



Land Trust Acquires 1,300-acre Mead Ranch

The property is significant for protecting Napa's rare biodiversity and is a key step in expanding wildlife corridors. Story on page 4.





Letter from the CEO



Thanks so very much to you and all the supporters of the Land Trust for helping make this another very successful year for conservation across Napa. Without your help, this would not have been possible.

With your support, we were able to make a great deal of progress in both land protection and in the stewardship of Napa's natural values on our protected lands. Highlights included:

- A new 1,300-acre preserve on Atlas Peak, thanks to the commitment of Jane Mead, a long-time supporter and a great steward of her family's ranch. Jane was a friend and supporter of the Land Trust for many years and before her untimely passing, also decided to become a benefactor through her estate. She left the property in the care of the Land Trust to ensure that the land, and all of its natural values, would be protected forever. There are a number of rare wildflowers on this property—in fact, one newly discovered species that was named after the Mead family (Mead's Owl's Clover). Jane wanted to ensure that these natural gems were protected, that threats from invasive species would be minimized and that wildlife would be able to move freely through the property and along a key wildlife corridor, far into the future. She knew that the Land Trust would work toward these goals. We will, and we will forever be grateful to Jane for her far-sighted generosity.
- We completed five acquisitions with five separate landowners that led to the protection of over 1,000 acres near Lake Berryessa and two of the key streams supplying water to the lake: Putah Creek and Pope Creek. These projects, along with others completed in the last couple years, are helping connect together all the existing protected land on the west side of Lake Berryessa into a large contiguous corridor of 25,000 acres. There is still more work to do there, but we have made significant progress over the last year.
- With CAL FIRE and the U.S. Forest Service, we completed a second conservation easement with Pacific Union College (PUC) in Angwin. This easement, when combined with another completed a few years ago, has resulted in the permanent protection of over 1,100 contiguous acres of PUC's forested land. When combined with the abutting Las Posadas State Forest and the Land Trust's Okin Preserve, this has created an area of over 2,000 contiguous acres of protected forest in Angwin. The PUC land will

continue to be open to the public and all the partners are interested in active forest management to reduce fuel loads and strengthen the resilience of the forest to wildfire.

- We completed two conservation easements over long-established vineyards, ensuring that these properties will never be converted to residential or commercial developments. Of special note, one of these was the 12th conservation easement donated by Andy and Betty Beckstoffer. The Beckstoffers have been leaders in protecting their land in perpetuity through conservation easements. Although the Land Trust has received multiple donations of easements from a number of grape growers and vintners in Napa, no one has donated more easements than the Beckstoffers and we thank Andy and Betty for their extraordinary generosity and commitment to Napa's conservation.

In this issue, you will see articles on a number of our stewardship projects as well. In Napa, protected land needs to be actively managed (in fact, so does all land in Napa) and on land we own, we engage in a range of management activities. This is becoming increasingly important as we face the growing challenges presented by climate change, especially wildfires. In the past year, we made major strides across a growing array of stewardship activities, from research and monitoring, to habitat and rare species restoration, to forest thinning and also native tree planting, to controlled burning, rotational grazing, protecting municipal water supplies, documenting wildlife, and providing opportunities for people to visit preserves, hike and even get dirty through volunteer workdays.

There is much more in this edition of our newsletter. I hope you enjoy it. And again, thank you so much! None of these conservation accomplishments would have been possible without your support.

Best wishes for the Holidays and the New Year.

Doug Parker



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Support LTNC



Become a Member

As a community-based nonprofit, the Land Trust depends almost entirely upon the support of members, volunteers, businesses, government agencies, and foundations. Every nickel, every in-kind donation, every word of support, and every minute of volunteer time benefits the present and future of Napa.

