



Welcome to Spring Garden Preserve!

Placer Land Trust Permanently Protects 192 Acres on the Foresthill Divide

We are delighted to announce that Placer Land Trust has permanently protected our newest property, Spring Garden Preserve!

Spanning the canyons and watersheds of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the American River, this 192-acre preserve is located on the Foresthill Divide near the community of Foresthill. The property was initially marketed for development, given its easy access, gentle topography, views of the rivers, and proximity to other residential developments. Instead, the landowners, Foresthill Land Company LLC, worked with Placer Land Trust to ensure that this forested land will continue to be open space forever. The preservation of forests, clean water sources, cultural history, and wildlife habitat will benefit the public for generations to come.

"The landowner and his realtor were absolutely key to our success," says Placer Land Trust Executive Director Jeff Darlington. "They took the land off the market while we secured funding and waited through the state review process. The landowner made a very generous and critical donation that will allow us to protect and manage the land in perpetuity. Landowners like this make conservation of land in Placer County possible, and we are deeply grateful."

The purchase of Spring Garden Preserve creates a large contiguous block of protected land, as it connects with the 416-acre Big Bend North Fork Preserve, Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA), and federal BLM land. Placer Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land purchased the Big Bend property from the same landowner in 2014 and transferred it to the California Department of

Parks and Recreation to become a part of the ASRA. Placer Land Trust looks to protect large blocks of land that are connected with other protected pieces to maximize the benefits for wildlife. This strategy is especially important to the black bear, bobcat, coyote, black-tailed deer, raptors, and mountain lion in the area. Spring Garden Preserve now provides a valuable "wildlife corridor" across Foresthill Road.

Spring Garden Preserve's forest is unusually diverse, with large stands of mature madrone trees alongside huge blue and black oaks, Douglas fir, and Ponderosa pine. Purchase of the property was funded by the CAL FIRE Forest Legacy Program. In line with program goals, the preserve will be managed to support ecologically-healthy and fire-resistant forests, reducing risk to

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Spring Garden Preserve sits on the Foresthill Divide, spanning the canyons and watersheds of the North Fork and Middle Fork of the American River

Spring Garden Preserve *(continued from page 1)*

adjacent residential properties and neighborhoods.

“CAL FIRE is pleased to help conserve the Spring Garden Preserve Forest Legacy Project as it protects forestland from residential development in the Wildland Urban Interface,” said CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter. “Conservation of this property will help protect important forest resources in the Sierra Foothills while also securing open space, carbon sequestration, clean air and water for future generations.”

Spring Garden Ravine runs through the property and ultimately into the Middle Fork American River. Folsom Lake is fed by the American River, and as the largest source of water in the Sacramento region, protection of the American River and its tributaries is a significant benefit to us all.

Old topographic maps and documents show that the historic

Spring Garden School was located on the property. Spring Garden Ranch and Mine was situated nearby and served as a central hub for the Foresthill mining community. A homestead was located on the property, and Native American grinding rocks found on site indicate that this land was a food gathering and preparation site for local Indigenous peoples.

Existing trails on the property are used by neighboring landowners and could be improved and used for future open public recreation. The trails will not be connected to the Foresthill Divide Loop Trail in the immediate future, but could potentially be connected to planned trails in the Auburn State Recreation Area. Stay tuned for news and updates!

To learn more, and to see a photo gallery of Spring Garden Preserve, visit placerlandtrust.org.

The Spring Garden Preserve Property Fee Title Acquisition received funding through the California Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) Forest Legacy Program, part of California Climate Investments (CCI). CCI is a statewide program that puts billions of cap-and-trade dollars to work reducing GHG emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment—particularly in disadvantaged communities. The cap-and-trade program also creates a financial incentive for industries to invest in clean technologies and develop innovative ways to reduce pollution. California Climate Investment projects include affordable housing, renewable energy, public transportation, zero-emission vehicles, environmental restoration, more sustainable agriculture, recycling and much more. At least 35 percent of these investments are located within and benefiting residents of disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households across California. For more information, visit the California Climate Investments website at www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov.



