



DIABLO watch

Save Mount Diablo

Protecting the Mountain Since 1971

Winter/Spring 2002. No. 32

Two Ballot Measures Need Your Support On March 5!!



VOTE YES ON PROP 40!
The California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002

Prop. 40 will provide \$1.275 billion for land conservation and improved air and water quality and an additional \$1.325 billion for state and local parks, recreation and historic and cultural resources. Included in the Prop 40 funding will be an allocation of \$225 million for State Parks, and 40 million for the San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy, both of which can benefit Mount Diablo State Park and its surrounding regional and local parks.

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VOTE YES ON MEASURE K
The East Bay Regional Park District Measure to Provide Operations & Maintenance

Since the Measure AA acquisition bond was approved in 1988, the East Bay Regional Park District has purchased thousands of acres of land. Many of these areas will be land banked without public access until funds are generated to operate them.

Measure K will provide long-term funding for park operations and maintenance - to open up newly acquired parks, restore and protect habitat, rehabilitate aging facilities, and add more rangers and wildlife biologists.

Since 1988 the District has almost doubled its acreage, without a proportionate funding increase for operations and maintenance. Measure K calls for \$12 a year per residential parcel, or \$1 a month. Renters will pay just 69 cents a month. The money raised will fund a list of priority projects put together with advice of the environmentalists and park visitors, including the opening of a number of new parks. At least 30% of the funds raised will go for the

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Wright Property Acquired

Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo's Director of Land Programs, opened Save Mount Diablo's 30th anniversary celebration with a slide show detailing the accomplishments of the past thirty years. Seth's final image seemed a bit puzzling. . . a 1946 shot of Martin and Dorothy Wright peering out of the Curry Creek Park snack bar.

The reason for the 56 year old image became clear later in the program as a special presentation was made to Dorothy Wright. Nadine Hitchcock, Program Manager for the Coastal Conservancy's S.F. Bay Area Program, and Contra Costa Times columnist Gary Bogue presented a five-foot long \$590,000 check to Dorothy to complete SMD's purchase of the 76-acre Wright Canyon property. SMD optioned the parcel in January 2001. Last spring Bogue held a ten-week campaign in his column to raise the option funds necessary to hold the \$640,000 acquisition. Nine hundred donors responded, two thirds of them new to SMD. SMD had two years to raise the remaining funds, but on December 6th, four days before the 30th Anniversary event, the Coastal Conservancy Board approved a \$590,000 grant.

The grant is a testament to the great work of the Conservancy and its project manager Mary Small, who were involved in acquisition details with SMD even before a deal had been signed. The Wright property closed escrow on December 31st and is now owned by SMD. Dorothy Wright retains life estate and can live out her life on the property. Although the property is closed to the public until the property is transferred to the State Park, a condition of the Conservancy grant is that SMD conduct two public hikes each year. *The first of these hikes, to be led by Gary Bogue on March 23rd, can be found in the April on the Mountain schedule.*



David Ogden

Gary Bogue presents Dorothy Wright with a \$590,000 check from the Coastal Conservancy

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www.savemountdiablo.org

Masthead Panorama

Oak Flat, Mt. Diablo
Photo by Stephen Joseph

Diablo Watch is published by *Save Mount Diablo*, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving land on Mt. Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values.

**CONTAINS
SOYOIL**

Diablo Watch is printed on recycled paper with a soy base ink and can be recycled.

**From the Executive Director . . .**

Save Mount Diablo? We often get asked, "What are you saving it from?" or "Why does it need saving?" or "Isn't it saved yet?" We love to get those questions because they give us an opportunity to educate the questioner . . . to share with them our mission and vision. We challenge them to picture the future of our community with a dramatically increased population and countless new pressures and strains on our lives. Mt Diablo and its surrounding parks offer a counterpoint to these challenges.

How much preserved land is too much? What is the proper balance between development and preservation of open space? There are no exact answers to these questions. It is for each of us to reach our own decisions, and to leave it to future generations to determine if we truly achieved "smart growth" and preserved enough land. Wouldn't we rather err on the side of having preserved more open space and natural resources than not enough? The cost of accomplishing our objectives is great - in terms of the number of hours and people it will take, and in the incredible number of dollars necessary to acquire these new lands. Can we fail to answer the call to not raise or donate these funds? The future cost of reclaiming land is a price we might not be able to pay. Once open space and wildlife are gone, they may be gone forever. Preserving these resources today - that is the legacy that we owe our children and our children's children.

As John Muir said, "*Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity.*" We must continue to challenge ourselves to work and advocate for these special places. . . to preserve our wilderness.

"My dream is that the whole of Mount Diablo, including its foothills, will remain open space . . . that the visual and natural integrity will be sustained."

Dr. Mary Bowerman, Founding Member, Save Mount Diablo

As *Save Mount Diablo* begins its 31st year, we hope that it will not take another 30 years to accomplish Mary Bowerman's dream. Regardless, won't it be worth it to save our wilderness and to insure our community's quality of life . . . to **SAVE MOUNT DIABLO?**

Ron Brown

Save Mount Diablo Events

Mountain Adventure, Saturday June 1: (Half Marathon and 7 mile hike) 8:00am at Castle Rock Recreational Area, Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Call for details.

Hikes at Black Diamond Mines to view Antioch's proposed Future Urban Area #1: the first Saturday March through June. See the April On The Mt. schedule for details, or call SMD.

Gary Bogue and the Wright Property, Saturday March 23. Join Gary and meet Dorothy Wright at a celebratory walk on SMD's newest acquisition, the 76-acre Wright property, acquired on December 31, 2001. See the April On The Mt. schedule for details, or call SMD.

Visit Mount Diablo And Celebrate Spring!!!

Support the cause by purchasing

Save Mount Diablo Mountain Merchandise**T - Shirts**

*Navy Blue or Gray
(100% cotton)*

Adult Sizes:

S, M, L, XL, XXL

\$12.50

Coffee Mugs

Available in Gray

\$7.50



Place your credit card order by phone (925) 947-3535, (Master Card, VISA, American Express), or by mailing a check to SMD: 1196 Boulevard Way, #10, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Merchandise can be purchased and picked up at SMD's office or shipped for a \$5 charge.



Briones Valley view of Cowell Ranch west to Mt. Diablo and Black Diamond Mines

Stephen Joseph

Rancho Los Meganos Will Cowell Ranch Become A Park?

