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Title: Award Winning Contributions to Mount Diablo: Save Mount Diablo's 2012 Mountain Star Awards

Image: <https://www.yousendit.com/download/TEhVT2pGeWFEa1hxYk1UQw> Captions and Credits: At bottom

With projects often requiring years of dedication from planning the best solutions for development to preserving and restoring natural lands, the adage "it takes a village" comes to mind when thinking about how to save Mount Diablo. The City of Concord and local resident Dave Sargent have utilized respective skills to do their part with extraordinary results earning each a Mountain Star Award from Save Mount Diablo. The City of Concord and a community coalition worked together to dedicate an astounding 70% of the former Concord Naval Weapon Station "Inland Area" as parks and open space. Individual community members can make a huge impact as well. Pleasant Hill resident Dave Sargent has volunteered thousands of hours with Save Mount Diablo caring for the land. Both award winners demonstrated commitment to protecting the Diablo wilderness through inspiring means. Non-profit Save Mount Diablo presented Concord and Sargent with Mountain Star Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions have been significant in helping Save Mount Diablo's land preservation programs. The award winners were also acknowledged by State Senator Mark DeSaulnier and Assembly members Susan Bonilla and Joan Buchanan for their outstanding work toward protecting the East Bay's open space.



City of Concord, Mountain Star Alliance Award

When the Concord Naval Weapons Station closure was announced, Save Mount Diablo began meeting with a new coalition of environmental, labor, interfaith, affordable housing and neighborhood groups. Taking the "village" concept to its most effective point, the coalition worked hand in hand with the City of Concord to develop a Reuse Plan that would benefit the entire region.

As a result, the project will be more-dense and centered around mass transit. 25% of the housing will be affordable. There will be thousands of new jobs and policies which promise to support unions and hire locally. 70% of the 5,000 acres will be dedicated to parks and open space, extending a broad wildlife and recreational corridor from Mt. Diablo and Black Diamond Mines almost to Suisun Bay. The new parks will protect Mt. Diablo creek and buffer existing neighborhoods from new developments. A new regional preserve will be twice as big as the Presidio.

Save Mount Diablo's Land Programs Director, Seth Adams remarked, "None of it could have happened without the leadership of the City of Concord, especially its City Council, City Manager and the Concord Reuse Project Director. We recognize the City of Concord with a Mountain Star Alliance Award for its incredibly visionary leadership over a six year process to include affordable housing, transit-oriented walkable communities, open space, and quality local jobs in the Reuse Plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station."

Like the City of Concord, Dave Sargent, a former volunteer Board Member and Chair of the Stewardship Committee for Save Mount Diablo, worked hard for years to protect the mountain but he did it with his hands.

Dave Sargent, Mountain Star Stewardship Award

Even though Save Mount Diablo does not give awards to its own Board or active committee members, Dave Sargent, the now retired Save Mount Diablo Board Member and past chairman of its Stewardship Committee, has been nominated for years. Despite his amazing volunteer efforts, each time he has been nominated it was decided that he wouldn't be considered until "the day after he leaves the Board."

Dave worked in the life insurance industry most of his life and joined the Save Mount Diablo Board in 1998. Each Save Mount Diablo property is assigned a volunteer steward who helps care for the land, leads hikes and becomes an ambassador to neighboring landowners. Dave became the first chairman of the Stewardship Committee because he worked very hard.



“He and the committee have removed many miles of old barbed wire fencing, cleaned up tons of debris, overseen trail building and habitat restoration and pitched in wherever muscle or trade skills were needed. When he rolls up old barbed wire fences, he thinks about the wildlife, cattle and hikers he’s saved from getting snagged and cut up. He sees his mission as returning Mount Diablo to its natural state” said Adams before giving Sargent the award.

Save Mount Diablo awarded Dave Sargent a Mountain Star Stewardship Award for his leadership, his thousands of hours of work and for his significant contributions to the mountain’s ongoing ecological health.

The Mountain Star Awards were presented at Save Mount Diablo’s “Moonlight on the Mountain” gala on Saturday evening. The organization also acknowledged two previous Mountain Star Award winners its co-founder, Art Bonwell, who passed away this summer and wildlife columnist, Gary Bogue who helped connect thousands of people to nature and helped raise thousands of dollars for Save Mount Diablo’s land preservation programs. The 2012 Awards are sponsored by Dave & Dana Dornsife.

Summary

Who: The City of Concord and Dave Sargent, former volunteer Board Member and Chair of the Stewardship Committee

What: Non-profit organization Save Mount Diablo’s “Mountain Star Awards” recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions have been significant in helping Save Mount Diablo's land preservation programs.

Where: Moonlight on the Mountain, Save Mount Diablo’s anniversary celebration at Mount Diablo State Park in CA

When: Saturday, September 8, 2012

Why:

- Save Mount Diablo recognized the City of Concord with a Mountain Star Alliance Award for its incredibly visionary leadership over a six year process to include affordable housing, transit-oriented walkable communities, open space, and quality local jobs in the Reuse Plan for the Concord Naval Weapons Station.
- For Dave Sargent’s leadership, his thousands of hours of hard labor, and for his significant contributions to the mountain’s ongoing ecological health, Save Mount Diablo awarded him a Mountain Star Stewardship Award.

How: The 2012 Mountain Star Awards are sponsored by Dave & Dana Dornsife as part of Save Mount Diablo’s anniversary celebration Moonlight on the Mountain. Save Mount Diablo thanks them for their continued support.

Captions and Credits:

1. The view of Mount Diablo from the Concord Naval Weapons Station in 2008. The Reuse Plan will dedicate 70% of the base’s “Inland Area” to parks and open space. By Scott Hein, www.heinphoto.com.
2. Save Mount Diablo volunteer Dave Sargent stands in front of a truck load full of barbed wire fencing that was removed from a Save Mount Diablo property to begin restoring the natural habitat there. Courtesy of Dave Sargent.

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 110,000 acres in 40 parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to preserve, defend and restore the remainder of the mountain for people and wildlife to enjoy. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; www.SaveMountDiablo.org ###