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# Sutro Ranch Gifted to Land Trust

The estate of Elizabeth 'Betty' Sutro has gifted the Land Trust of Napa County 1,380 acres of the Sutro Ranch. This is the largest land gift the Trust has received in our 38-year history, and will become our second largest preserve (story on page 3).

★ Challenge Grant Doubles Your Donation—Please Act Now! Increase your gift to LTNC this year by any amount and your *entire gift will be matched* by a challenge grant. Give at www.napalandtrust.org or write us directly. See page 2.

### Letter from the CEO

We're very pleased to have closed on two large conservation projects that will protect almost 2,000 acres, from the floor of Napa Valley along Silverado Trail, to Atlas Peak, at 2,663 feet, one of the tallest peaks on the eastern ridge above Napa Valley. In this issue, you'll read about the Rodgers family's Upper Range, which rises steeply from Silverado Trail to connect with protected lands at

Lake Hennessey, and about the Sutro Ranch, 1,380 acres that include four miles of ridgeline along the eastern side of Napa Valley. These are each significant conservation projects. We are very thankful to Betty Sutro and her family and to the Rodgers and Bettinelli families for their farsighted commitment to protecting important sites in Napa. In our strategic plan, our first priority is to increase the pace of land protection in Napa County and these projects certainly head us in that direction. In addition, right now, we are working on a dozen other promising conservation projects.



Stewardship is the second priority in our strategic plan—demonstrating exemplary stewardship on land we have protected. In the first half of 2014, we have taken some important steps. You'll see the description here of the dramatic wildflower blooms that resulted from our stewardship efforts at the Missimer Preserve. This is a very hopeful story for the future of Napa's native species in their long battle with invasive species. And this was just the most dramatic example of our efforts this year to expand our stewardship efforts across the preserves the Land Trust owns. We have pursued much of this work with the help of volunteers and I want to thank everyone who has taken the time and put forth the effort to join our staff in going out to one of our preserves to pull invasives or improve trails or any of the other work that regularly has to be done. In addition, as part of our expanded stewardship activities this year, we have contracted with American Conservation Experience to complete a number of projects that require especially heavy lifting. They have completed projects at several of our preserves: Foote, Archer Taylor, Wildlake and Duff. And at our Wantrup Preserve, we installed a solar system that will make that preserve more sustainable, both economically and environmentally. I'd like to say a special thanks to the Gasser Foundation for making this possible.

#### **Challenge Grant: Double Your Gift to the Land Trust!**

Finally, our third priority is to ensure long-term financial sustainability. As you know, when we protect land, we protect it "in perpetuity." That is a long time and in order to ensure that the land is truly protected, the Land Trust must have the resources to last as long as our protected land does. We have been making progress in our fundraising efforts, thanks to you and to all our supporters. In fact, we have just received a challenge grant. This challenge will match any gift that has been increased over last year. So if you can consider increasing your gift this year, by any amount, the entire gift will be matched. Thanks again for all your support.

Doug Parker, CEO

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



- Your Support
- Become a Member
- Volunteer
- Become a Corporate Partner

Please visit us online at napalandtrust.org.

# Sutro Ranch Gifted to Land Trust



The estate of Elizabeth 'Betty' Sutro has gifted the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC) 1,380 acres of the Sutro Ranch. John and Betty Sutro purchased the ranch in 1950 and enjoyed it as a weekend and summer retreat until Betty's passing in 2012. This is the largest land gift the Trust has received in our 38-year history, and will become our second largest preserve.

Sutro Ranch is located at the end of Atlas Peak Road along the western slopes of the Vaca Range, separating the Napa and Sacramento valleys. The ranch consists of a total of four miles of largely undeveloped ridgeline, as well as Atlas Peak at 2,663 feet, and is visible from many points in Napa County.

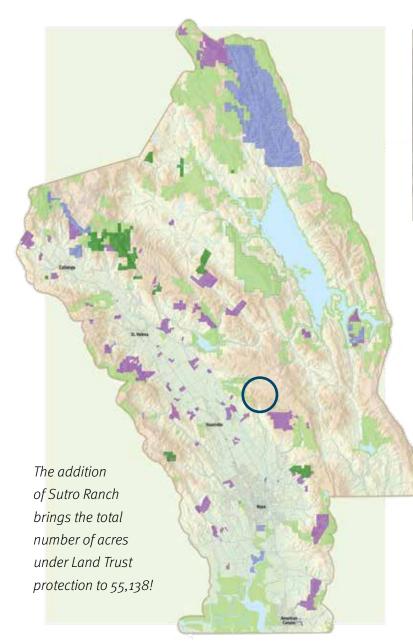
The property contains several distinct forest, shrub, grassland and riparian plant communities and, from a biodiversity perspective, ranks as one of the highest priority properties in Napa County. Varying topography and elevation, riparian areas and wetlands, mixed soil types and geology, and a location near the confluence of four biogeographic regions (Central Coast, San Francisco Bay, Inner and Outer North Coast Ranges) contribute to the property's high biodiversity ranking. In addition, the property's size, proximity to adjacent conservation lands, and position on the Atlas Peak ridgeline make it an important connectivity component in a habitat linkage extending from the Foss Valley to Howell Mountain.