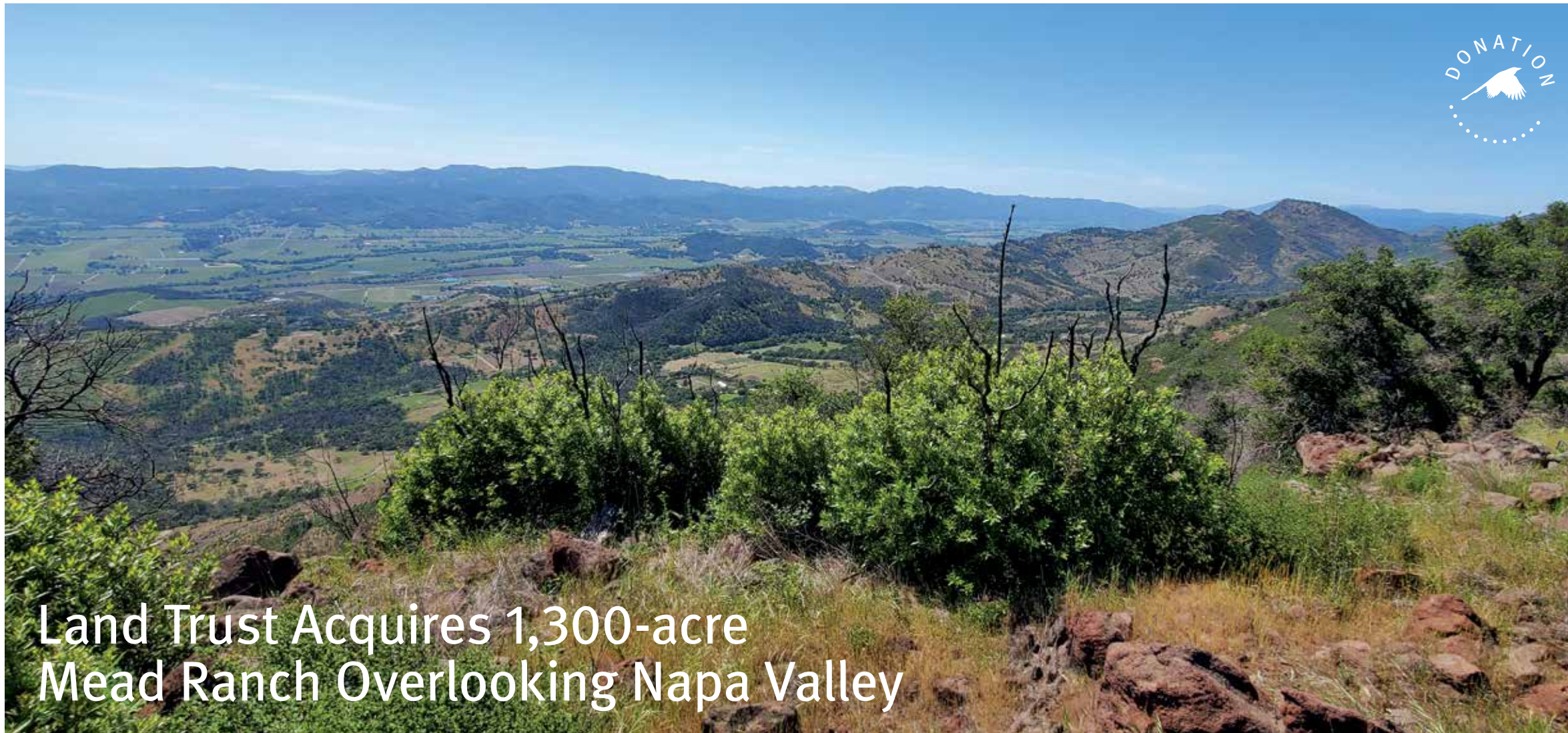
Give the Gift of Membership

A Land Trust membership makes a thoughtful present for birthdays, special occasions, business associates, or simply to show you care.

Join our Legacy Society

Include the Land Trust in your will or estate plan.

Get started at napalandtrust.org/donate/



Land Trust Acquires 1,300-acre Mead Ranch Overlooking Napa Valley

The property is very significant for protecting Napa’s rare biodiversity and it is also in a key location, very close to the 2,300-acre Walt Ranch, protected last year, and to our 1,380-acre Sutro Preserve.

Protecting Mead Ranch is a vital step in a large-scale effort to create a continuous corridor of protected land running along the entire length of the ridge above the east side of Napa Valley, from Robert Louis Stevenson State Park to American Canyon. “We are so thankful to Jane Mead, a long-time supporter of conservation and friend of the Land Trust, for donating this property,” said Doug Parker.

The property was donated through the estate of Jane Mead, who passed away in 2019 at the age of 61. Jane Mead was a well-known poet.

“In a literary career that spanned more than 20 years, Mead wrote five poetry collections, and her work was regularly published in anthologies and journals,” noted her obituary in the LA Times. She taught at several universities and ultimately left her tenured position as poet-in-residence at Wake Forest

University to come manage her family property in Napa. Many of her poems relate to this land in Napa.

A large number of rare plant species are found on the property, including a new species that was discovered and named after the Mead family, Mead's Owl's Clover (*Castilleja ambigua* var. *meadii*) a wildflower found only on Mead Ranch and one nearby property, nowhere else in the world.