By the end of 2002, most of the remnants of Rancho Los Meganos—Cowell Ranch—may be the Diablo foothills’ newest preserve, almost 4,000 acres surrounding the State owned John Marsh home and the County Flood Control District’s Marsh Creek reservoir. The past fifteen years have meant a remarkable turn around from 1987, when the S.H. Cowell Foundation proposed a huge development on its 4,491 acre Ranch. Cowell’s preservation would bridge most of the remaining gap in public open space from Round Valley and Los Vaqueros, northwest to Roddy Ranch Open Space and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

Huge expanses of sand dunes once fringed the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, from Oakley to Pittsburg, before the damming of rivers began starving the dunes of their riverine sand supplies. Agriculture, industry and development followed. Rancho Los Meganos’ name was derived during Captain Luis Antonio Arguello’s boat voyage up the Sacramento river, in a May 24, 1817 entry in Father Durán’s diary: “A paraje que llaman los Méganos” ‘place called the sand dunes’, using a variant spelling of ‘medanos’. Situated in what is now the Brentwood area, it was one of two Los Medanos Ranchos. They were later differentiated as Los ‘Meganos’ in 1835 to Jose Noriega. Rancho Los ‘Medanos’ in the Pittsburg area was granted in 1839 to Jose Antonio

Mesa and Jose Miguel Garcia.

Cowell Ranch is a beautiful expanse of almost treeless, rolling grassland hills bisected east-west by Briones Valley, draining from west of Deer Valley Road east to the Marsh creek reservoir, and north-south by Marsh creek and a significant riparian woodland. The John Marsh home is near the reservoir and orchards bound the eastern property line, with quarries beyond. Round Valley and Morgan Territory’s dramatic woodland ridges rise to the south, with Diablo towering above to the southwest. Cowell is prime habitat for the federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox, and its creeks, vernal pools and ponds are home to three other listed animal species.

After applying for naturalization as a Mexican citizen, in 1837 Dr. John Marsh bought Rancho Los Meganos’ 13,285 acres from Jose Noriega for \$500. Marsh was Contra Costa’s first American settler and California’s first doctor. He settled on the rancho the following year and his rude adobe holdings became known as Marsh’s place, or Farm of Pulpones. The canyon drainage of Marsh creek, Arroyo de los Poblanos (1824) or “Canada del los Poblanos” as at least the USGS still knows it, are all derivatives after the name of the local Volvon Indians. In 1851 Dr. John Marsh married Santa Clara school teacher Abby Tuck, and in March 1852 they had a daughter, Alice. Charles Marsh, a son from an earlier marriage, eventually made

his way to California and by chance came in contact with his father.

The Cowell Foundation’s proposal included construction of 5,200 homes, a business park, schools, a community college and trails and recreational areas. The voter approved Measure C in 1990 excluded half the Ranch from a new County Urban Limit Line, the area the Foundation had proposed for open space. County Supervisors and City Council members were eager cheerleaders for the project but the environmental sensitivity of the property delayed consideration and community opposition gathered force. Greenbelt Alliance and the Sierra Club led that opposition, while Save Mount Diablo considered which areas were most significant and proposed preservation of much of the ranch as part of a wildlife corridor from Round Valley to Black Diamond Mines. New County Supervisors Donna Gerber and (now Assemblyman) Joe Canciamilla began questioning the need for the development and proposed excluding Cowell in a tightening of the County’s Urban Limit Line (ULL).

Marsh had a huge three-story stone house designed for his bride, by San Francisco architect Thomas Boyd, of stone quarried from nearby hills. Marsh, widely known as a cheapskate, was murdered by several cowhands on September 24, 1856 for unpaid wages, including Felipe Moreno whose brother-in-law Ygnacio Sibrian had lost a lawsuit to Marsh a month before. Sibrian offered to pay the cowhands to kill Marsh. Neither John nor Abby Marsh, who died before it was completed, ever lived in the house, which he had named “Brentwood” for the family’s ancestral lands in England. Alice Marsh married John Camron, one of the builders of Mt. Diablo’s toll roads, and they later owned



John Marsh

Contra Costa Historical Society

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Contra Costa Historical Society

Brentwood: the John Marsh home in better days

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Cowell

much of the land in the present day community of Diablo.

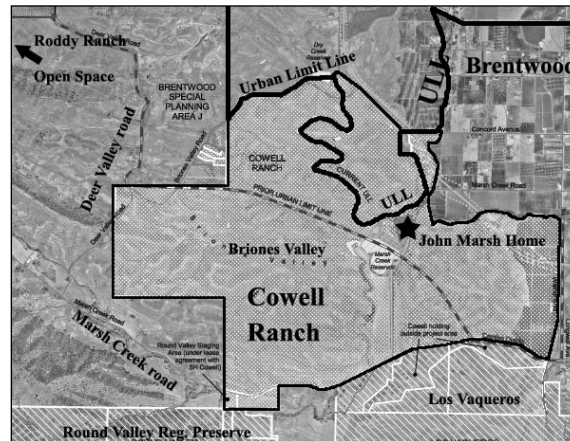
The stakes were very high and it was increasingly thought that the Foundation had missed its chance for development but a major opportunity might be lost, too, since much of the very valuable Ranch would have been preserved as a condition of development. Public acquisition would be difficult, even if the Foundation agreed to sell. In 2000, during the heat of the Urban Limit Line fight, the equation shifted. Amidst distrust on all sides, just days before a decision on the ULL, the Foundation withdrew its plans and Mary Metz, its president, made a dramatic proposal: if roughly 475 acres of the 4491 acre Ranch were left within the ULL, the Foundation would option the remainder to the San Francisco based Trust for Public Land (TPL). Proposition 12, the largest state resources bond in history had recently passed and a price was set at \$13.5 million, to be raised by September 2002. The remaining acreage was optioned to Signature Homes which, however, dropped its option this past December.

Marsh's letters to friends and newspapers back east had attracted emigrant attention, and Mount Diablo's distinctive peak was an easy landmark to use in locating his ranch at its foot. Fifty years after his overland expedition became the first pioneer party to reach California, John Bidwell described the scene at Rancho Los Meganos on November 4, 1841: "Dr. Marsh's ranch, the first settlement reached by us in California, was located in the eastern foothills of the Coast Range Mountains, near the northwestern extremity of the great San Joaquin Valley and about six miles east of Monte Diablo, which may be called the geographical center of Contra Costa County. There were no other settlements in the valley; it was, apparently, still just as

new as when Columbus discovered America, and roaming over it were countless thousands of wild horses, of elk, and of antelope."

The decision ostensibly rested with the Board of Supervisors and environmentalists were wary of any development proposal or how it would affect the Urban Limit Line fight. The real decision would be made by Supervisor Joe Canciamilla in whose district the Ranch is found. He was already a sure winner of the Assembly seat being vacated by Assemblyman Tom Torlakson, who was running for State Senate, and was insulated from pressure by both circumstance and temperament. He quickly began reaching out to all the parties and the deal was made. The Urban Limit Line was tightened to exclude twenty-two square miles, but to leave in Cowell's northernmost 475 acres. Most of the Ranch was optioned to TPL.

