



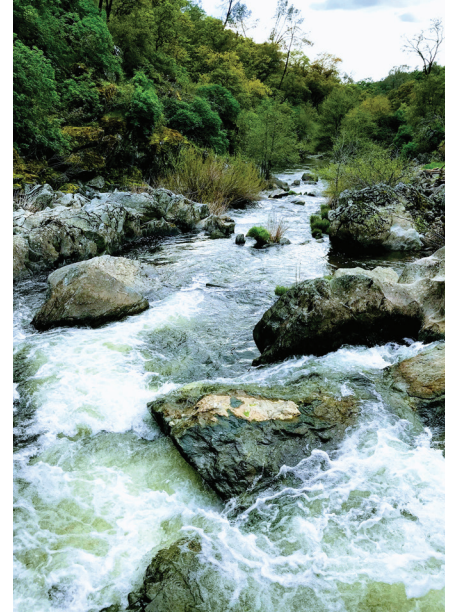
Natural Wonders Forever

WONDERS

Placer Land Trust Newsletter

Autumn 2019

Turning Your \$25 into Thousands of Acres of Protected Land



A new Placer Land Trust preserve in the making: blue oak woodlands (above left) along a section of Raccoon Creek (above right).

Does my \$25 donation really help protect land? That's a question we hear from our members from time to time, and the answer is a resounding "YES"! Here's how...

As we all know, land in Placer County is expensive, especially some of the larger expanses of land that make the biggest impact. It can take millions of dollars to protect some of these larger properties. If you've ever contributed to Placer Land Trust through our campaigns and events, such as Big Day of Giving or the Placer Conservator, then you know that we're not raising that type of money from community member support. It usually requires a large public or private grant, and often a combination of multiple grants, to acquire most of our preserves. But here's where *your* membership donation comes in...

Member support, which often comes in donations of \$25 to \$100, adds up to make it *possible* for us to pursue grants and makes it *more likely* we will succeed. It takes hundreds of hours of staff time to research and write grants, whether we are awarded the grant or not. If awarded, most grants only provide what we call "pass through" funds — the money goes directly to the purchase of land and are never even "received" by Placer Land Trust. And they often only cover a percentage of the expenses it takes to protect a new preserve. Funding needed to cover costs like getting the land appraised, forming legal contracts, or the time it takes staff to apply for this critical funding and work with landowners through the process of getting their land protected... that all needs to come from other sources.

It's member support that covers these costs!

Member support shows potential grant funders that our work is supported by the local community. Demonstrating community support is often a critical requirement of grant applications, and even when it isn't, it helps give us a leg up when competing with so many other worthy causes for grant funding.

(Continued on page 2)

Save the Date

October 26 – Guided Hike at Harvego Bear River Preserve

November 9 - Guided Hike at Big Hill

November 10 - Geology Hike

November 13 - Placer Conservator

December 5 - Pie Party

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



Turning Your \$25...

(continued from page 1)

Placer Land Trust members show these funders that protecting natural and agricultural lands is vital to their quality of life—today and for future generations.

Member support also makes it possible for us to share these lands with the community, and to inspire others to get involved in protecting our natural wonders. Our communications (in print and online) and our programs and events are important ways to share our conservation successes with the public, to help get people connected to the cause, and to even get their feet on the land.

This year alone, Placer Land Trust has applied for over \$7 million in acquisition grant funds, with \$2.7 million awarded so far (we're waiting to hear about the rest). These funds will help us acquire several preserves in three different priority geographic areas. So, whatever the amount you give...

You will be helping Placer Land Trust protect a **new walnut orchard in the valley grasslands on Doty Creek.**

You will help us protect a **cattle ranch in the beautiful oak woodlands of the foothills along Raccoon Creek.**

And it's thanks to *you* that Placer Land Trust will be protecting a **ridge in the Sierra overlooking a Wild & Scenic section of the North Fork American River.**

So yes, every donation does count! YOU sustain Placer Land Trust and fuel our work to protect these landscapes forever.
Thank you!

Building Connections through Trails

Placer Land Trust believes that spending time in nature improves our quality of life by creating opportunities to improve our physical and mental health, and deepen connections with loved ones and with the natural world around us. That's why in 2013, we raised over \$780,000 through our Trails & Recreation Capital Campaign to build 20 miles of new trails, creating access to nearly 3,000 acres of permanently protected Sierra Nevada foothills wilderness. We are forever grateful for this community support!

