



WONDERS

PLACER LAND TRUST NEWSLETTER *Summer 2024*



Preserve Passport Program Celebrates the Outdoors

For the fourth year running, Placer Land Trust's **Community Council** celebrated National Great Outdoors Month in June by hosting a **Preserve Passport Program**. Participants visited Placer Land Trust public access preserves on their own, shared their photos and experiences, and won prizes that support local businesses.

The program invites families, friends, and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy the outdoors. Participants enjoyed walking the trails, finding a spot for a picnic or to fish, and taking in the natural beauty of Placer County's native plants, trees and wildlife.

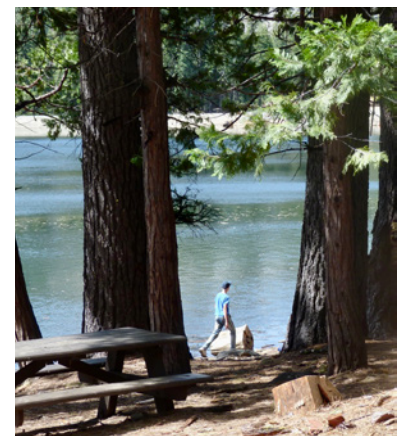
Participation in the program took many forms. The **Anderson family** (above and right), who has participated every year since the program began, visited multiple preserves and even appeared on CBS13 Sacramento to share their enthusiasm! "We had a fun time being on the news representing Placer Land Trust," they shared. "Thank you again for all you do to protect our wild areas."



Longtime supporters **Jim and Cathy Haagen-Smit** visited several preserves both on foot and by bike, and shared Cisco Grove Gould Park with their group of cycling friends. "All of us use

this as our meeting spot for the classic ride over Donner Summit to Truckee and back. Parking, porta-potties, Yuba River, picnic tables, and it's way cool when it's 100 degrees in Auburn! Awesome."

They weren't the only ones escaping the heat by visiting preserves at higher elevations! **Kassy Ferguson** shared: "We visited [Lake Valley Preserve] after going to Cisco Grove and spent most of the day. We are thankful we had the opportunity to enjoy Mother Nature."





Mike Burton and Karen Cunningham enjoyed a visit to Auburn School Park Preserve, where “the creek was flowing and made such a relaxing sound. Also, we were happily surprised to find a music festival happening at the park.”



And **Ryan Jones** got to see a truly special sight: “I visited the Canyon View Preserve on a beautiful June evening when I learned that the Wavy-leafed Soap Plants were blooming. This preserve is a favorite of mine, and continues to improve with more trails and interpretive signs added.”

Whether the visit was short or long, first time or a happy return, participants expressed appreciation for the experience. “The goal of this program is to celebrate nature and raise awareness of the importance of protecting our region’s beautiful open spaces and agricultural lands,” said **Karen Keene**, Community Council co-chair. “We’re proud that so many participated and were able to have meaningful experiences with their family and friends.”

To visit Placer Land Trust preserves that are open to the public at any time of year, view the full list at www.placerlandtrust.org/trails.

The Community Council are volunteers who spread the mission of Placer Land Trust through community engagement and activities.

Plan Your Legacy: New Resources for Members

Placer Land Trust is excited to share a new resource for you, our valued members! We have partnered with estate planning experts to share a quarterly e-newsletter that includes valuable tools to help you provide for your family after your lifetime, and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

That first e-newsletter will be sent in early August, which just happens to be National Make a Will Month. We hope you’ll find the information provided to be useful for your planning needs, and if not, you can unsubscribe at any time.

If you’re ready to get started now, you can download our free Estate Planning Guide! This tool helps you organize your wishes, provide for your loved ones, and allows you to make a positive impact on the causes you hold dear.

This guide not only facilitates the planning process, but also serves as a valuable tool for your attorney. Once you have completed the guide, working with your attorney should be faster (and cheaper), as you’ll have already thought through tough questions and have all the materials that you need gathered and ready to share.

We invite you to explore the guide, and if inspired, consider supporting Placer Land Trust’s mission through a bequest. There is no better time to create or update your estate plan. When you do, you can wake up every day knowing that no matter what happens, you have provided for your family, friends and the causes important to you. Download your free Estate Planning Guide at www.placerlandtrustlegacy.org today, or scan the QR code below!





Three Cheers for Our Volunteers!