Henry Cowell (1819-1903) arrived in San Francisco during the Gold Rush and with his brother operated a drayage and storage



amended map courtesy of EBRPD

On the battle front: Cowell and the Urban Limit Line.

business. Like most of San Francisco's businesses housed in structures built of timber, Cowell's burned in one of the city's frequent fires. Cement and mortar buildings were uncommon because lime for mortar, plaster, stucco and cement had to be shipped around Cape Horn. Albion P. Jordan, whose father had been a lime manufacturer in the east, and Isaac E. Davis were working on a Delta steamboat when the two men acquired some lime rock from the Mt. Diablo area. They burned the rock in the furnace of the steamboat, discovered it to be of high quality and were soon in business. Cowell followed in their footsteps and eventually bought a share of their business, becoming the largest supplier of the single most important ingredient for the state's rapidly developing construction industry.

The remaining obstacles were and are significant: \$13.5 million and an agency willing to manage a huge new area, home to a large array of rare and endangered species and adjacent to the State's fastest growing city. TPL's project manager Tim Wirth, already father of a new baby, suddenly had more reasons to lose sleep. Newly elected Senator Tom Torlakson got involved, along with Canciamilla, sponsoring appropriations for a "Pioneer Park" honoring Dr. John Marsh and centering around the 14-acre State Park site where his house has slowly been disintegrating. TPL deserves a tremendous amount of credit. Save Mount Diablo has offered some aid in negotiations with agencies, swallowing hard at the competition for funds. The Coastal Conservancy, Caltrans and the Department of Parks and Recreation have each made significant financial commitments and the Wildlife Conservation Board is considering another. East Bay Regional Park District is contemplating taking over as manager of the land if it can pass Measure K in March, a maintenance and operations funding measure.

Charles Marsh inherited his father's ranch, sold it to James Sanford in 1871, and the next year it passed to the Brentwood Coal Company. In 1911 it was sold to Balfour Guthrie Investments. Meanwhile, Henry Cowell and his son Samuel Henry (S.H. or 'Harry') Cowell were buying key lime and sandstone holdings around the state for the manufacture of their Cowell Portland cement. Cowell family holdings eventually totaled 82,491 acres in fourteen counties. Many of these areas turned out to be squarely in the path of future development. Two of the most important 'Cowell Ranches'

were located north and east of Mt. Diablo. One was near present day Concord (Lime Ridge), where the town of Cowell was built for workers at the Henry Cowell Lime and Cement Company. In 1924 S.H. Cowell



Stephen Joseph

The John Marsh home at present and in need of restoration

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Diablo view from the Marsh Creek reservoir, along Marsh Creek Road and adjacent to the John Marsh Home State historic site. Cowell Ranch surrounds the reservoir and the John Marsh Home.

Stephen Joseph

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Cowell

purchased another just south of Brentwood (Cowell Ranch) for its rich silica sands. The sand mining operation ended in 1946. Henry Cowell's children died without heirs and S.H. Cowell's bequest created The S.H. Cowell Foundation in 1955. The Foundation received the family's remaining assets, including substantial real estate such as the Brentwood Cowell Ranch.

As of this writing, \$7 of \$13.5 million has been committed and another \$3.5 million is under review. TPL has until September to raise the remaining funds and Prop. 40, a new State Resources bond on the March ballot, may provide some help should it pass. Environmentalists made no commitments on the remaining 475 acre area with in the ULL and various proposals have been floated to swap land on either side of the ULL to make a more palatable project for Brentwood. Either way, any project will face significant opposition and environmental review. We'll all know more in the next few months.



Seth Adams

Representatives of the Trust for Public Land, DPR, DFG, EBRPD and Save Mount Diablo meet with the Wildlife Conservation Board in Sacramento

Cowell Ranch is not yet publicly owned and is closed to the public. Save Mount Diablo will be offering previews of the Ranch this Spring. SMD members at the Mountain Saver level of \$250 or more annually receive invitations to special previews, but others can view Cowell Ranch from the roads closely encircling it—from Deer Valley road east on Marsh Creek road. Marsh Creek road crosses the ranch going north (and past the John Marsh home and the County Marsh Creek reservoir), while Camino Diablo continues to follow the Ranch's southern edge to Walnut Ave. and back to Marsh Creek. Concord Avenue and Briones Valley Road (both sometimes closed) follow the northern boundary back to Deer Valley south.

United Way Donor Option

You can designate Save Mount Diablo as the recipient of your United Way Pledge. When you are asked to make your annual workplace donation, please consider designating it to us. If asked, our federal tax ID number is 94-2681735.

Business Contributions

Many companies will match your charitable contributions to Save Mount Diablo. Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program. Also let us know if your employer has a foundation or corporate donation program to which we can apply.

CONTRA COSTA WIND SYMPHONY

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT - APRIL 27

It was late Fall when composer Steven Reineke visited the area to meet the mountain. He wanted to become intimately involved with Mt. Diablo as part of his research to fulfill a commission received from the Contra Costa Wind Symphony in celebration of their 20th anniversary. Duane Carroll, conductor of the Wind Symphony, and long time Walnut Creek resident, was fascinated by the many stories he had heard of the mountain's history, and pictures of areas not usually seen by the general public.

In commissioning this work it was Carroll's thought to add another dimension to the interpretation of the mountain. "There are texts, wonderful poems, and stunningly beautiful photographs of the mountain; I thought it would be nice if there were a musical interpretation in the mix depicting the millions of years of Mt. Diablo history, the wonderful folklore of its inhabitants and the varied splendor of our mountain."

Carroll will begin rehearsing the new music in January, and Reineke will return in late March to work with the Wind Symphony in rehearsal. He will return again to conduct the premiere April 27. Tickets are on sale now at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts ticket office, and may be purchased by calling (925) 943-SHOW. The concert is expected to be sold out so it is suggested you call early for tickets. All seats are reserved and are \$15 General, \$13 Seniors (age 62+), and \$11 for Youth (age 17-).



Stephen Joseph

Steven Reineke & Duane Carroll



Richard Rollins

“Four Days Diablo” To Be Repeated April 11-14

Perfect weather accompanied Save Mount Diablo’s first Diablo Trail fundraiser on Oct. 11-14. Sixteen eager participants, ranging in age from 33 to 72, made the four day, 30-mile trek from Walnut Creek to Brentwood across some of the mountain’s most beautiful and diverse landscapes.

Hikers carried daypacks, water and lunch, while gear was shuttled between campsites. Each evening included gourmet dinners and wine, courtesy of Prima and La Cigale in Walnut Creek, while guest lecturers Beverly Lane, Ken Lavin and Anne Homan talked about Native American history, Diablo geology and the Morgan Territory area on successive nights. Coyotes serenaded the group every night; on the last day one of them waited for us in the canyon leading from Round Valley to Marsh Creek road, as if to say ‘goodbye’. The group had so much fun that several members have already signed up for the next trip. A reunion dinner was held at Prima the following month to thank trip organizers Ron Brown and Seth Adams.