This grand vision of an expansive regional trail system just north of Placer County's Hidden Falls Regional Park, connecting Raccoon Creek and the Bear River, has now reached the next phase. Placer Land Trust has permanently protected five preserves in this area, which make up our Big Hill and Bear River Preserves. We have also built and continue to maintain new trails that, when connected to those at Hidden Falls, will

help create a continuous 50-mile plus trail system. Placer County is pursuing its responsibilities to create the connections from our preserves to its regional park, and to provide the infrastructure to make public access possible.

Our view of outdoor recreation is one that balances the benefits the public experiences from spending time in our beautiful landscapes, with the reason we protected the land in the first place—to make sure it continues to function as a healthy home for all living things for generations to come. To learn more about how we envision balanced public access to our lands, check out our public access webpage. We believe that Placer County can make the connections between our preserves and their park happen in a way that respects the conservation values of the land.

To read more about our vision for trails and public access, visit placerlandtrust.org/public-access.

Want to leave a legacy? Join the Forever Society at placerlandtrust.org/forever-society

Conservation Chronicles:

Beard Ranch project nearing the finish line

Every preserve has a story to tell, and each project comes with its own set of characteristics and challenges – that’s part of what makes each of our lands unique! Placer Land Trust usually waits until a project is finished and finalized to share the details, but for one exciting new venture, we wanted to give you a behind-the-scenes look at the process of protecting a new preserve.

Beard Ranch is a 137-acre property in North Auburn, and has been in the Beard family since 1955. As a solo female rancher, owner Patti Beard was concerned about who would inherit the property and what would happen to it, as no one in her family wishes to take up ranching or farming. So when PLT found a grant opportunity that could suit the Beard Ranch, we approached Patti about permanently protecting her land through an agricultural conservation easement. For a property like Beard Ranch, this type of easement allows the landowner to continue ranching and living on the land with little or no change to her cattle operation.

Conservation projects need to clear many milestones before becoming a preserve — and there are several key points where a project can stall. In our Spring 2019 edition of Wonders, we shared our

progress so far with Beard Ranch, and were waiting to hear whether the full appraisal of the property would meet expectations of both the landowner and of Placer Land Trust. We’re excited (and relieved!) to announce that the appraisal came in within the range of expected value, within budget, and that the process of protecting Beard Ranch will move forward to the next stage. The project has also been largely funded by the Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALCP), administered by the California Department of Conservation, and through several smaller grants from the California Farmland Conservancy Program and Placer Legacy Open Space and Agricultural Conservation Program.

But there’s more to funding a project than just covering the purchase of the land itself. When we protect a property, we have to ensure that we can do so forever, and that we have the funding to cover ongoing monitoring and stewardship for the years to come.

In the case of Beard Ranch, the landowner is also generously contributing long-term stewardship funding in the form of an endowment, which helps make it possible for us to monitor and

protect the conservation easement on the property.

Now that we have passed three more key milestones — appraisal completed, purchase funding secured, and stewardship funding pledged — the Beard Ranch project is moving into its final stage of completion! The next steps will include writing the purchase and pledge agreements, finalizing the agricultural conservation easement, and documenting existing conditions on the property so that we can monitor it in the future. Stay tuned to hear how the process of preserving this historic property ends — so that the story of Beard Ranch will continue!

Recent Grants

At the end of September, Placer Land Trust was awarded \$62,500 from the **California Department of Conservation’s Working Lands and Riparian Corridors Program**. This funding will help us identify and pursue agricultural land conservation projects (such as agricultural easements), and host workshops for interested landowners.

And as mentioned in the article above, the Beard Ranch project has been largely funded by a grant from the Strategic Growth Council’s **Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Program (SALCP)**, administered by the California Department of Conservation. SALCP is part of California Climate Investments, a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment, particularly in disadvantaged communities.





