



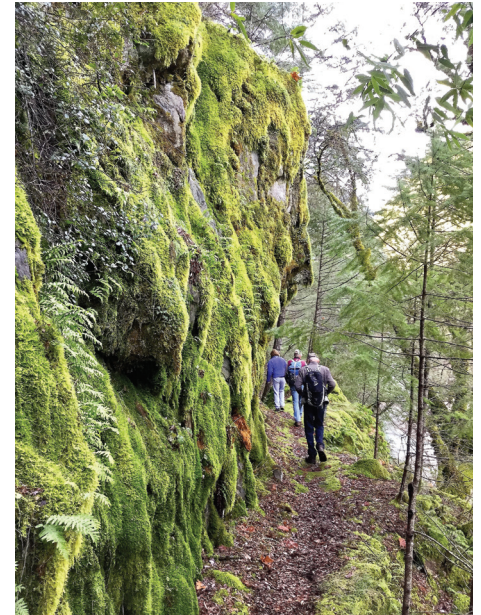
Natural Wonders Forever

WONDERS

Placer Land Trust Newsletter

Summer 2019

Southern Cross Preserve joins the Placer Land Trust family



Above left: The Preserve protects Wild & Scenic river frontage. Above right: The public Euchre Bar Trail crosses the property.

Placer Land Trust has purchased and permanently protected the 46-acre Southern Cross Preserve on the North Fork American River north of Foresthill. The purchase was funded by Placer Land Trust members through the 2017 Placer Conservator Auction, the Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust, and a 50% bargain sale from the landowner.

The wooded canyon land Preserve includes several hundred feet of federally-designated Wild & Scenic river frontage, and a section of the public Euchre Bar Trail. The property is nestled within the Tahoe National Forest, connecting federal U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lands and other nearby Placer Land Trust preserves to create a larger area of protected wilderness. Placer Land Trust strives to protect land that is adjacent to other protected land to create larger

areas of intact wilderness to provide critical habitat, safeguard water and air quality in the region, and support healthy, diverse populations of plants and wildlife. Placer Land Trust is also working with USFS to explore the feasibility of transferring ownership of the property to USFS.

"The acquisition of the property is a great addition to the Placer Land Trust portfolio," says Ron Gould, North Fork American River Alliance representative, Placer Land Trust member, and North Fork American River aficionado. "The Southern Cross Preserve is located in one of the most scenic sections of the North Fork canyon, where the river drops from pool to pool, providing many recreational opportunities. The acquisition of the property not only provides protection for the North Fork American River Wild & Scenic

River, but also helps to preserve the rich mining artifacts and history of the property and surrounding area for future generations to enjoy."

The property was purchased in 1992 by Lanny Malfar and cousin Mark Emalfarb, under the company Southern Cross Natural Resources Inc. Their hope was to re-open the Southern Cross Gold Mine, a historic mine that was operated from the

(See "Southern Cross," page 3)

Save the Date

August 16 - Moonlight hike

September 13-15 - Member campout at Kidd Lake

September 21 - Great Sierra River Cleanup

November 13 - Placer Conservator

More hikes, info, and registration at www.placerlandtrust.org/calendar

Helping Our Mission Grow

Placer Land Trust is proud to share support we've received from these reputable and community-minded organizations...

PLT has received a generous grant from the **Robert Kemp Community Endowment Fund at Placer Community Foundation** to help us protect and care for the land that sustains our local community, now and forever. Placer Community Foundation is a public charity established to assist donors in building an enduring source of charitable funds to meet the changing needs and interests of the community. We're so grateful for their support!

We were also awarded a grant from **REI** to expand an area that doubles as program space and parking at our Taylor Ranch Preserve. This project will improve accessibility and provide more space to hold programs and events, such as mountain bike skill development classes. Thanks to REI for supporting our mission to engage our



community with the outdoors and #OptOutside!

The **Clif Bar Family Foundation** is making life good for all who like to play in our region! Placer Land Trust is honored to have received a grant from the Foundation to support our outdoor recreation activities on our

private preserves. These activities get more people outside through quality experiences that create meaningful connections with the land, plus all the benefits that come with spending time in nature. Thanks to Clif Bar Family Foundation for bringing our mission to life, and helping us share it with other outdoor enthusiasts!