Special thanks to Dave Husted, owner of Outside Interests for donation of daypacks, a huge camp stove, and the loan of tents for the trip. Volunteers included Art Bonwell, Scott & Claudia Hein, Doug Knauer, Bob Marx, Dave Sargent, Guillermo Velez, and Phil Winslow.

A Spring “Four Days Diablo” has been scheduled for April 11-14, limited to two groups of 10. Please call the SMD office for more info; the trip is \$750 and a deposit of \$250 per person is required to hold your place.

Prima, La Cigale, Sunrise Bistro & Starbucks Feed “Four Days Diablo”

There was a time when Walnut Creek’s best restaurants could be counted on one hand. Prima, founded in 1977, and La Cigale, in 1974, are among them and they recently brought a little Italian and French influence to Diablo’s slopes. They donated meals for the twenty hikers participating in SMD’s “Four Days Diablo”, Diablo Trail fundraiser.

Prima server Rory Harrington volunteered to cook for night #1 at Mt. Diablo’s Buckeye Group Camp. Rory whipped up a salad of heirloom tomatoes, orrechiette pasta with sautéed cauliflower, grilled pailard of duck breast with porcini sauce, cannelini beans and dinosaur kale, and carmel budino for desert. Prima fan Dale Haukland worked along side Prima owner Michael Verlander setting tables, serving foods and pouring wine. The following night, Michael and Lou Francone (wine specialist at Southern Wine and Spirits), drove to Save Mount Diablo’s Silva Ranch and cooked a chanterelle risotto, grilled salmon and seared asparagus for the group. Katrina Rozelle Bakery donated deserts.

La Cigale, which serves classic French cuisine took care of Saturday night’s dinner at the new Morgan backpack camp located on in Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. Owners Jacques & Yvonne Jakovleski provided fresh baked bread, bib lettuce salad, leek soup, beef Bourguignon and steamed vegetables, and an amazing apple strudel.

Sunrise Bistro & Café’s Cindy Stein-Gershen donated four days of lunches and linens, and there was hot competition for her turkey cranberry sandwiches and amaz-

ing lemon bars. Campers awoke each morning to the aroma of fresh coffee compliments of Starbucks Coffee in Todos Santos Plaza.

Thanks to these businesses for their support. Please frequent these businesses and thank them for their support of Save Mount Diablo. **Prima**, 1522 North Main Street, Walnut Creek, 925-935-7780 , www.primawine.com; **La Cigale**, 2195 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek, 925 937-8800; **Sunrise Bistro & Café**, 1355 California Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925 930-0240; **Starbucks Coffee**, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Concord, 925-689-5357.

Dinner At The Summit Museum

The hottest auction item at Save Mount Diablo’s 30th Anniversary Kickoff last March at the Shops at Blackhawk was a dinner for eight on the outside upper deck of the State Park’s Summit Museum. The item, which required a special permit, was donated by former Park Superintendent Larry Ferri and SMD Executive Director Ron Brown. When the bidding reached \$550 the two put their heads together and decided that if the top bidders—Jackie Pels and John Keifer—were agreeable, they’d accept both bids at \$550 and do two dinners. On September 15th Jackie and seven of her best friends, and John and seven of his, arrived at the summit for their feast.

After a quick walk on the Fire Interpretive Trail (led by sommelier Seth Adams), hors d’oevres were served with a sunset backdrop of the best 360 degree panorama in the Bay Area. Peggy Shumway, Rebecca Brown and Jeff Johnson served salad, grilled salmon, vegetables and crepes suzette. Ron and Larry cooked and prepared the meal two floors down on the back deck. During dinner fog could be seen flowing in rivers across the Bay toward the East Bay hills. One of the most dramatic sights, as city lights appeared in all directions around the pitch black open space, was the narrow width of the dark open space corridor stretching southeast through Altamont Pass to the Diablo range, with Livermore and Tracy lights on either side.



Seth Adams

Jackie Pels and John Keifer, winning bidders for the Dinner on the Summit.



Dave Husted

Outside Interests

"We're hosting a talk which will benefit Save Mount Diablo. Would you come to the event to pick up a check?" That November 2000 call was Save Mount Diablo's introduction to Dave Husted. Outside Interests, Husted's outdoor equipment store (and much more) opened in Danville in February 2000. At age 30 Dave had already decided that he wasn't having much fun commuting from Danville to the corporate world of Silicon Valley, and he wanted to own a business in his hometown that would capitalize on his love of the outdoors. Outside Interests' motto is "Improving people's lives through the outdoors".

Two years later, Outside Interests' friends and customers are among the most enthusiastic supporters a business owner could hope for, attending evening clinics and talks, or one of an ongoing series of hikes and other trips the store sponsors, organized by Events Coordinator Lorrie Sullenberger. Many of the trips include a fee, but the store also sponsors free hikes weekly and family walks monthly. This Spring, these hikes and walks will take place on Mount Diablo as part of "April On The Mountain."



Outside Interests' friends at 'Indian Cave'

In the past year Outside Interests has become one of Save Mount Diablo's strongest small business supporters. Numerous fundraising events have benefited SMD, including evening clinics; hikes;

"Get Dirty" a hike and half marathon last June from Castle Rock up Pine Ridge; and the store's recent February 4th second anniversary. Outside Interests also sponsored SMD's "Four Days Diablo" backpacking trip on the Diablo Trail. **Outside Interests, 422 Hartz Avenue, Danville, 925 837-1230, www.outsideinterests.com**

Knobcone Point with Outside Interests

On November 3rd, Outside Interests sponsored a special Mt. Diablo hike to benefit Save Mount Diablo. Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs, led the way to one of the mountain's least known and most spectacular areas. With permission from the neighboring landowner, the group looped up from the Blackhawk Ridge Road and back past Balancing Rock on the Knobcone Point Road. The area is home to mountain lions and peregrine falcons.



Greg Francisco and Dorothy Wright

Greg Francisco & Healthwise Visit Wright Canyon

Healthwise Personal Trainer Greg Francisco has helped Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs, manage a bad back for the past five years. Last year Seth introduced Greg to landowner Dorothy Wright, who was also having back trouble, with similar success.

On October 21st Greg and his wife Cindy invited Healthwise clients and friends for a hike on the 76-acre Wright property, which SMD acquired on December 31st, and to become SMD members. Seth led seventy fit individuals around the property and more than \$2000 was raised. You can reach Healthwise and the Body Sculpting gym at 925 930-4584.

Contra Costa Times columnist Gary Bogue will lead the next hike on the Wright property on March 23rd; details can be found in the April on the Mountain schedule.