Over the next few years the Land Trust will focus on habitat restoration, including invasive species removal and native plant propagation projects. "Because of the importance of the natural values, we will be focusing significant time and effort on this," said Doug Parker, LTNC CEO. "And because (cont'd on p 4)



#### (cont'd from p 3)

access the Land Trust was granted limits recreational access, we will also be working to improve that access. In the near term, we expect to organize volunteer groups to help with restoration efforts." The acquisition of Sutro Ranch will ensure the preservation of undeveloped mountainside views from sites across Napa Valley as well as from Foss Valley and Lake Berryessa. A few months ago, Visit Napa Valley published the results of a survey conducted of visitors to Napa, asking them what they enjoyed most about their stay. The number one choice was "scenic views." "This acquisition will certainly contribute toward the preservation of those views over the long term," said Doug.





### Please meet one of our generous heroes: Elizabeth 'Betty' Sutro

John and Elizabeth Sutro purchased the Sutro Ranch at the end of Atlas Peak Road in 1950 and enjoyed it as a weekend and summer retreat. Betty died peacefully on the ranch she loved

on August 8, 2012, surrounded by her family. Betty will be remembered as a gracious and generous woman who gave much to charity during her long lifetime.

Betty was born in 1911 in Connecticut to Phillip and Caroline Hiss. She moved to California in 1931 after her marriage to John Sutro, who for many years was a distinguished attorney and partner at Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro in San Francisco. Betty and John raised four children in the Presidio Heights neighborhood of San Francisco. She is survived by two of her children, 17 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

"My grandparents were stewards of the Ranch, sharing their love of the land with their family and many others," said a Sutro grandchild. "By working with the Land Trust, their legacy will never be forgotten and the land will be protected forever."

We send our deepest gratitude to the Sutro family for this amazing gift.

### Foote Society

The Foote Society is the legacy giving circle of the Land Trust of Napa County. It is named after founders Si and June Foote, who willed the Foote Botanical Preserve at Mt. George 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 like the Land Trust. For more information, please call 707.252.3270.

## Beckstoffers Receive 2014 Acre by Acre Award



From left, Mike Thompson, Andy & Betty Beckstoffer.

The Land Trust of Napa County presented its third annual Acre by Acre Award to Andy and Betty Beckstoffer at the inaugural dinner for the Land Trust's new Cornerstone Society on June 14. The award honors an individual or an organization whose work or efforts embody the Land Trust's mission to preserve the character of Napa County by permanently protecting land. The awardee is selected by a committee of past Land Trust board chairs.

Andy was then presented with a Congressional Resolution by US Rep. Mike Thompson. "Congratulations to both Betty and Andy on this much deserved recognition," said Thompson. "Because of their generosity and their commitment to our county, more than 400 acres of Napa County land will be protected forever."

Andy is founder and owner of Beckstoffer Vineyards and its subsidiaries: Winegrowers Farming Company in the Napa Valley; Mendocino Vineyard Company in Ukiah; and Red Hills Vineyard Company in Kelseyville.

"We started as farmers, then became grape growers, and now are stewards of the land," Andy has said. The Beckstoffers placed nine different properties in conservation easements with the Land Trust, preserving them in perpetuity. This commitment is an excellent example of conservation easement use to preserve the agricultural and natural values of land while eliminating uncontrolled future development of wineries and homes.

Andy served on the Land Trust Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2011, and worked with Congressman Thompson on legislation to preserve land through conservation easements.

*The Cornerstone Society is the newly formed principal giving circle of the Land Trust of Napa County.* 

### Thank You for Duckhorn's Generous Gift



The Land Trust of Napa County thanks Dan Duckhorn and Duckhorn Wine Company for their generous gift of \$21,000. Dan stated, "We have made our winemaking home amid the beauty of Napa Valley for almost 40 years. Duckhorn Wine Company was actually founded in 1976, the same year the Land Trust was established.