Land conservation is a full-time job, and then some – that’s why we are so grateful for the volunteers who help us leverage our resources and accomplish so much! We recently held our annual VolunCHEERS! Picnic and Awards to show our appreciation for all who support Placer Land Trust through preserve stewardship, trail maintenance, help at events, leading outings as docents, and more.

In 2023, we had an impressive 187 active volunteers, who together contributed 3,420 volunteer hours. And it all translated into greater public engagement, offering opportunities to more people in a variety of ways to create meaningful connections to the land and each other.

Our **Land Steward of the Year, Bryan Wright**, was recognized for his leadership and vision as head of our Trail Stewards crew – a group that he helped develop to meet the growing need for trail work. With deep experience in trail layout, construction, and maintenance, Bryan has helped improve our trail networks at the Big Hill, Harvego, and Canyon View Preserves in countless ways.

Our **Volunteer of the Year, Cathy Scott**, was recognized for her incredible dedication and can-do attitude! She is an active member of the preserve steward, trail steward, and chainsaw teams-and comes to every other land-based opportunity she can, including Broom Battles, oak regeneration workdays, preserve clean-up days, even Adopt-a-Highway trash pickups. Her two trail horses are volunteers, too – she brings them to help out with our equestrian docent program as well as the Trail Patrol in the Tahoe National Forest.

We also recognized a few more special “above and beyond” volunteers – read about them all at www.placerlandtrust.org/volunteer-awards-2024.

Our thanks and appreciation goes out to all our wonderful volunteers – it takes a village, and we couldn’t do all that we do without each and every one of you!

Interested in volunteering? Learn more at www.placerlandtrust.org/volunteer.

Recent Grants

We recently received a grant from Placer Community Foundation to help us improve technological aspects of our work and deliver our mission in the most efficient and meaningful way possible. These funds will help us make web-based communication upgrades, especially accessibility enhancements; expand trail descriptions on our website for public preserves, including accessibility information; add more community-science monitoring stations on our public lands; improve our hybrid meeting technology; and launch a robust volunteer management system. Investing in these technological improvements will allow us to continue to expand the number and diversity of community members enjoying the many benefits of protected land. Thanks to Placer Community Foundation for helping us work smarter!

We have also received a \$20,000 grant from the George W. Bauer Family Foundation to help build trail connections between our Big Hill Preserve and Placer County’s Hidden Falls Regional Park. Over the last 14 years, we have built and maintained trails at Big Hill Preserve in order to provide new recreational opportunities, and to eventually connect our trails with those at Placer County’s Hidden Falls Regional Park. With the opening of the park expansion expected to take place in the next year or so, we are stepping up our trail construction, fuel load management, and protection of special natural and cultural features within the trail corridors. We are working hard to ensure that this new recreation access will be inclusive and enjoyable for all.

With these funds from the Bauer Foundation, our funding gap is closing, but we still need additional funding to complete our work to open Big Hill Preserve to the public in 2025. To invest in this new community recreation system, you can donate to our Trails & Recreation campaign at www.placerlandtrust.org/trails-rec, or scan the QR code below. We are so grateful for the support!





Baby bluebirds at Taylor Ranch Preserve
Photo by "Bluebird Steward" Ray Valone



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Conservation Celebration Week – September 16–22

Conservation Celebration Week is coming! This week is all about celebrating the people who make land conservation in our region possible – Placer Land Trust members, local conservation leaders, and landowners who choose to preserve their land. Together we accomplish so much!

During the week of September 16 through 22, we will shine a spotlight on the value of protected lands with an online auction, the Placer Conservator Reception, and Party on the Preserve. There will be something for everyone!

We hope you'll join us at one or both events to help us honor **Steve Frisch**, the recipient of the 2024 Placer Conservator Award. Steve is the president of the Sierra Business Council and one of its founding members. Under Steve's leadership, this nonprofit promotes environmental quality and economic prosperity to the communities of the Sierra Nevada, using principles of business to solve difficult social and environmental problems. SBC has supported the protection of over 40,000 acres of working farms, ranches, and forests in the Sierra.

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available at
www.placerlandtrust.org/conservation-week

Mark your calendar:

Monday, September 16 - Placer Conservator Reception
at La Provence Restaurant, Roseville

Saturday, September 21 - Party on the Preserve
at Laursen Bear River Preserve

All week, September 16-22 - Conservation Celebration Online Auction



Scan for more!