Healthwise friends at the Wright property

The Morning Side Of The Mountain

A standing room only crowd of more than 200 gathered on August 15th at the Clayton Library, for a book signing and slideshow by Anne Homan, author of *The Morning Side Of Mount Diablo: an illustrated account of the San Francisco Bay Area's historic Morgan Territory Road*. Many Morgan Territory area landowners received a special invitation to the SMD event. A smaller crowd of about fifty attended a second showing at DVC on November 8th. Homan's book, published by SMD member Jackie Pels' Hardscratch Press and designed by David R. Johnson, received the prize for best design at the Bumpershoot Festival for the Arts in September. *The Morning Side Of Mount Diablo* will soon be reprinted.



Anne Homan signing her book

Founders Ridge Unveiled

October 20th was a perfect day for a hike: the first public tour of the new Elworthy and Clyma properties on Highland Ridge in Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. The two properties, totaling 400 acres, were added to the Preserve in June and September. It was a sunny breezy day and hikers climbed west to the crest of Highland Ridge. One special participant was Manny Lindner, who celebrated his 82nd birthday by visiting the newest additions to the Preserve he had helped to create in the mid 1970's. The East Bay Regional Park District renamed a section of Highland Ridge as "Founders Ridge" on November 20th.



Founders Ridge Named

At the 30th Anniversary gala, SMD's founders and honorary founders were called to the stage and an image of Highland Ridge appeared on a screen. It showed an incredible view stretching from Morgan Territory to both Diablo peaks. The view captured much of SMD's collaborative work with the State and East Bay Regional Park District in recent years. The founders were joined by Park District Directors Beverly Lane and Ted Radke, who announced a special honor for Save Mount Diablo and its founders: the renaming of a portion of Highland Ridge as "Founders Ridge."

When SMD was formed in December 1971 its founders outlined goals including extension of public lands from the summit of the mountain south-east to include Morgan Territory and Highland Ridge. In 1975 Morgan Territory Regional Preserve was created and over the years SMD, the State and the Park District closed in on that goal. This past summer the Park District accepted a donation of the Elworthy property including the crest of Highland Ridge.

We thank the District for this honor, especially Director Beverly Lane, who sponsored the effort.

The Founders of Save Mount Diablo are: Arthur Bonwell & Mary Bowerman, Barbara Benedict, Robert Canning, Robert Doyle, Edward Earl, Florence Klinger, Peg Kovar, Mary Lou Laubscher, Donald Merchant, Connie Rehr, Jean Richmond, William Sattler, Genevieve Sattler.

Honorary Founders are: Jane Helrich, Bill House, Jean Laird, Jane Stimpson, Mina Lou Taylor, Betty Zilen

Save Mount Diablo Celebrates 30 Years 450 Attend Black-Tie Gala

County Supervisor Donna Gerber summed up the 30th Anniversary Gala this way: "It was as if you had a committee that came up with a bunch of great ideas and then decided to do all of them. It came off wonderfully." Cattleman John Ginochio, whose family was honored for 125 years of land stewardship, put it another way, "I was prepared not to have a good time and ended up having a great time."

In little more than two and a half hours Save Mount Diablo held pre- and post-show receptions for 450 guests; put on two slideshows; heard remarks from Senator Tom Torlakson, Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, County Supervisor Donna Gerber, Dept. of Parks and Recreation Director Rusty Areias and East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Pat O'Brien; presented thirty-one awards; renamed a ridge after SMD's founders; and bought a property.

SMD Executive Director and MC Ron Brown and President Malcolm Sproul welcomed the crowd and kept the pace

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From top, counter-clockwise: Steven Phillips, Chris Anderson, Laura Anderson & Nancy Myrick; Nancy Hanna, Gayle Landis, Joyce Payne & Ralph Hanna; Sylvia Adler & Sharon Brown in 3-D glasses; SMD Director Allan & Kit Prager; Frank Varenchik & Barbara Halkett; Top center: Founders Ridge view of Mt. Diablo and North Peak across the Blackhills, Riggs and Curry Canyons. Founders Ridge is the crest of Highland Ridge in Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. All photos this page by David Ogden (except 3-D glasses shot by Kim Weinstein, and landscapes by Stephen Joseph)

Limited Edition 30th Anniversary Prints of Mt. Diablo

In honor of SMD's 30th anniversary, Stephen Joseph printed four limited edition 13" x 19" color panoramas of Mt. Diablo. Signed & numbered, at the special price of \$75 each (plus \$6.19 sales tax; 20% of the proceeds to SMD). Our black & white newsletter can't do the images justice. Center top, and then left to right, they're #1 Mt. Diablo from Highland Ridge, #2 Vasco Caves, #3 Mt. Diablo from Windy Point, and #4 North Peak from Clayton Ranch. The prints can be ordered and picked up at SMD by calling 925-947-3535, or send a check to SMD for \$81.19 made out to: Stephen Joseph. Include your telephone number or E-mail address.





Senator Tom Torlakson & SMD co-founder Art Bonwell



Scott Hein and SMD President Malcolm Sproul assist SMD co-founder Mary Bowerman after the naming of Founders Ridge. EBRPD Directors Beverly Lane and Ted Radke flank other founders.



former Senator John Nejedly, Walnut Creek Mayor Sue Rainey & former Senator Richard Rainey



Seth Adams, Contra Costa Times columnist Gary Bogue and the Coastal Conservancy's Nadine Hitchcock present Dorothy Wright with a check from the Conservancy to complete the purchase of the Wright property

Thanks to the Sponsors

The 30th Anniversary gala netted more than \$42,000 for Save Mount Diablo's programs. We gratefully acknowledge the following sponsors for generously underwriting the celebration.

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Black-Tie Gala Continued from page 8

moving. A slideshow of SMD's accomplishments followed, including spectacular images of the mountain and its many parks. The accomplishments of the thirty Mountain Star award winners were inspiring, as was the presence of co-founders Mary Bowerman and Art Bonwell and other founders. Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs received a special 'Mountain Saver' award.

The real credit, however, goes to Mt. Diablo, to Stephen Joseph and to the Diablo Wind Symphony. Joseph's incredible eight-projector, two screen 3-D slideshow, accompanied by the rousing performance of the 60-piece Symphony, closed the event. Stephen's slideshow was exhilarating and deeply moving and was given special life by the Symphony's music, conducted by Dr. Duane Carroll.

Behind the scenes, SMD Office Manager Suzanne Bitz kept a myriad of details in order. Volunteers included Burt Bassler, Art Bonwell, Donna Gerber, Scott & Claudia Hein, Doug Knauer, Bob Marx, John Mercurio, Amara & Clark Morrison, Bob Nunn, Allan Prager, Dave Sargent, Malcolm Sproul, Dave Trotter, and Frank Varenchik.



From bottom, counter-clockwise: SMD Executive Director Ron Brown, Judy Adler & Seth Adams; reception at the Regional Center; Senator Tom Torlakson, SMD Director Amara Morrison & Clark Morrison; Contra Costa County Supervisor Donna Gerber & Brenda de la Osa; Chiori Santiago & Art Bonwell; Dan de la Cruz & SMD Director Bob Marx.