Natural Wonders Forever
PLACER LAND TRUST
11641 BLOCKER DR., STE. 220
AUBURN, CA 95603-4674

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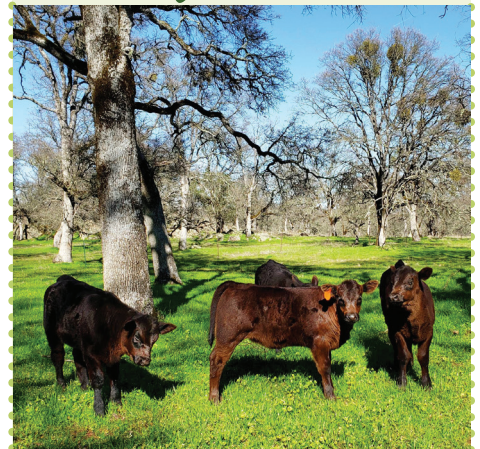


Join our Community Council!



Placer Land Trust is seeking new members for our Community Council — you could be one of them! The Community Council is a small group of committed members who help raise awareness and support for protecting the natural and agricultural lands that are so important to our region. It's more than just an advisory group — these supporters help to amplify Placer Land Trust's voice and impact as our region continues to grow at a rapid pace. **Are you interested in keeping up on Placer Land Trust's progress, serving as a resource within your area of expertise, and helping to broaden and deepen our connections within the community?** Then apply today! We're accepting applications through Nov. 30th. Learn more at www.placerlandtrust.org/join-community-council.

Have you herd?



We've got a new look!

Check out our redesigned website at placerlandtrust.org!

www.placerlandtrust.org/donate

2019

Placer Conservator

Dinner, Awards & Live Auction

Please join Placer Land Trust in honoring
Jim Branham & Bob Kingman

with the annual Placer Conservator Award, in honor of their distinguished careers in conservation and the impacts they have made that benefit current and future generations.

Placer Land Trust will also be honoring **Jan Foster & Ray Valone** as Land Stewards of the Year, and **Gary & Shannon Wells** as Volunteers of the Year. The program will be hosted by Capital Public Radio's Randol White.

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 | 5:30 pm
The Ridge Golf Club and Events Center
2020 Golf Course Road, Auburn

Tickets - \$75 for Placer Land Trust members, \$90 for general public

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.placerlandtrust.org or call 530-887-9222. Space is limited, get your tickets today! Tickets on sale through Nov. 4th.

Thank you to our major sponsors!

Sponsorship space is still available, contact Kara at 530-887-9222 or kara.walker@placerlandtrust.org.



Churchwell White^{LLP}



For the Birds

It's been a great year for the bluebird families at our Taylor Ranch Preserve! A total of 39 bluebird chicks fledged this year from 9 nests.

Western Bluebirds nest in holes in trees, or in specially-designed bluebird houses like these. They're very particular about their nesting sites, and vulnerable to habitat loss, so we're extra-excited to see that these sweet little birds are thriving at Taylor Ranch! Thanks to PLT volunteer and docent **Ray Valone** for sharing these photos, and for stewarding this project!



Join Our Team!

Now Hiring: Land & Recreation Manager

Our land protection efforts keep growing! We are in need to expand our Lands Team – could you or someone you know be the perfect fit with PLT? We are looking to hire a Land & Recreation Manager with strong technical experience, relational skills, and initiative to help manage our growing number of preserves and develop more public recreation opportunities. Application period open through October 22, or until the right candidate is found.

For more info, visit www.placerlandtrust.org/join-our-team.



Save the Date!

Pie Party – December 5



Mark your calendars and get your favorite recipes ready — it's almost time for PLT's annual Pie & Holiday Party! This is a great free event for members to enjoy delicious food, tasty beverages, and chat with other PLT members. Keep an eye out for PLT's holiday card which will have more details on time and location. **We hope to see you there!**

Dogface Cabernet Sauvignon

An exclusive collaboration between Lone Buffalo Vineyards and Placer Land Trust, supporting land conservation in Placer County

Just released! Dogface Cabernet Sauvignon is our second collaboration with **Lone Buffalo Vineyards** and **jbrand**, inspired by the California dogface butterfly. 20% of the proceeds from each bottle goes directly to Placer Land Trust to protect natural and agricultural lands in Placer County.

The California dogface butterfly is the California state insect, but is quite rare due to its limited habitat. Not much was known about its lifecycle prior to the discovery of a large population of the butterfly on Placer Land Trust's Shutamul Bear River Preserve, located in North Auburn, home to the largest number of breeding California dogface known in the Sierra Nevada.

Come see us at Lone Buffalo Vineyards during Holidays in the Hills, December 7th and 8th! This self-guided tour of Placer County wineries features wine tastings, food trucks, and holiday cheer. Learn more at www.placerwine.com!

