of open space, plantable vineyard and forested watershed lands;

Francis Ford and Eleanor Coppola (Neibaum-Coppola), who donated 382 acres of near-pristine, undeveloped forest lands and the Bear Creek watershed in the western hills near Rutherford;

David and Nancy Garden, who donated 607 acres of forested hillsides and open grasslands in the Heath Creek watershed;

Ted and Laddie Hall (Long Meadow Ranch), who donated 336 acres in three contiguous easements of forested hillside and agricultural open space, with organic vineyard and olive groves, above Rutherford.

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of these individuals, these lands are protected for the visitors, residents and wildlife of Napa County ... now and for future generations.



The Perfect Holiday Gift

This upcoming holiday season, connect someone you love with the Land Trust. By giving the gift of membership, your broad support will help preserve and steward Napa County for future generations.

Memberships also make great business gifts. With several donation categories to choose from, gift giving is fast and easy. Please donate online at napalandtrust.org today. Help protect Napa—acre by acre.

Preservation Update

Preservation of Napa's vibrant agricultural lands is one of LTNC's priorities. To date, 9,000 acres are protected for agricultural use.



Wish List: One Pickup Truck

Land Trust of Napa County is in need of a pickup truck to help carry out the stewardship and management responsibilities of our permanently protected lands throughout Napa. Our staff is in need of a four-wheel-drive vehicle capable of hauling people as well as maintenance equipment and gear, preferably with an extended cab and full bed. If you have a 4x4 vehicle that fits this description to donate, new or used in good working condition, we would be very grateful to hear from you! Please contact Megan Lilla at 707. 261.6329. Thank you!

Welcome Back to a New Board Member: Ann Taylor Schwing



We are pleased to announce the return of Ann Taylor Schwing as a Land Trust Board Member. Ann previously served on the Land Trust Board of Trustees for 13 years, as Vice President in 1997, President from 1998-2001 and Secretary from 2005-2007, term limiting off in 2001 and in 2008. She continues to serve on several committees including the

Project Committee, the Protection Committee and the Archer Taylor Preserve Committee. She brings with her a clear commitment to conservation and a vast amount of knowledge and experience.

Ann, along with Charlie Schwing and Connie Taylor, generously donated the incredible 380-acre Archer Taylor Preserve to the Land Trust. The Preserve is a permanently protected wildlife habitat

containing one of the largest redwood stands in Napa County and protecting over a mile of Redwood Creek.

Ann is currently of counsel at Best Best & Krieger LLP, as well as Commissioner and Secretary of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, and a member of the governing boards of Scribes, The American Society of Legal Writers, and the Anthony M. Kennedy American Inn of Court. She wrote the final drafts of Land Trust Alliance, Amending Conservation Easements: Evolving Practices and Legal Principles (Aug. 2007). She is author of Open Meeting Laws 3d (2011), California Affirmative Defenses (published annually by West), and other books. Welcome back Ann!

As Ann sees it, “The Land Trust is a powerful force for conservation of Napa County lands. Serving on the board provides me the opportunity to be part of this invaluable work.”

Farewell to Our Outgoing Board Member, Alice J. Kubler



Alice Kubler, who grew up on property adjacent to the Archer Taylor Preserve, has served on the Land Trust Board of Trustees since 2007, and been its Secretary since 2008. She has also served on the Finance and Investment and Audit Committees, and served on the Archer Taylor Committee since 1995. She is an avid photographer and many of her exquisite images

appear in Land Trust materials and on our website. Alice has brought her love for Napa and conservation as well as her wealth of

knowledge to the organization, and will be missed as her term ends this December. Coincidentally, she will be retiring from the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley, where she serves as Assistant Dean for Budget and Operations. We wish Alice all the best in this next phase of life and simply cannot thank her enough for her many contributions. Alice says that “Serving on the LTNC Board for nearly seven years has been an incredible honor. I have been inspired by staff, fellow board members, and volunteers as well as the national land trust organization—the Land Trust Alliance. Many, many have generously shared with me their passion, dedication, knowledge, and commitment to protecting land in Napa County and across the country.” Thank you, Alice Jane!

Get to Know our Volunteers: Penny Proteau

Penny Proteau is a longtime member, volunteer and ambassador for the Land Trust. Starting in the mid 1990’s as a Field Trip Committee member, she has served on the Connolly Ranch Committee, leads four to eight hikes each year, and always helps at events. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Penny has a deep love and appreciation for her hometown. She also volunteers for the Napa State Park Association, the California Native Plant Society, the Master Gardeners and the Napa Vine Trail. Penny is an avid home

gardener with a positive and generous nature.