Free Canyon View Preserve Field Guides Available Now

Get out and explore with our brand-new printable field guides to Canyon View Preserve! These colorful guides are an easy, pocket-sized way to identify the trees, shrubs, and wildflowers you'll see at the Preserve (as well as in many other places in the foothills). Just print, fold, and hit the trail! Special thanks to Placer Land Trust volunteer and docent Jan Foster, for contributing the content and photos as part of her work with the California Naturalist program.

The 50-acre Canyon View Preserve is located just north of Auburn. The 1.5 mile public trail system is open daily from dawn to dusk, and features picnic tables, benches, and panoramic views of the American River Canyon. The trail is accessed from Lincoln Way across from the Park & Ride at the Bowman exit of Interstate 80.

Find the field guides on our website at placerlandtrust.org/canyon-view-field-guides



Southern Cross *(continued from page 1)*

early 1900's into the 1940's. This never happened, likely due to economic and physical infeasibility. Lanny passed in 2017. His daughter, Julie Roberts, then contacted Placer Land Trust to see if we could help protect the property in perpetuity, given the importance of it to her father and the family.

Cousin Mark Emalfarb came into ownership of the property and generously discounted the price by 50% of the market value (a "bargain sale"), which allowed the land trust to purchase it, and will afford Mark a tax deduction on the balance. "The generosity of landowners like this, and their desire to see family land protected, is critical to our success," says Placer Land Trust Conservation Director Lynnette Batt.

"I have strong memories of visiting this former gold mine with my father and watching him swim in water so clear that I could see all the way to the bottom of the river," says Julie. "It feels good to know that Placer Land Trust will be protecting this beautiful property

and working to transfer it to become part of the Tahoe National Forest. I'm glad our family can be a part of the history of bringing this land back into public management and to connecting and restoring natural habitat."

The public Euchre Bar Trail runs through the property and provides excellent views of the river, as well as recreation activities including trout fishing, swimming, and floating the river. Although the Southern Cross Preserve is crossed by a public trail, the rest of the Preserve is not open to the public at this time.

Cart tracks are still visible between the mine openings, and the remnants of a 5-acre millsite are located nearby on USFS land. An environmental site assessment at the mine and millsite concluded there was no contamination from heavy metals, or environmental issues of concern. However, safety issues are a concern due to instability and lack of ventilation, and entry to the mine is prohibited.



Above: Southern Cross Preserve is located in one of the most scenic sections of the North Fork canyon.

And the Placer Conservator, or should we say Conservators, goes to...



Jim Branham



Bob Kingman

Placer Land Trust is doubly excited to announce that there will be TWO Placer Conservator Awards given this year! **Jim Branham** and **Bob Kingman** have shared our vision of a healthier region where all living things can thrive, having spent decades protecting our natural resources in Placer County and beyond. They both recently retired from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, where they were instrumental in helping Placer Land Trust protect and enhance several preserves, as well as making many more significant contributions to the vitality of our area. We hope you'll help us honor their careers and accomplishments at the **2019 Placer Conservator on November 13th**.

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

Ambassadors Needed!

Share your love and passion for land conservation! We have volunteer positions available on our Ambassador team. Ambassadors help bring PLT's message and work to a wider audience in the community. No prior experience is needed; we provide all the training and information you'll need. Visit placerlandtrust.org and click on "Get Involved" to learn more or sign up!



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Be part of the solution with us!



It feels good to solve a problem, right? And even better when **you** are part of the solution! That's why it feels **so good** to be a Placer Land Trust member. By simply making a donation, our members work together toward solving large issues that affect our region. Their pooled investments, big and small, add up to protect land that reduces the impact of climate change, cleans our water and air, produces our food, gives us places to recreate, and inspires us with beauty. It's hard to think about what type of region our kids would inherit without the forward-thinking, problem-solving Placer Land Trust members of today. If it's been a while since you've made a positive investment in the future, then please renew your membership today — **we know you'll feel good for doing it!**

Renew your membership online at placerlandtrust.org or by using the enclosed envelope. And **thank you!**

Coming this fall... our second collaboration with Lone Buffalo Vineyards and jbrand, inspired by the California dogface butterfly. Placer Land Trust permanently protects this butterfly's habitat along the Bear River in North Auburn. 20% of the proceeds from each bottle goes directly to Placer Land Trust to protect natural and agricultural lands in Placer County.



www.placerlandtrust.org/donate