As I've watched the valley change over the years, it has become deeply apparent how important the Land Trust's work is. With over 50,000 acres protected to date, its efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of everyone who calls Napa County home. The Trust's conservation and preservation agreements also ensure that generations to come will be able to experience what makes Napa County one of the most remarkable places on earth." "When the story of Napa Valley is told generations from now, the Land Trust's contributions will represent an important chapter. While our vineyards and wineries have spent generations building Napa Valley's reputation as one of the world's greatest wine regions, what makes Napa Valley special is more than its vineyards. The Land Trust's conservation efforts protect the places we cherish—our parks, lakes and watersheds. These efforts make all of our lives richer," said Alex Ryan, president and CEO of Duckhorn Wine Company.

"I want to say how much we appreciate the generous support of Dan Duckhorn and Duckhorn Wine Company," said Doug Parker. "We're working on some very exciting projects right now—literally thousands of acres in Napa County—but none of this work would be possible without the support of people like Dan and Alex. Thank you for helping us work toward keeping Napa as beautiful tomorrow as it is today."

### Land Trust Protects Scenic Vista on Silverado Trail

The Land Trust of Napa County, the Rodgers family and Bettinelli Vineyards announce the closing of six conservation easements on the Rodgers' Upper Ranch property between Silverado Trail and Lake Hennessey.

The Rodgers, the Bettinellis and the Land Trust worked together to finalize this first-of-its-kind conservation easement that will protect oak woodlands, a natural feature that has been identified by Napa County as a priority natural resource. The easement will permanently protect 442 acres in their wild state. The Rodgers' Upper Ranch property includes over 250 acres of blue oak, coast live oak and mixed oak woodlands overlooking both Napa Valley and Lake Hennessey. In addition, the easement will also ensure the permanent protection of unimpeded corridors for wildlife across the property. In conjunction with the permanently protected areas, a portion of the property will be developed into vineyards.

"We're very pleased to have worked with the Rodgers and Bettinelli families on this project," said Doug Parker, LTNC CEO. "The Rodgers family has owned this land for decades and we know they care about it and about protecting important sites on the property. Besides the natural values on the property, the land is in a very important location because it abuts protected land on the northeast, Napa municipal watershed lands around Lake Hennessy, and extends from there all the way down to the Silverado Trail, across from vineyards that the Beckstoffer family has already protected with the Land Trust. Not only is this large property important in its own right, but in addition, the property provides an important connection between protected land on both sides." "The Rodgers have loved and called Napa home through seven generations," said Anna Duncan Hickey, of the Rodgers family. "My great grandfather John M. Rodgers purchased the Upper Range, as we call it, 73 years ago. It is unique in character and authentic Napa charm. If you were around in the days of our family's Rockinar Dairy, you would have seen cattle being driven through Yountville, up Silverado Trail and onto The Range."

"We love this land and have long sought a way to preserve and sustain its uniqueness," Hickey added. "The one-of-a-kind partnership between Napa Land Trust and two generational families, the Bettinellis and ours, will accomplish this. Both families have worked, preserved, and loved their Napa farms and understand the special balance that's needed for over 100 years. As partners with the Land Trust we are assured that the Upper Range will remain unique in its natural habitats as well as its development."

Giancarlo Bettinelli added, "We have long admired and respected the incredible landscapes of our cherished Napa Valley, particularly during the many ongoing years of family recreation in our beautiful hillsides. It is with gratitude and highest responsibility in mind that we strive toward balanced viticulture within a stunning ecological preserve which is a first of its kind in Napa Valley history. We are extremely proud to be a small part of the Land Trust's mission to preserve the treasured land of Napa Valley."

The property rises steeply from Silverado Trail and can be seen from many places across Napa Valley. Protection of the property through the easements will ensure that these scenic views of oak woodlands and scattered rocky outcrops can be enjoyed by residents and visitors far into the future.

### Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve Stewardship Update: Positive Results

Over the last year, LTNC has been working to restore an outstanding botanical resource on its Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve. The Preserve's serpentine meadows have long been regarded as one the most important botanical sites in both 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. Several of these adapted native species are restricted to serpentine soils in northern California, and

are found nowhere else in the world. Wildflower diversity and displays in the serpentine meadows have greatly diminished in recent years due to heavy invasion by an introduced plant from Europe called barbed goatgrass, along with a handful of other highly invasive species.

Utilizing restoration ecology research conducted by UC Davis biologists at the McLaughlin Reserve, and working with conservation partners at Davis and CAL FIRE, the Land Trust has implemented a prescribed burn and follow-up herbicide application aimed at reducing goatgrass density and stimulating germination of native plants.