Save Mount Diablo's Mountain Star Awards

...were created to recognize those individuals and organizations whose efforts have been the most significant in helping to achieve Save Mount Diablo's mission these past thirty years. Nominations were solicited from a number of different sources and nearly eighty were received. Save Mount Diablo worked long and hard to narrow the list, but selection of the recipients was not an easy task.

The Mountain Star Award program will continue each year as a means of recognizing individuals and organizations that work for the preservation of Mount Diablo and the quality of life in our community.

Alliance Awards

Agencies and organizations which make continuing contributions to land preservation in concert with Save Mount Diablo.

Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council

There was a time when construction unions supported development projects as a matter of course. The Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council has recognized the importance of their role of working with conservationists to protect our area's quality of life by opposing ill-conceived projects.

East Bay Regional Park District

Our organization has worked hand in hand with the East Bay Regional Park District since 1972. The District has created ten park units and many regional trails in the Diablo foothills, and worked with SMD to connect these areas in scenic wildlife and recreational corridors. Its efforts have dramatically expanded the parks around Mount Diablo.

Greenbelt Alliance

Greenbelt Alliance has been Save Mount Diablo's strongest grassroots ally on many

land use efforts. Together, we have worked on projects that have included Clayton Ranch, Cowell Ranch, the Pittsburg Southeast Hills annexation, Roddy Ranch and the tightening of the Urban Limit Line.

California Department of Parks and Recreation

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has been Mount Diablo's most important ally since before SMD was formed. For the past thirty years our organization and this agency have worked as a team to more than triple the size of Mt. Diablo State Park. Meanwhile, the Department's stewardship has meant that protected lands and resources enjoy greatly improved ecological health.



EBRPD President John Sutter, CCBCTC's Greg Feere, DPR Director Rusty Areias, Greenbelt Alliance's Evelyn Stivers & Save Mount Diablo President Malcolm Sproul

Legislative Awards

Significant contributions to the mountain by elected representatives.

Senator John Nejedly & Senator Dan Boatwright

For decades Mount Diablo enjoyed the support of Republican John Nejedly and Democrat Dan Boatwright, allies on either side of the aisle in Sacramento, first in the Assembly and then the Senate. They each sponsored a long series of resource bonds and then worked together to legislatively appropriate significant funds to the State, Regional and local parks on Mount Diablo. Their efforts resulted in funding for the acquisition of tens of thousands of acres.

Senator Tom Torlakson

As a member of the County Board of Supervisors, Tom Torlakson was SMD's biggest ally. In the Assembly, he convened the first meetings to protect Clayton Ranch then helped fund its purchase. In both houses, he helped pass the largest State resources bonds in history and as a Senator has helped fund a variety of acquisitions including Cowell Ranch. All this while maintaining a 100% voting record on the League of Conservation Voters Environmental Scorecard.

Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla

'Hard working Joe' did the unthinkable as a member of the Board of Supervisors: he proposed slowing growth until transportation and infrastructure caught up. He supported a strengthened Urban Limit Line, opposed a variety of large developments, negotiated a dramatic compromise on the Cowell Ranch project and now, as a member of the State Assembly, has aided efforts to pay for its acquisition.

Supervisor Donna Gerber

Before her first election as a County Supervisor, Donna Gerber vowed to change the way development takes place in Contra Costa. In short order she helped stop the Tassajara Valley Project, led the successful effort to tighten the county's Urban Limit Line, and became the County's leading proponent of Smart Growth.

Leadership Awards

Individuals who have made difficult and visionary contributions.

Joann Hanna

The Save Mount Diablo movement was catalyzed in 1970 with the approval of the Scott project, which would have removed ninety feet of Shell Ridge to fill Indian Valley for development. Joann Hanna, "mother of the Walnut Creek Open Space system", was a planning commissioner who helped lead the effort to stop the project and then to create the city's open space system.

Manfred Lindner

In the early 1970s, Manny Lindner of the Contra Costa Park Council fell in love with Morgan Territory. His efforts resulted in the creation of the 970 acre Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. He recently celebrated his 82nd birthday by viewing the newest addition to the preserve, now including 5000 acres.

Susan Watson

Mary Bowerman asked Susan Watson to



Manfred Lindner, Susan Watson, Senator Tom Torlakson & Joann Hanna

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Jim Cutler, Warren Westrup & Hulet Hornbeck

help stop communication towers on Mt. Diablo and before long she had become president of the group. She led SMD from around a kitchen table through its growth to become a larger staffed organization. She was also instrumental in taking the first steps toward the creation of the corridor from Mt. Diablo to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

Public Service Awards

Significant contributions to land preservation by government employees.

Jim Cutler

Much of Save Mount Diablo's land use success can be traced to former Contra Costa Advanced Planning Chief Jim Cutler, who never missed a chance to look out for the mountain even as the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors considered allowing its development.

Hulet Hornbeck

Few people can match the record of Hulet Hornbeck. In 1964 he served as Central County chair for the campaign to annex Contra Costa County to the Regional Park District. He later became the District's Chief of Land Acquisition, beginning many of the mountain's regional parks such as Black Diamond Mines and Diablo Foothills. Forty years later he helps with each new ballot campaign.

Warren Westrup

In Sacramento, elected officials and agency chiefs come and go. Luckily Warren Westrup, Acquisition Section Chief for the California Department of Parks and Recreation, has survived the changing administrations, working with SMD on every addition to Mt. Diablo State Park in the past twenty-five years.

Cornerstone Awards

Large and precedent-setting contributions.

Ken Behring

They were known as the Blackhawk Wars, and controversial though it may have been

in the 1970s, Ken Behring's Blackhawk project also meant the largest donation ever at that time to the California State Park system. Spectacular lands from Wall Point to Oyster Point were donated, increasing the size of Mt. Diablo State Park by twenty-five percent.

Charles Gresham

We had never met Charles Gresham when he first contacted us. After a single hike he donated substantial funds necessary to secure the Silva Ranch. His continued commitment to Save Mount Diablo has been significant and enduring.

City of Walnut Creek

Lime and Shell Ridges are the backdrop for the City of Walnut Creek. No city of its size in California has done a better job first in protecting and then in managing its open space.



Walnut Creek Mayor Sue Rainey & Steve Beinke (accepting for Ken Behring)

Interpretive Awards

Significant contributions to public education.

Judy Adler

The Diablo Summit Building was built from 1939-42 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, of porous native rock that leaked during intense rains. Judy Adler of MDIA took on the task of raising funds for restoration and new interpretive exhibits. Because of her work the renovated Summit Building was reopened and is now the mountain's most well used educational facility. Judy is also acknowledged for her continued educational and interpretive programs.