In addition, the property has several other rare species:

- Few-flowered Navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *pauciflora*), known from Lake and Napa Counties only and a federally listed endangered species.
- Napa Bluecurls (*Trichostema ruygtii*), another new species that was identified based on the Mead Ranch population.
- Holly-leaved Ceanothus (*Ceanothus purpureus*) and Narrow-anthered Brodiaea (*Brodiaea leptandra*), both recognized as Endangered by the California Native Plant Society.

The property also includes an extensive set of vernal pools that are the most species-diverse of any remaining pool

systems in the county, according to Jake Ruygt, a botanist who has worked extensively in Napa County and who discovered Mead's Owl's Clover.

Running along the ridge above Yountville, the property offers expansive views across Napa Valley and onto San Francisco.

In a review of her poetry for the LA Review of Books, Carol Muske-Dukes, professor of English and Creative Writing at USC, said, “Beyond her tenured years as poet-in-residence at Wake Forest University and her occasional teaching semester at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop in Iowa City (where she also co-owned Prairie Lights Bookstore)—and beyond her many major awards and acknowledgments—Mead Ranch remained at the heart of her experience as a poet...”

Soon after Jane was diagnosed with cancer, she decided to protect the property. “She wanted to protect the rare species it harbors and its role within an important wildlife corridor,” said Parker. “She also hoped the property could provide opportunities for future generations, particularly for children, to learn about these natural values and the importance of protecting them.”



Left: View across Napa Valley from Mead Ranch. Below, left to right: Mead's Owl's Clover (*Castilleja ambigua* var. *meadii*), a rare plant species; Few-flowered Navarretia (*Navarretia leucocephala* ssp. *pauciflora*), a Federally listed endangered species.



One of Jane Mead’s poems, published in *The New Yorker*, refers to her feelings for the land.

The poem begins:

*I wonder if I will miss the moss
after I fly off as much as I miss it now
just thinking about leaving.*

And closes:

*Whenever the experiment on and of
my life begins to draw to a close
I’ll go back to the place that held me
and be held. It’s O.K. I think
I did what I could. I think
I sang some, I think I held my hand out.*

Thanks to Jane’s far-sighted generosity, the property will be protected as a nature preserve in perpetuity. And in honor of Jane and her family, the property will forever be called the Mead Ranch Preserve. 🌿



Conservation Easement Protects Pacific Union College Forest



The Land Trust was pleased to work with Pacific Union College (PUC) and CAL FIRE to permanently protect 246 acres of priority forest land in Angwin. Working together, the partners closed a conservation easement (CE) on land owned by PUC. The forest will continue to belong to the college, but the easement will protect the forest by permanently eliminating the potential for residential, commercial, and agricultural development of the property.

The PUC forest has been used by students, faculty, and the community for over 100 years, and the college wants to maintain and manage this use into the future. With this CE, the college will be able to ensure ongoing use of the forest for research, classes, and student projects.

“The successful completion of this Conservation Easement took the help of so many partners and supporters,” said Dr. Ralph Trecartin, PUC president. “We are deeply grateful to each one. Together, we cherish the vision of preserving a healthy forest and the sublime beauty that comes from such a treasure as the one we have preserved today.”

“This easement abuts an 864-acre easement we previously completed, so we have now protected over 1,100 acres of PUC’s forested land in the last five years,” said Doug Parker. “In addition, this 1,100 acres abuts both the 800-acre Las Posadas State Forest and another Land Trust property, so that with this new easement, we now have over 2,000 acres

of contiguous protected land in this part of Angwin.”

PUC’s Board of Trustees chose the CE option to generate much-needed funds while maintaining the legacy of the forest. The process also led to the development of a forest management plan for the PUC forest, approved by the State, and a renewed focus for the college on managing the forest for long-term benefits for both the college and the community.

“The PUC forest Conservation Easement remains a critical Forest Legacy project,” said Peter Leuzinger, CAL FIRE’s Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance. “CAL FIRE’s Forest Legacy program continues to invest in the Eastern Angwin area to prevent forest fragmentation and conversion to non-forest uses, and that is incredibly important for not only the College and the Community, but for the local ecosystem as well.”

The Land Trust and PUC have been working on this CE project for over four years to garner the state grants and private donations needed to complete the acquisition. During that time the college has made major investments in professional forestry assistance to manage the forest in a sustainable and fire-safe manner. “Since the creation of our first conservation easement,” said Peter Lecourt, “PUC has made significant progress on forest restoration work to help thin out our forest to make it healthier and more resilient against wildfire moving into the future.”