LTNC stewardship staff has been closely monitoring the effects of these restoration treatments and, despite the nearcomplete lack of rain through much of the winter and the early

post-restoration stage, we're already seeing some positive results!

The focal meadow area, which was dominated by goatgrass and other invasive species before the restoration began, is now dominated by native wildflowers. Beginning in mid-April, stunning wildflower displays began to appear, the likes of which had not been seen in recent years as the goatgrass invasion intensified. These breathtaking swaths of natural color, which contrast dramatically with adjacent unrestored areas and the meadow's pre-restoration condition, contained an impressive diversity of native species. On a single morning in late April, LTNC stewardship staff observed close to 50 native plant species in bloom within the restoration area! These included special status, serpentine indicator species such as two carpellate western flax (Hesperolinon bicarpellatum) and Brewer's milkvetch (Astragalus brewerii).

LTNC stewardship staff is currently working with CAL FIRE to implement a second prescribed burn in June of 2014 aimed at restoring additional serpentine meadows on the Preserve. We will continue to monitor the effects of these restoration activities in the coming months and provide additional updates on how the meadows are recovering!



## Missimer Snell Valley Wildflower Preserve Update



- Top left: Spring before start of restoration project (o2 May 2013). The area shown is dominated by barbed goatgrass *(Aegilops triuncialis)* and other non-native grasses.
- Top right: Immediately following prescribed burn (12 June 2013).
- Bottom: First spring following restoration treatments (30 April 2014). The area shown is dominated by native wildflowers.
- Page 9, top left: A few of the many wildflowers species observed within the restored meadow this spring: Bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), cream cups (*Platystemon californus*), California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), and dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*).
- Top middle: Western larkspur (Delphinium hesperium) flowering amidst false baby stars (Leptosiphon parviflorus)



and California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) within the restored meadow area.

- Top right: One of many diverse wildlfower clusters forming the impressive displays of color within the restoration area: Evening snow (*Linanthus dichotomus*), bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*), Douglas's sandwort (*Minuartia douglasii*), and California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*).
- Bottom left: One of several special status species observed within the restoration area: large-flowered star tulip (*Calochortus uniflorus*).
- Bottom middle: Brilliant color rises from the ashes of the prescribed burn: tricolor monkeyflower (*Mimulus tricolor*).
- Bottom right: Fringed checkermallow (Sidalcea diploscypha) and serpentine Mariposa tulip (Calochortus vestae) flowering within the restoration area in late May of this year.

### Welcome New Board Member: Jack Stuart



Although he is new to the LTNC Board of Trustees, Jack Stuart has been active in it for years. In 2006, he joined the Project Committee during the exciting planning stages of the Wildlake Campaign. Eight years later, he now

chairs that same committee, which reviews and approves all of the Land Trust's land acquisitions and conservation easements.

Jack was winemaker and general manager of Silverado Vineyards

for 25 years. He received many accolades and awards in the wine industry, including the Robert Mondavi Trophy for Winemaker of the Year. He was president of both the Napa Valley Vintners and Stags Leap District Winegrowers' Association, and was instrumental in the development and passage of two important industry bills in the state legislature. He is now a partner in Trivium Wine, a single-vineyard Cabernet producer in St. Helena.

Jack grew up in the now-vanished orchards of Santa Clara Valley, the fifth generation of Scots, Englishmen and Swedes, the first of whom arrived in 1851. "I'm a life-long backpacker and a descendant of fruit growers, and I don't want Napa Valley to suffer the fate of Santa Clara."

### Farewell to Outgoing Board Member: Chip Bouril

Chip Bouril recently cycled off the board after his second six-year term in 22 years, but he continues his activities on numerous committees. A member since 1992, he currently chairs the Field Trip and Monitoring Committees, is vice-chair of the Project Committee, is a member of the Protection Committee, and is active in Preserve Committees for Foote, Linda Falls, and Wildlake. He also leads numerous hikes (as does his wife Penny Proteau), including three this spring and summer. Land Trust staff remembers the volunteer appreciation party where they gave Hawaiian leis to volunteers for each of their activities; Chip's neck was so laden, they couldn't see his chin.

After studying architecture and engineering in college, Chip's position at Domaine Chandon Winery introduced him to land and vineyard issues. Curious to learn more, he did hikes with well-known Napa naturalist Joe Callizo who encouraged him to become



more involved with the Land Trust. Chip's interests have moved over time from archeology, geology and soils to include conservation and natural resources. He says he always talks up the value of Land Trust membership on his hikes. Look where that can lead!