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association

The Mount Diablo Interpretive Association was founded in 1974 and soon began co-sponsoring SMD's annual hike series, April On The Mountain. MDIA's Mountain Star, however, is for their Mt. Diablo map and publications which provide the most comprehensive education for Diablo visitors.

Stewardship Awards

Significant contributions to the mountain's ongoing ecological health.

The Ginochio Family

Three Ginochio brothers arrived in Contra Costa from 1867 to 1876. The family's ranching operations expanded to include thousands of acres surrounding Mt. Diablo. When you enter the State Park's Northgate entrance, for example, for the next mile and a half you're crossing Ginochio property. Almost all of the land the family has sold has been added to public parks. Without 125 years of stewardship by the Ginochio family, much of what we recognize as Mt. Diablo could have been developed.

The Thomas Family

The Mt. Diablo Coal Fields attracted miners after the Gold Rush, including the first member of the Thomas family in 1862. The family has owned land around Black Diamond Mines since 1867, and has resisted Pittsburg's efforts to annex and develop their ranch lands. Without their commitment to their land, the scenic Black Diamond foothills of Mt. Diablo would have long since been paved over.

Trail Blazer Awards

Significant contributions to public recreation and enjoyment of the mountain.

George Cardinet

92-year old George Cardinet is probably the State's most well known equestrian and is the "Father of the Trail System in California." A founder of the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association, the Heritage Trails Fund, the California State Riding & Hiking Trail and the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, George has created more trails on Mt. Diablo than anyone.

Don de Fremery

Except for the two leading founders of Save Mount Diablo, this year we're only recognizing one current member of our



Gloria Thomas, her brother Wayne Thomas & John Ginochio

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George Cardinet & Don de Fremery

hard-working Board of Directors. Don de Fremery volunteers for a wide variety of outdoor organizations, and has arguably led more public hikes in Contra Costa than anyone else these past thirty years. He was involved in the creation of the 30-mile Diablo Trail and has also built many trails.

Restoration Awards

Significant and unusual improvements in resource protection and enhancement at Mount Diablo.

Gary Beeman

Wildlife biologist Gary Beeman proposed to his wife in one of Diablo's historic peregrine falcon nests, years after the birds had disappeared from the mountain. For four years beginning in 1989, Beeman was the peregrine lover who helped make Save Mount Diablo's falcon reintroduction program a reality.

Charli Danielsen

Former SMD Board member Charli Danielsen brought a love of native plants to the organization. She pioneered the group's first stewardship efforts at Chaparral Spring and has led an ongoing project to restore native bunchgrasses at the State Park.

Ralph Kraetsch

When you walk through the Walnut Creek Open Space, you often see white tubes with young oak trees growing out of them. In 1991 Ralph Kraetsch of the Walnut Creek



Gary Beeman, Charli Danielsen & Ralph Kraetsch

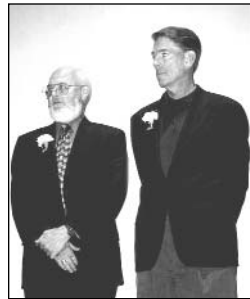
Open Space Foundation began the successful oak restoration program on Mount Diablo, which has expanded to include other restoration projects as well.

Steve Slavin

Over Save Mount Diablo's protests, Steve Slavin of Chevron won a permit extension for Chevron's communication tower on North Peak. He listened to the protests however, and when the presence of the tower was no longer necessary, Chevron took the initiative for removing the tower and related facilities, and restoring the site to its natural condition. Chevron's tower removal in 1999 was a precedent; the first tower site to be removed from the mountain.

Media Awards

Significant media contributions to public awareness of Save Mount Diablo and of the mountain.



Gary Bogue and John Armstrong
of the Contra Costa Times

Gary Bogue

For most of SMD's history, the Contra Costa Times' columnist Gary Bogue has urged his readers to enjoy, to respond, to vote and to donate to meet Mount Diablo's needs. Gary's loyal readers have regularly contributed the option funds necessary to hold land until remaining funding could be developed, most recently with \$77,000 in contributions for the \$50,000 Wright property option.

Contra Costa Times

More than most mountains or small organizations, Mount Diablo and SMD receive a great deal of publicity, much of it in the Contra Costa Times. For the past thirty years the Times has covered acquisitions, land use efforts and everything from sunrise events, to peregrine falcon births, to hundreds of hike announcements. They also underwrite SMD publications and donate ad space and staff expertise.

All photos in this article are courtesy of
David Ogden

Spotlight on SMD Volunteers: Stephen Joseph

Stephen Joseph, a member of Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors since 1993, has been called the Ansel Adams of Mount Diablo. He's an amazing photographer who has specialized in 3-D and panoramic photos, often taken with reconstructed antique cameras. In the past several years he's also joined the digital age. Stephen received his Bachelors of Fine Arts and his Master of Fine Arts from the California College of Arts and Crafts. He has taught there and at Civic Arts in Walnut Creek.

Stephen introduced himself to SMD in 1992 by sending a postcard of one his photos with this note on the back, "I love Mount Diablo and take a lot of pictures of it. Can you use any of them?" We've kept him busy ever since, relying on hundreds of his volunteer hours each year. Stephen's work is often found in these pages and his spectacular 3-D slideshows are the centerpiece of many SMD events; he was the headliner at SMD's 30th Anniversary. You can see his work at area galleries, at his Pleasant Hill home studio (call 925 934-2128), at Black Diamond Brewery in Walnut Creek, or on SMD's or his own website:

www.stephenjosephphoto.com.

"Landscape photography requires knowing a place in a very intimate way. Mount Diablo is my favorite place to photograph and hike. It feels like home to me. Diablo is so close it affords me the luxury of going back over and over. I've been hiking there for so many years and know the mountain so well, I use it to create really good images."

"Since the 1800s, throughout the history of landscape photography, there's been a tradition that photographers should give back to the land. I've gotten so much out of Mt. Diablo over the years that I wanted to carry on that tradition, I wanted to give something back to the mountain. Using my photographs to help save Mount Diablo seemed very natural."



Susan Brisee



Mt. Diablo Globe Lily

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Burrowing owl

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 ry of my dear husband"*
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enjoys riding his bike on
the mountain trails.
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Mariposa Lily

Scott Hein

All contributions were made
 from August 15, 2001 through
 January 22, 2002



Correction: The Fall 2001 Diablo Watch failed to include
 Phyllis and Harvey Ceaser as donors to the Gary Boque campaign.
 Our apologies



Michael Sewell

Membership Matters

Save Mount Diablo's annual operating expenses are underwritten by the financial support we receive from membership revenue. In addition to providing financial support, the number of members we have is a statement to legislators and others about the level of community support for our projects.

We would like to thank the following individuals who have become members since mid-December of 2000. We invite you to join them in supporting Save Mount Diablo's efforts to preserve open space.

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Friends (\$35 or more):
577 individuals or families have joined in this category.