Meet our New Board President, Christine Pieper

Placer Land Trust has just voted in Christine Pieper as Board President! Christine joined the Board of Directors in April 2018 and eagerly took on new leadership roles, becoming Vice President in June 2019, and just one year later, was unanimously voted in as our new Board President, effective July 2020.

Christine's love of land conservation has deep roots. Christine was born on a dairy and grain farm in Maryland, which her parents permanently protected with an agricultural conservation easement when she was in high school. When she began her career in nonprofit fundraising, she was drawn to environmental causes. Christine has worked with the American Farmland Trust, the Potomac Conservancy, and the California Native Plant Society, among others.

Christine and her husband, Denny, moved to Placer County in 2014 for its natural beauty and rural lifestyle. They became members of Placer Land Trust shortly after, and Christine appreciates how the community values open space and agriculture – which is reflected in the 11,700+ acres of land they have helped Placer Land Trust protect.



"I'm thrilled to take on the leadership of Placer Land Trust's Board," says Christine. "Preserving land will always be the core of our mission, but I also look forward to reaching new audiences and helping them enjoy and appreciate what's special about Placer County. I'm so grateful to Fred Yeager, who has served as President of the Board since 2007. We're in a great position to take on new challenges with a terrific team and many generous members."

"Christine has brought new skills, enthusiasm and perspectives to our Board of Directors since joining in 2018," says Executive Director Jeff Darlington. "Her volunteer experience with land trust governance and professional expertise with philanthropy make her an ideal leader for our Board as we persevere through 2020 and head toward Placer Land Trust's 30th Anniversary in 2021."

Thank you Fred Yeager for 13+ years as President of Placer Land Trust!



Before Fred was President:

- \$162,000 operating budget
- 4 staff
- \$2.5M cash/investment balance
- 19 projects completed
- 2,377 acres protected

Now:

- **\$1,267,000 operating budget**
- **11 staff**
- **\$11.6M cash/investment balance**
- **61 projects completed**
- **11,730 acres protected**

Recent Grants

Placer Land Trust has been awarded a \$9,500 grant from REI to help support trail and user experience improvements at Big Hill and Canyon View Preserves! We're looking forward to putting their generosity to work on some needed upgrades on these preserves, and to sharing them with you when it is safe to resume our guided hikes per State and local guidelines.



The Placer Conservator

...is going wild!

Thursday, September 24th

Honoring 2020 Conservator of the Year
Sallysue Stein

Wild times call for wild measures, so what better year to honor a wildlife hero?

That's why Placer Land Trust is so excited to be honoring Sallysue Stein with the 2020 Placer Conservator Award! Each year Placer Land Trust honors an individual or group with this prestigious award for their efforts to protect our natural wonders. Sallysue is the founder of Gold Country Wildlife Rescue, and for nearly 30 years has poured her heart and soul into this non-profit volunteer organization that is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of injured and orphaned wildlife. As the hands-on President, Sallysue has yet to find a task that is too big or too small for her to tackle with the goal of protecting wildlife.

As a proud member of Placer Land Trust, Sallysue shares, "Placer Land Trust and Gold Country Wildlife Rescue have a symbiotic relationship. We can certainly rehabilitate animals, but with nowhere to release them, it's a futile endeavor. Likewise, Placer Land Trust can preserve land, but without

its natural fauna (and flora), the magic of the land is missing. Can you imagine the deafening silence if the wildlife was gone? We each have to succeed, so that we both succeed."

We hope you'll join us virtually, or in person, at this year's Placer Conservator "Gone Wild" edition to help us honor Sallysue and her decades of hard work and dedication! Here's how this wild event will look this year:

- The FREE Placer Conservator event will be virtual and air live on Thursday, September 24th
- Anyone and everyone can watch this short event on a computer, tablet, or smart TV or phone
- Watch it from the comfort of your own home, or at your discretion, with a small group of other Placer Land Trust supporters through wild-themed outdoor viewing parties
- If deemed safe, we also hope to add some small outdoor in-person



Sallysue Stein

events that week where participants can meet Sallysue and some of her feathered friends, and see Placer Land Trust's mission in action.