"I like the Land Trust both for what it does and how it does it," he says, referring to the Land Trust's status as local, nonprofit, non-governmental, and community-supported. Now a professional in natural resource management and environmental consulting, Chip brings a wealth of experience to his volunteer activities at the Land Trust, plus a deep commitment to the values of conservation. "The Land Trust's efforts are correct when they benefit our whole community—both people and nature."

### Get to Know Our Volunteers: Carol Cavagnaro



Carol shows up like clockwork at the Land Trust one morning every week to help Lands Project Manager Lena Septimo with administrative tasks on the landsaving side. For two hours a week, 42 weeks a year, for the past five years, her help has been reliable and indispensible, both in the office and out in the field.

Carol was looking for an opportunity to hike when she ran across a Land Trust hike in the paper. After that, she offered to volunteer on a regular basis. Lena enlisted her help to take over the monitoring visit to the Creston Station Ranch in American Canyon, where they covered four parcels together. Lena appreciated having a companion in the field and Carol enjoyed her time outdoors. She continues to monitor numerous conservation easement properties each year and occasionally helps out on last-minute field visits, too. She also leads the four-mile Henry Road Birding Hike in the Carneros.

A 50-year resident of Napa, Carol speaks with great affection for the work she sees being done at the Land Trust. "I love the valley, and I love that the Land Trust is preserving it," she said. "It's a priceless gift." We're grateful for Carol's consistency and enthusiasm for the work we do together.

### Thank You, Volunteers!

The Land Trust relies on volunteers in so many ways. Whether you are a board member, office volunteer, easement monitor, committee member, field trip hike leader, or preserve volunteer, we could not accomplish what we do without your help. To express our thanks to our volunteers, Land Trust is hosting a Volunteer Appreciation reception on Wednesday, September 24. If you have volunteered in 2013-2014 with the Land Trust and have not received an invitation by September 1, please notify us.



#### Sincere thanks to everyone listed below!

Nancy Abreu Tom Adams Paul Aigner Rob Andreae Christine Ansley Margaret Barson Janet Barth Morgan Bender de Moll Chris Benz Murray Berner Melody & Phillip Blake Chip Bouril Nancy & Gary Brandl David Briggs lennifer Buchwald-Baerwald Alison Burns Phil Burton Patricia & David Butler Scott Butterfield J. Michael Byrne Fiona Campbell Linda Cantey Terrence Carlson

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\* Remembered in memoriam



### In Memory of Diane Miller (1933-2013)

Diane Disney Miller, daughter of Walt Disney, and owner of Silverado Vineyards with her husband Ron Miller, died in Napa on November 19, 2013. Ron and Diane established their first conservation easement in 1993 with the Mt. George Vineyards adjacent to the Land Trust's Foote Botanical Preserve at Mt. George. Their second easement in 1994 included Disney Vineyard and 99 acres of oak woodland and open space bordering Silverado Trail. Her generosity will be remembered in perpetuity.



Napa, CA 94559

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### Land Trust of Napa County: **Upcoming Field Trips & Events**

Our field trips highlight the areas we protect: farmland, water resources, vistas, recreational areas and wildlife corridors. We invite you to join us to explore and appreciate these cherished places all summer long.

#### July

- 12 Archer Taylor Preserve Work Day
- 12 Wildlake Work Day
- 12 Dunn-Wildlake & Duff Ranch Preserve Orientation
- 26 Kayak/Canoe Paddle the Napa River

#### August

- Archer Taylor Preserve Work Day 9
- 15 Up the River—With a Paddle!

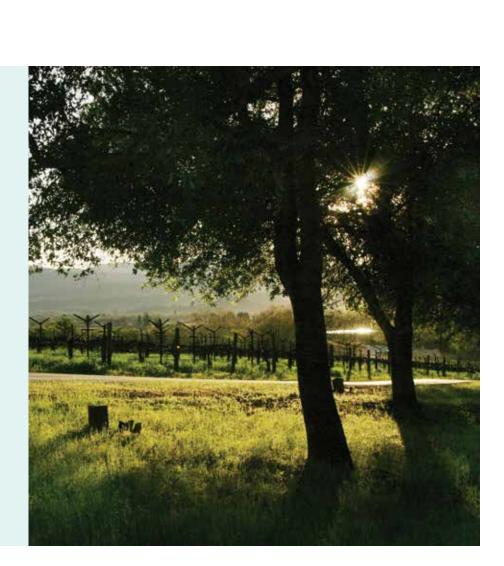
#### For details, to register or to join as a member, visit napalandtrust.org or call 707.252.3270.

#### Updates and last-minute news:



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