30th Anniversary Donors

Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes to the following businesses, organizations, and individuals for their generous financial support in honor of our anniversary celebration.

Individual Donors

Angels (\$5,000+)

2 Anonymous Donors

Patrons (\$1,000+)

Don & Georgia Palmer, Marian Scott, Richard & Sandra Smith

Supporters (\$500+)

John & Rosemary Daniel, David Ogden & Sandi Biagi, Allan Prager, Verne Van Vlear

Contributors (under \$500)

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In-Kind Gifts

Asyst Computers: HP printer/fax/scanner
Boyd & Jean Ballenger: Mt. Diablo photos
Lisa Carroll: Osprey watercolor
Ann Mari Faut: Eureka vacuum
Scott & Claudia Hein: digital camera; labeler; photo developing
Mount Diablo State Park: desk
Al & Dorothea Schoenstein: Lithographs

Wish List

You can help Save Mount Diablo by donating the following items:

- Combination TV/VCR
- Lap Top Computer and projector for Power Point presentations
- Phone system (4 line/6 phone) for SMD office

Volunteers Needed

Save Mount Diablo needs volunteers in the following areas:

Regular Office Assistance: Several hours per week - routine office chores - filing, light typing, phones, etc.

Project Help: For periodic mailing projects. **Archivist:** to help catalogue, label and file photos and documents.

Events: Coordination and help of all sorts; solicit auction/raffle items; obtain business/corporate sponsors.

Graphic Arts: To help design flyers, invitations and visual displays.

Continued from page 1 **Yes on Proposition 40**

In 1999 the voters passed Prop. 12 which provided funding for our area, to assist in the purchases of Clayton Ranch, Silva Ranch and the Wright Property, as well as a number of additional restoration and wildlife protection programs. Prop. 12 was passed after a dozen years of no funds being available for these purposes. As a result of the backlog of projects, Prop. 12 funding was rapidly depleted. Without a new bond some of our most priceless treasures will be lost, along with opportunities to provide cleaner air and water.

Continued from page 1 **Yes on Measure K**

restoration, protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

The District's land acquisitions have been funded through the 1988 Measure AA, but the AA bond money will soon be exhausted (these funds can only be used for capital projects). Passage of Measure K is necessary for the renewal of AA and additional acquisitions.

For information on Measure K, visit <<www.yesforparks.com>>, or contact the Park District Public Information Supervisor at (510)

Leaving a Legacy

By including Save Mount Diablo as a beneficiary in your will, trust or life insurance policy, you can support our work even after you are no longer with us. No matter which option you choose, your bequest will help insure that Save Mount Diablo has the resources needed to continue our work of protecting and preserving the natural resources of our community in the years to come. For more information on how to bequeath a gift to Save Mount Diablo please contact us at (925) 947-3535, or talk with your financial advisors.

Visit the Save Mount Diablo Web Site at < www.savemountdiablo.org >

To receive email updates about land use issues, events, or purchases, call our office at 925-947-3535 to give us your email address,

We Invite You to Host "An Evening With Diablo"

Treat your friends, neighbors or relatives to a special event. Host a gathering in your home and Save Mount Diablo will treat your guests to a slide show and presentation about Mount Diablo. We can focus our presentation on history, geology, development threats, or just the varied recreational and scenic opportunities that the mountain provides. Share your love for the mountain with your guests, and hopefully they will join you in supporting the efforts of Save Mount Diablo. We can help you with invitations and other event details. Call Ron Brown at 925-947-3535 to discuss your party plans

Save Tassajara Valley

We Need Your Help:

Please Write, Fax, Call or E-mail the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors Today

In March the County Board of Supervisors will consider the 'combined Tassajara projects' stretching south and east from Blackhawk. In 2000 the Board tightened the County Urban Limit Line but left inside the line 1000 acres proposed for development by Shapell, Braddock & Logan and Ponderosa Homes. The project would generate 13,000 car trips daily, strain water supplies, destroy wildlife habitat and impact the Urban Limit Line and agricultural lands.

Supervisor Donna Gerber opposes development in this area, but Supervisors Mark DeSaulnier, Gayle Uilkema and John Gioia all voted to allow a General Plan Amendment study to move forward. It is believed that there is a Board majority in favor of the development. The County Planning Commission and the San Ramon Valley Regional Planning Commission heard the project jointly and split on it, the SRVPC recommending denial and the County Planning Commission approval. The project fails every smart growth test



Bob Walker, Oakland Museum

and there is no need to allow development in this area at present. Greenbelt Alliance and the Sierra Club are leading opposition. Save Mount Diablo's concerns are specific to which areas should be preserved. On the east, Shapell's Alamo Creek project would destroy a major ridgeline, abut the Urban Limit Line and agricultural lands without a buffer, and narrow the open space corridor from Hidden Valley open space north toward Mt. Diablo and Morgan Territory.

Please Write, Fax, Call or E-mail...

the Supervisors (please cc us and Sup. Gerber so we'll have copies, and for the hearing date) and urge them, should they choose to approve this development, to:
—Protect the ridgeline on Alamo creek, without development,
—Add the Alamo Creek ridgeline area and lands to the south to Hidden Valley Open Space, and
—Require a significant (at least 300') open space buffer and trail corridor along the Urban Limit Line connecting from Hidden Valley north to Camino Tassajara.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Donna Gerber (San Ramon, Danville, Walnut Creek, Brentwood)
925-820-8683, FAX925-820-6627
309 Diablo Road, Danville, CA 94526
Dist3@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Please send copies of any letter to us at:

Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo
1196 Boulevard Way #10, W.C., CA 94595
(925) 947-3535, FAX 925-947-3603
mtsaver@aol.com

Evelyn Stivers, Greenbelt Alliance
1601 N. Main St., Ste. 105, W.C., CA 94596
(925) 932 7776, FAX 925-932-1970
estivers@greenbelt.org

Save Mount Diablo's Mission . .

To secure through acquisition and preservation, the open space necessary to support the full range of biological diversity and to insure the integrity of Mt. Diablo's natural beauty.

Founded in 1971, Save Mount Diablo has been instrumental in increasing open space on and around the mountain from 6,788 acres to more than 81,000 acres.

In support of our mission, Save Mount Diablo:

- Creates dedicated open space from land acquired through gifts, purchases & cooperative efforts with public and private entities;
- Educates the public about threats to the mountain;
- Works with landowners to preserve their property while realizing economic benefits;
- Works in partnership with Mt. Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, and

- other organizations to increase open space;
- Monitors land-use planning;
- Aids in the restoration of habitat and preservation of rare species;
- Offers technical assistance to agencies and neighborhood groups with regard to securing open space;
- Works diligently to raise funds necessary to support Save Mount Diablo's mission.

s a v e MOUNT DIABLO

**1196 Boulevard Way, Suite 10
Walnut Creek, CA 94595**

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