“The forest belonging to Pacific Union College has long been known as one of the most significant natural areas in Napa,” said Doug Parker, CEO of the Land Trust. “This property is heavily forested, dominated by Douglas Fir and Ponderosa Pine. It includes a number of rare native species, wildflowers that exist only in Napa and a few surrounding counties, including Streamside Daisy, Green Coyote Mint, Nodding Harmonia and Narrow-anthered Brodiaea. It is also at a crossroads of two important wildlife corridors identified as priorities by the Land Trust.”

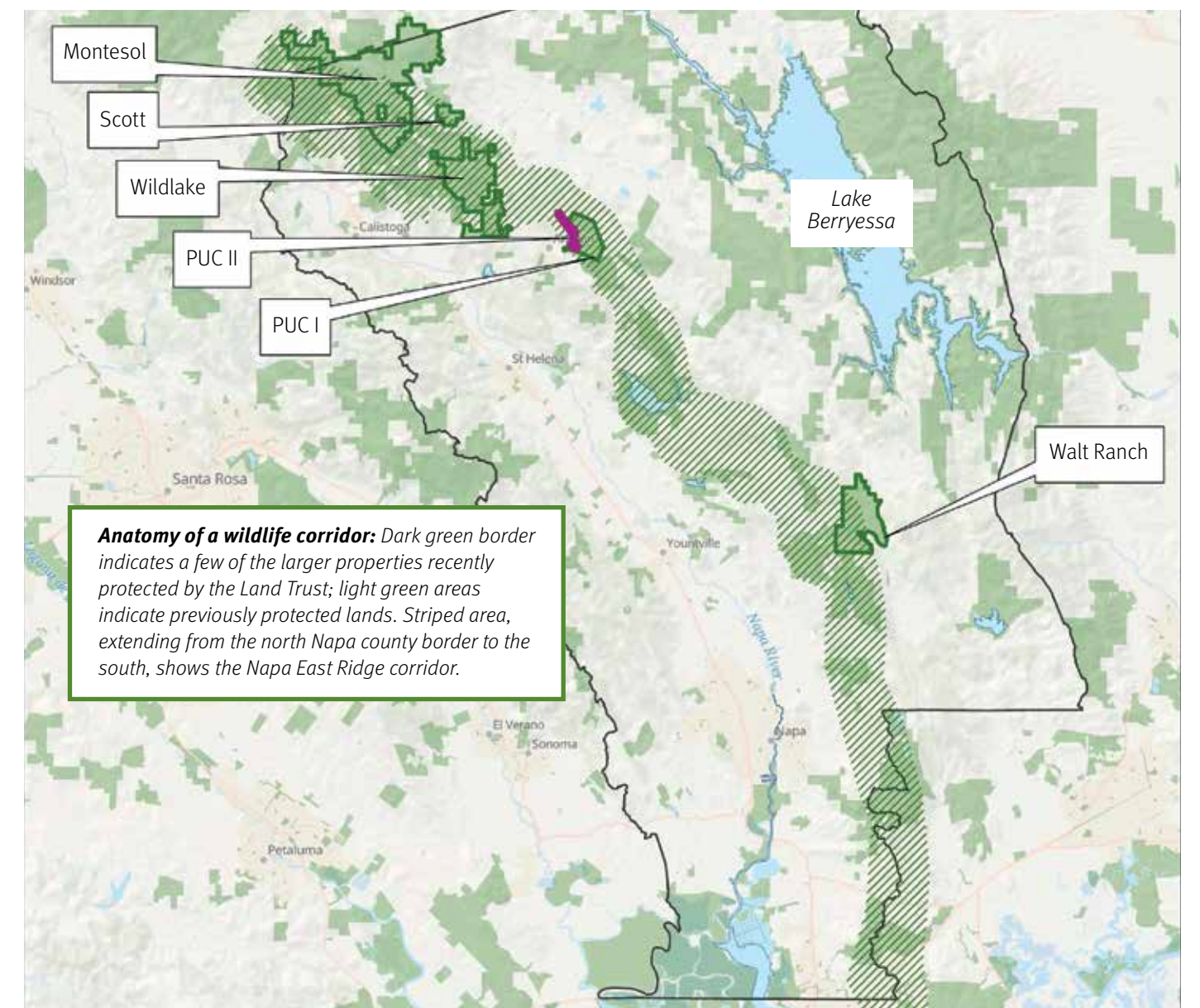
“The completion of this conservation easement is an important step toward achieving one of our primary goals: creating a continuous corridor of protected land along the entire length of the eastern ridge above Napa Valley,” said Parker.

