



WONDERS

PLACER LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024



New Preserve Coming Soon! 1,566 acres along Lake Clementine and the North Fork of the American River

We are close to the finish line on protecting 1,566 acres of river canyon along Lake Clementine and the North Fork American River!

This soon-to-be preserved land is located between the communities of Applegate and Foresthill. Working in joint venture partnership with the Trust for Public Land (TPL), Placer Land Trust is purchasing the land and will transfer it to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), ensuring that this land is held in the public trust and stays wild and scenic forever.

"Conservation along the American River has always been one of Placer Land Trust's top priorities," said Jeff Darlington, Placer Land Trust's Executive Director. "This river is the

lifeblood of Placer County in many ways: it provides clean drinking water that is among the best on earth, it's the signature location where healthy outdoor recreation supports our local economy, and the river and forests provide a critical natural corridor for fish and wildlife."

On the Applegate side, the property, which is owned by private developers, was slated for the 97-lot "Kalorama" subdivision in the American River canyon. On the Foresthill side, the property contains stretches of the Upper and Lower Clementine Roads which access the two popular Lake Clementine access points: the boat launch area near the dam, and the Upper Lake Clementine Beach where the river meets the lake.

No new development will mean a big win for the health of our local environment.

Avoiding subdivision, development and fragmentation on both sides of the river and lake means local wildlife species get to stay wild, whether they are rare endemic species or the furry and fuzzy friends we see every day in Placer County. Mammals such as deer, amphibians such as the Foothill yellow-legged frog, and insects such as the Pipevine swallowtail butterfly, all thrive here.

Funding for the acquisition is being provided by a grant from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal program to safeguard natural areas, water

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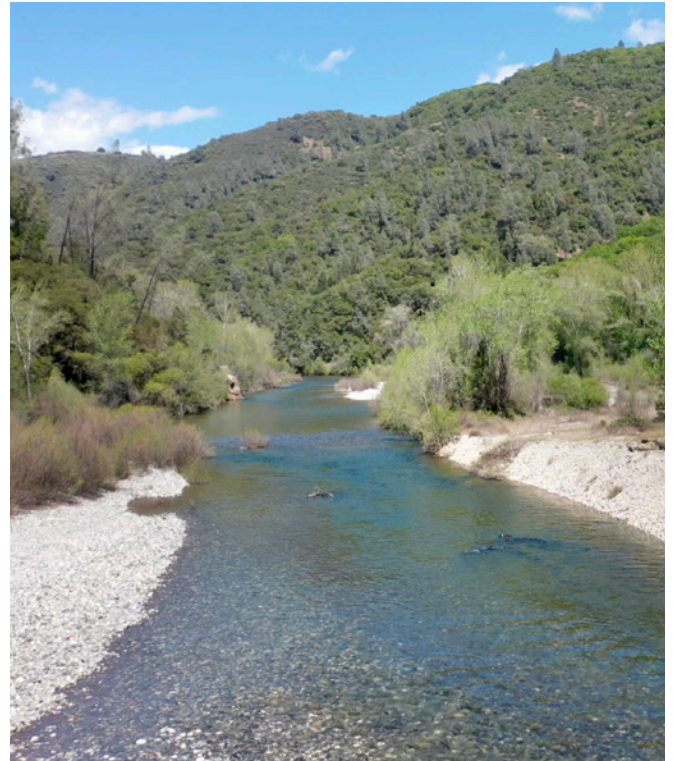
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resources and cultural heritage across the country, and provide recreation opportunities to all. The LWCF funding mandates ownership and long-term management by BLM for conservation and recreation benefits. PLT also received project support from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

After BLM takes ownership and the agency has assessed the preserve, our local BLM field office can recommend new federal investment in forest health, fuels management, and the prevention of catastrophic wildfire. BLM also plans the creation of a new public trailhead on the Applegate side of the preserve, providing new recreational access from Interstate 80 to the river and Lake Clementine.

"BLM will manage the property similarly to the adjacent and popular Auburn State Recreation Area," said Jeff. "Specifically what this management will look like will be a process the public can weigh in on, but in the end there will probably be some prohibitions or limitations on activities such as camping, fires, and motorized recreation in order to protect the preserve, its wildlife, and its visitors ... and of course to protect our local communities from wildfire and other harmful impacts."