“People on a trail are happier, more relaxed and up for adventure. It’s a treat to share the wide array of Napa County environments that LTNC protects. Once you are aware of what nature offers, the desire to protect it is natural.”

As a nonprofit, the Land Trust could not do its work without the big-hearted efforts of our volunteers. Thank you, Penny!





Burning for Restoration

With the generous assistance of CALFIRE firefighting crews, the Land Trust implemented a 60-acre prescribed burn on its Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve in June of 2013. The burn was a crucial first step in restoring the valley's unique serpentine meadow system, which has been heavily degraded by an invasive plant from Europe called barbed goatgrass (*Aegilops triuncialis*). The Preserve's serpentine meadows are one the most important botanical sites in Napa County and the Bay region. "Serpentine" refers to the meadow's soil type, which is inhospitable to many native plants but supports others that have evolved to cope with high heavy metal content and low nutrient levels. Some adapted native species, such as Colusa Layia (*Layia septentrionalis*) and Napa western flax (*Hesperolinon serpentinum*), are restricted to serpentine soils and are found nowhere else in the world. Based on UC Davis research, the burn is expected to greatly reduce the invasive goatgrass by destroying its seeds and stimulating native plant germination. Land Trust staff will monitor the burn effects and provide updates on how the meadows are recovering!

Pulling Together: Volunteers Battle Invasive Plant Species on the Dunn-Wildlake Preserve

Over the summer, volunteers worked to restore a picturesque grassland on the Dunn-Wildlake Ranch Preserve by removing highly invasive yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Introduced to the US from the Mediterranean region in the mid-1800s, this plant has now infested an estimated 22 million acres of California grasslands. Over five events, 27 volunteers cumulatively contributed 59 hours of dedicated stewardship effort, preventing the spread of millions of new seeds to greatly reduce next year's

thistle crop. Techniques for removal consisted of good old-fashioned hand pulling, using protective gloves to combat the bristly thistles, and hauling the seeds off-site. We are confident that many species of brightly colored native wildflowers, including *Dichelostemma capitatum* (blue dics), *Eschscholzia californica* (California poppy), and *Madia elegans* (common madia) will move into areas where starthistle was removed. LTNC appreciates the energetic volunteers who contributed over the summer, and plans to continue this work for the next several years. Join us in our on-going efforts to improve the grassland's native plant community.



Enhancing Visitor Experience: LTNC Installs New Signage on its Preserves



The next time you join LTNC on a guided hike or stewardship work day at the Archer Taylor Preserve, Linda Falls Preserve, Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary, or Dunn-Wildlake Ranch Preserve, you'll be greeted by brightly colored interpretive signs, directional signs and useful maps along the trail systems of each property. Months in the making, these signs will teach you more about the Land Trust's conservation efforts,

help you brush up on natural history, and help you navigate as you hike or bike through these beautiful areas. Significantly, on three of the four preserves where signage has been added, you (and all members of the public) are welcome to request access to the properties on your own after first attending a guided hike (Archer Taylor and Linda Falls Preserves), or an orientation (Dunn-Wildlake Ranch Preserve).

Many thanks go out to volunteer Bob Frescura, who designed and constructed two of the new kiosks on the Linda Falls and Dunn-Wildlake Ranch Preserves. Central Valley Lumber generously donated materials, and funding for design and printing was provided by a grant from the Napa County Wildlife Conservation Commission. This was a team effort, and the Land Trust is truly grateful to all who contributed. We hope you will visit these properties soon to enjoy the new signage!



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Land Trust of Napa County / Upcoming Field Trips & Events

November

- 16 Family Friendly Hike at Wildlake
- 17 Full Moon Walk at Wildlake
- 23 Devil’s Well Hike
- 24 Henry Road Walk
- 24 Linda Falls Work Day

December

- 7 The John Hoffnagle Loop at Wildlake
- 8 Maggie’s Peak Hike
- 14 Archer Taylor Preserve Work Day
- 15 Mead Ranch
- 22 Birding Along the Napa River

January

- 11 Aetna Springs to Swartz Canyon
- 11 Archer Taylor Preserve Work Day
- 15 Full Moon Walk at Wildlake
- 18 Dunn-Wildlake Preserve Highlights
- 25 Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary Work Day
- 26 Linda Falls Preserve

February

- 1 Sarco Creek Hike on Mt. George
- 8 Maggie’s Peak
- 8 Archer Taylor Preserve Work Day
- 9 Candlestick Photography Hike (Land Trust Member Series)
- 22 Owling in the Napa Valley on LTNC Preserves (Land Trust Member Series)
- 23 Wantrup Wildlife Sanctuary

For details, to register or to join as a member, visit napalandtrust.org or call 707.252.3270.

Updates and last-minute news:



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