Stay tuned for updates as we get closer to September!

Keep an eye on our website for more information, and opportunities to become a sponsor!

Join Our Team: Now Hiring for Land Management Position

Placer Land Trust is seeking a Land Technician or a Land Manager with land management experience and good people skills to join our team in protecting natural and agricultural lands in Placer County.

This person will be responsible for management and monitoring several thousand acres of Placer Land Trust properties. The position is full-time exempt, and based in Auburn, CA with frequent travel within Placer County.

We seek applicants with diverse backgrounds and experience. The ideal candidate will demonstrate land management experience and commitment to conservation and land stewardship.

Deadline to apply is July 31, 2020. Anticipated start date is early-mid September, 2020. For full job description and more information, or to apply, visit www.placerlandtrust.org/join-our-team.

Creative Ways to Renew Your Membership



In these ever-changing times, one thing remains constant—Placer Land Trust members are still protecting land in Placer County. With health at the top of our minds these days, many of us are finding that we value our natural protected lands now more than ever as we recognize the positive impacts it can have on our physical and mental health. Spending time in nature has been shown to reduce anxiety and depression, and can increase immunity, energy, and happiness, so it's no surprise that it's considered "essential" to our wellbeing by many health experts.

If we want to keep up, or even increase our pace of land conservation, it requires member support. Not only does membership support make up a significant part of Placer Land Trust's annual budget, it can also be leveraged to help us secure larger grant funds from

private and public organizations. As a matter of fact, on average, every \$1 of member support protects \$8 worth of land!

Placer Land Trust knows that we have the BEST members around! And we also know that supporting a cause you believe in at the level you'd like to, or even at all, can be challenging at times. That's why we want to make sure you know that there MANY ways to give to renew your membership, or make you a member in the first place. You might find that some of these methods make it easier to give, or to give more, without impact to your family's budget.

- **Recurring gifts** – gifts that are automatically given monthly or quarterly via credit card or checking account, which can make it easier to give a larger amount over time

- **Workplace Giving and Matching Gifts** – giving through payroll deduction and/or getting gifts matched by your employer
- **Stock Gifts** – donated shares of appreciated stock
- **IRA Gifts** – donating a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA if you're 70 ½ or older
- **Donor Advised Funds** – gifts made through an administering charity, such as Placer or Sacramento Region Community Foundations
- **Vehicle Donations** – old car, boat, motorcycle, etc. proceeds turned into donations

Please check out our website for more details on how to give through one of these methods, and learn of other ways to give—such as leaving a lasting legacy with a planned gift!

placerlandtrust.org/ways-to-give



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Forever Grateful for Nancy and Tom

Much of the work that Placer Land Trust does is with future generations in mind. This means that many of the benefits of our efforts will not be realized until after we are gone. Several of our members understand the importance of investing in the future, and have listed Placer Land Trust in their will or estate plans to create a legacy after their lifetime. In recognition of their vision, we call these special members our "Forever Society".

Nancy Holtz-McMahan, along with her late husband Tom McMahan, are inspirational forward thinkers. They first became Placer Land Trust members more than two decades ago because they so greatly valued what the special landscapes in Placer County have to offer. Before his passing last year, Tom shared his motivation, "Protecting open space, and particularly agricultural

land, from urban encroachment has always been one of my highest professional and personal priorities. Placer County contains among the greatest geographical diversities of any area in the state, and I wish to contribute to the effort to preserve that richness for current and future generations."

In 2015, Nancy and Tom took the next step in achieving their long-term philanthropic goals by joining the Forever Society, and designated a gift to Placer Land Trust in Tom's will. Nancy says she feels good about preserving land beyond her and Tom's lifetime, and hopes their gift will inspire others to do the same. "Making a donation to Placer Land Trust to honor Tom's wishes was one small step toward making sure Placer County's open space and agricultural lands are preserved."



Tom and Nancy McMahan

Placer Land Trust is so grateful to have Forever Society members like Nancy and Tom who have made decisions now that will greatly impact generations to come. Thank you!

Have you made a similar gift – or would you like to learn more? Please contact Eden at eden.rock@placerlandtrust.org.