We hope to complete this project and share it with you very soon... stay tuned!



The new preserve is situated along the scenic North Fork American River as it flows into Lake Clementine.

Placer Land Trust Receives Film Fest Award for "Gettin' Out with Gary"

Our new web video series, "Getting Out With Gary," is a prize-winner in the First Annual Film Fest of the California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT)! Judges Jessie Dickson of *Sacramento Food Forest* and Michelle Fullner of the *Golden State Naturalist Podcast* honored our "Squirrel Dining Room" episode with the "Most Entertaining Short Film" award at the recent CCLT California Land & Water Conservation Conference.

"Gettin' Out with Gary" features our intrepid Stewardship Assistant Gary Wells sharing the cool things he finds when he's out in the field, from tiny mosses to industrious woodpeckers to towering grey pines. Follow Gary's adventures with us on Facebook and Instagram @placerlandtrust!

Clockwise from top left: Gary and the film fest judges; Gettin' Out with mosses; our nifty award plaque on display at the office!



DOUBLE your donation – *and your impact!*

Big Day of Giving

MAY 2

The first \$80,000 in donations will be DOUBLED!

Big Day of Giving is THE online giving opportunity of the year that unites and inspires our community to support the hundreds of nonprofits that make the greater Sacramento region an amazing place to call home. It is a critical fundraiser for Placer Land Trust as it helps us raise the funds needed to keep our mission moving forward. Over the past nine years of our participation, the investment of members like you have allowed us to permanently protect and care for nearly 11,000 acres in Placer County, and more is needed to continue this vital work for our lands, waters,

wildlife, and ways of life. **Mark your calendar to help Placer Land Trust continue to protect these essential resources through Big Day of Giving!**

Big Day of Giving is **May 2nd, with early giving starting on April 18th!** Most giving takes place online starting on April 18th, but we can also accept gifts made directly to Placer Land Trust via check or cash. All checks and non-electronic gifts should be mailed to 922 Lincoln Way, Suite 200, Auburn, CA 95603. Please allow enough time to ensure we receive your gift by May 2nd.

Exciting News – some generous Placer Land Trust members have already come together to create a **\$80,000 matching fund** that will double donations made between April 18th–May 2nd, while funds last! A huge thanks to **Emigrant Trails Greenway Trust, Mary Ann Flemmer, Christine Pieper & Dennis Grossman, Graeme & Debra Plant, Side Hill Citrus, and an anonymous donor** for making this fund possible, and thank you in advance to all who plan to participate this Big Day of Giving!

Show the region how much you value protected land this Big Day of Giving:

1. **Donate TODAY through May 2nd** at www.bigdayofgiving.org/placerlandtrust. All major credit cards are accepted, and gifts made through a Golden 1 Credit Union debit/credit card earn additional funds for Placer Land Trust. *
2. **Share your support!** Please tell your friends! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @[placerlandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/placerlandtrust) and share our posts. Or introduce a friend to one of Placer Land Trust's public preserves and help us get the word out to protect the land that gives life and makes our future brighter.

* You can also give to Placer Land Trust directly via **check, cash, stock, donor advised fund, IRA charitable rollover**, etc. Simply mail your donation or drop it off at our office: Placer Land Trust, 922 Lincoln Way, Suite 200, Auburn, CA 95603. We must have it by May 2nd for it to be included in our Big Day of Giving totals. If you have any questions, please contact Kara at kara.walker@placerlandtrust.org or 530-887-9222 x109.

THANK YOU for being part of our community of supporters who are protecting the quality of life in Placer County for generations to come!

www.bigdayofgiving.org/placerlandtrust

Spring Fun and Citizen Science at Canyon View Preserve

We have some wonderful springtime opportunities to get out and enjoy our preserves on a guided hike (see the event calendar below), but if you'd like to explore some trails on your own, Canyon View Preserve is a great spot! Wildflower season is officially here, starting with early blooms like California poppies and buttercups. Fairy lanterns, brodiaea, and lupine won't be far behind.

While you're out at Canyon View, be sure to look for our new **Chronolog** station located at the hillside meadow! This is a cool way to participate in "citizen science" and help us document the changing view of the meadow with the seasons. Simply set your camera phone on the bracket, snap a photo, and follow the directions to add it to an online timelapse video. Scan the QR code at right, or visit chronolog.io/site/PLT101, to see what other visitors have documented so far.



The Canyon View Preserve trails are open to the public every day. A new interpretive trail, wildflower guides, benches, and the relaxing Gathering Space make this a great spot for all ages to enjoy. If you like, share your photos with us by tagging **@placerlandtrust** on social media!



Hitting the Trails with Cali Trail Seekers

We had a great hike recently with the Cali Trail Seekers! This hiking group is coordinated by Kemi Shemonda, a public health professional who supports people living their healthiest lives. She started the group three years ago with the intent to help people get active and explore the benefits of a healthy lifestyle together.

On April 6, the group enjoyed a day on the trails at Big Hill Preserves. 18 young professional adults came from all over the greater Sacramento region – some as far as Dixon, Elk Grove, Woodland, and even Elko, Nevada. Thanks to this inspiring and enthusiastic group for joining us outdoors!

Upcoming Events

Saturday May 4 - Spring Wildflower Hike at Harvego Bear River Preserve

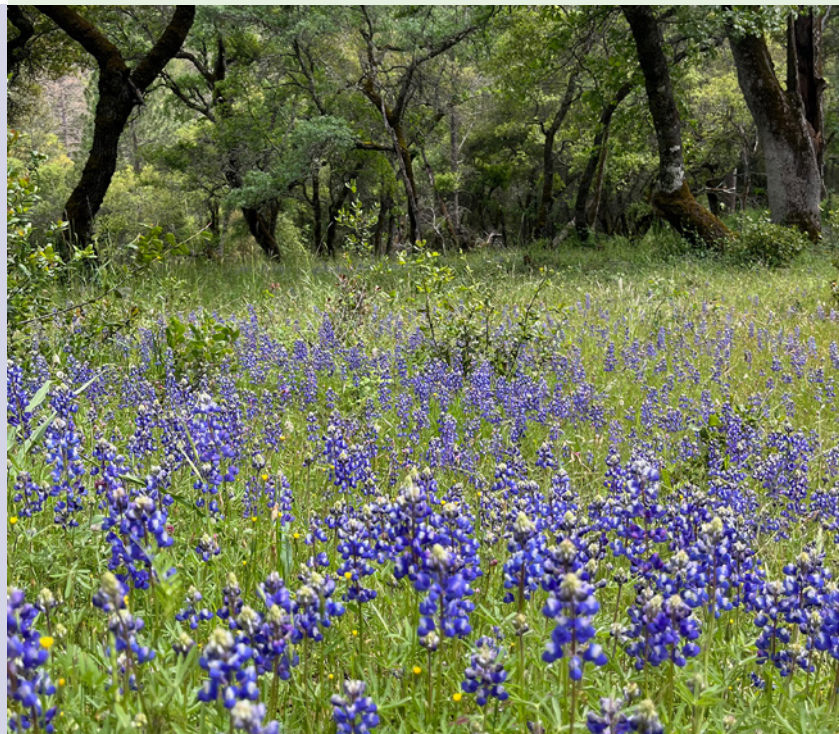
Friday May 10 - Spring Bird Stroll at Big Hill Preserves

Saturday May 18 - Plein Air Art Outing at Laursen Bear River Preserve

Friday June 21 - Big Hill "Full Strawberry Moon" Moonlight Hike

More event info and registration:
www.placerlandtrust.org/calendar

Follow us on Facebook to hear about upcoming hikes and events:
www.facebook.com/placerlandtrust



The protected lands in Placer Land Trust's care are the ancestral lands of the Maidu, Miwok, Nisenan and Washoe tribes. These lands were forcibly seized, and these tribes were unjustly treated. Although Placer Land Trust cannot change the past, we seek to work with local Native American tribes where we can to help address this injustice.



Memorial Bench Honoring Larry Moore Installed at Aeolia Preserve

Larry and Becky Moore were married for 49 years, and spent much of their time together enjoying the outdoors. They both felt that a beautiful place to sit in nature would be a wonderful way to be remembered.

After Larry passed away in 2021, Becky contacted Placer Land Trust to see about placing a memorial bench at Aeolia Preserve. Her son Ben and his wife Shelley, who are Placer Land Trust members, live nearby and the family had enjoyed many walks there together when they came to visit.

Larry was a deeply compassionate man whose sense of adventure was equaled only by his sense of humor. Family vacations were full of hiking, board games, and, whenever possible, his favorite dessert: banana cream pie. Becky and her daughter, Meagan worked together with Kara at Placer Land Trust to find just the right words to convey Larry's spirit on a plaque.

After the bench was installed in the fall, Becky's family (which includes children Ben, Eric and Meagan, their spouses and six grandkids) gathered during the holidays to see the bench for the first time. Mist was hanging in the valley and the sun was shining as they looked out over the beautiful view.

Later, around the table, Ben shared that some of his friends had recently told him about discovering a new bench along the trail they regularly hiked. They mentioned the meaningful inscription and how it was placed in such a beautiful spot. Ben hadn't told his friends about the bench yet, and when they finished their story, he teared up a little and said with a smile, "That's my Dad's bench!"

The Moore family hopes the bench will be loved and enjoyed for years to come, and that the folks who pause and sit there will think of Larry and smile (with or without banana cream pie).

If you would like to learn more about dedicating a tribute bench to honor a loved one, please visit our website at placerlandtrust.org/tribute-gifts.

Recent Grants

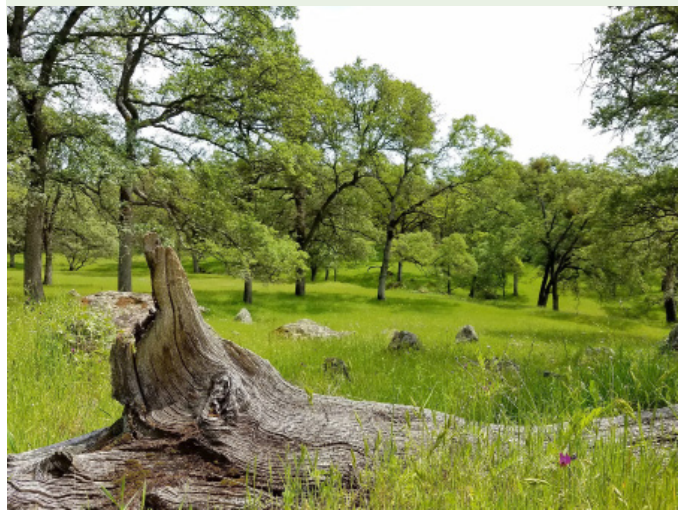
The Land Trust Alliance awarded Placer Land Trust a \$12,500 grant to work with the Koy'o Land Conservancy, a nonprofit affiliated with the Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe. This grant will enable us to contract one or more cultural resource advisors from the Conservancy in 2024 to lead Cultural Resource Identification and Stewardship workshops and perform cultural site assessments on conservation lands in Placer County.

We recently received two grants for general operating support: \$20,000 from the Nathan Cummings Foundation and \$15,000 from the Clif Bar Family Foundation. These funds will help us explore new conservation projects, steward the lands already in our care, and help us share opportunities to enjoy land with the public.

We were awarded \$2,500 from the Athens Renewable Energy community giving program to be used toward the purchase of e-bikes. These bikes will be used by our stewardship team to make getting around our preserves more efficient.

We also received a \$20,000 grant from the Kelly Foundation to help with a future conservation project. We thank them for their dedication "to support conservation, awareness and sustainable management of California's environment, wildlife, natural habitat, open space, wetlands, watersheds, forests and trees, for both natural and recreational uses".

Thanks to these amazing supporters for fueling our work, and to our members for showing your trust and investment in us – you make so much possible!





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Pie Party on the Preserve

The 2024 Pie Party on the Preserve was a delightful day with good food, great company, and beautiful weather! Partygoers enjoyed exploring the Laursen Bear River Preserve trails and playing games in the meadow while noshing on a huge selection of delicious pies. Thanks to all who joined us to make it such a fun event!