The easement will also help protect Moore Creek. This property includes the headwaters of Moore Creek, which runs from here,

through the PUC forest protected by the first easement, through Las Posadas State Forest and on to Lake Hennessey. Moore Creek is one of the main sources of water for the lake, which is the main local source of water for the City of Napa.

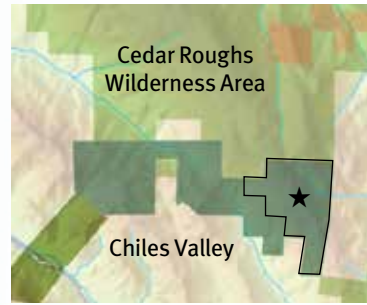
Funding for this project was provided by CAL FIRE, the United States Department of Agriculture, through the U.S. Forest Service, as part of the Federal Forest Legacy Program and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

“I want to thank CALFIRE, the U.S. Forest Service and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for their commitments to this project,” says Parker. “Without their help, this easement would never have happened. In addition, it would not have been possible without the commitment from PUC to accept a price below appraised value. We very much appreciate PUC’s commitment to the permanent conservation of this forest.”





Land Trust purchases 512 acres of undeveloped land next to Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area



The Land Trust acquired over 500 acres of undeveloped land that was added to the Chiles Valley Preserve, now over 1,660 acres.

“This property has significant natural values and is in a strategic location that will enhance and connect other protected lands,” said Doug Parker.

Besides abutting a Land Trust preserve, the 512-acre property is adjacent to the 6,400-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area. This area’s importance for conservation has been documented twice in recent years—in 2006, when the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area was first created (one of only two wilderness areas in the Bay Area) and then a few years later when lands around Lake Berryessa, including the Wilderness Area, were designated part of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. Both the Wilderness Area and the National Monument were created through the leadership of Mike Thompson.

“Throughout my time serving our region, I have long fought to protect our public lands and secure the designation of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument and the Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area,” said Congressman Mike Thompson. “I am pleased to see that the Land Trust of Napa County is enhancing these areas by adding protected land in the region. Public-private partnerships are vital to protect these beautiful public lands for generations to come.”

“Protecting this property is a key step in connecting together all the protected land on the west side of Lake Berryessa,” said

Parker. “One of the key conservation priorities in the region is to connect together existing protected lands to ensure wildlife corridors over the long term. Besides abutting the Wilderness Area and a Land Trust preserve, this property connects them to an additional 850 acres of BLM to the southeast.” Parker added, “The Land Trust has already connected all protected land on the east side of the lake. Through seven conservation easements over the last few years, over 14,000 contiguous acres were protected, adjacent to federal land that is part of the National Monument. These projects ensure that wildlife will be able to move freely across these large open spaces into the future.”

The landowner, who owned the property for 20 years, sold it to the Land Trust at a significantly discounted price, donating over 40% of the appraised value. The Land Trust purchased the property for \$1M; the appraised value was \$1.7M. The difference qualifies as a charitable donation from the landowner, a “bargain sale.”

“I want to thank the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for helping with this purchase,” said Parker. “It would not have been possible without their support.”

“The Land Trust of Napa County did incredible work in protecting this strategic property in a timely way and at a great price,” said Dan Winterson, who manages the Conservation Portfolio at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. “This represents a significant addition to one of the most important wildlife corridors in the state.” (cont’d, page 9)

The property is chiefly serpentine chaparral along with serpentine hardwood, interior live oak and some sargent cypress, the signature species on the abutting Wilderness Area. A large percentage of the property has serpentine soils. These soils support, by far, the largest number of rare plant species of any

soil type statewide. A botanical survey has not been completed, but at the adjacent Chiles Valley Preserve, a survey found a number of special status species, including several that exist only in Napa and nearby counties, such as Green Coyote Mint (*Monardella viridis*) and Napa Lomatium (*Lomatium repostum*). 🌿

Land Trust Completes Conservation Easement near City of Napa

The Land Trust completed a Conservation Easement, working with a private landowner, protecting 73.5 acres on the valley floor. The property is just north of the City of Napa, with frontage on Big Ranch Road, and extends northeast from Big Ranch to the Napa River, which includes 1,000 feet of riparian frontage.

The landowner donated the Conservation Easement to the Land Trust. The property is in the Oak Knoll AVA and has been in vineyards for 60 years, long before the AVA was designated.

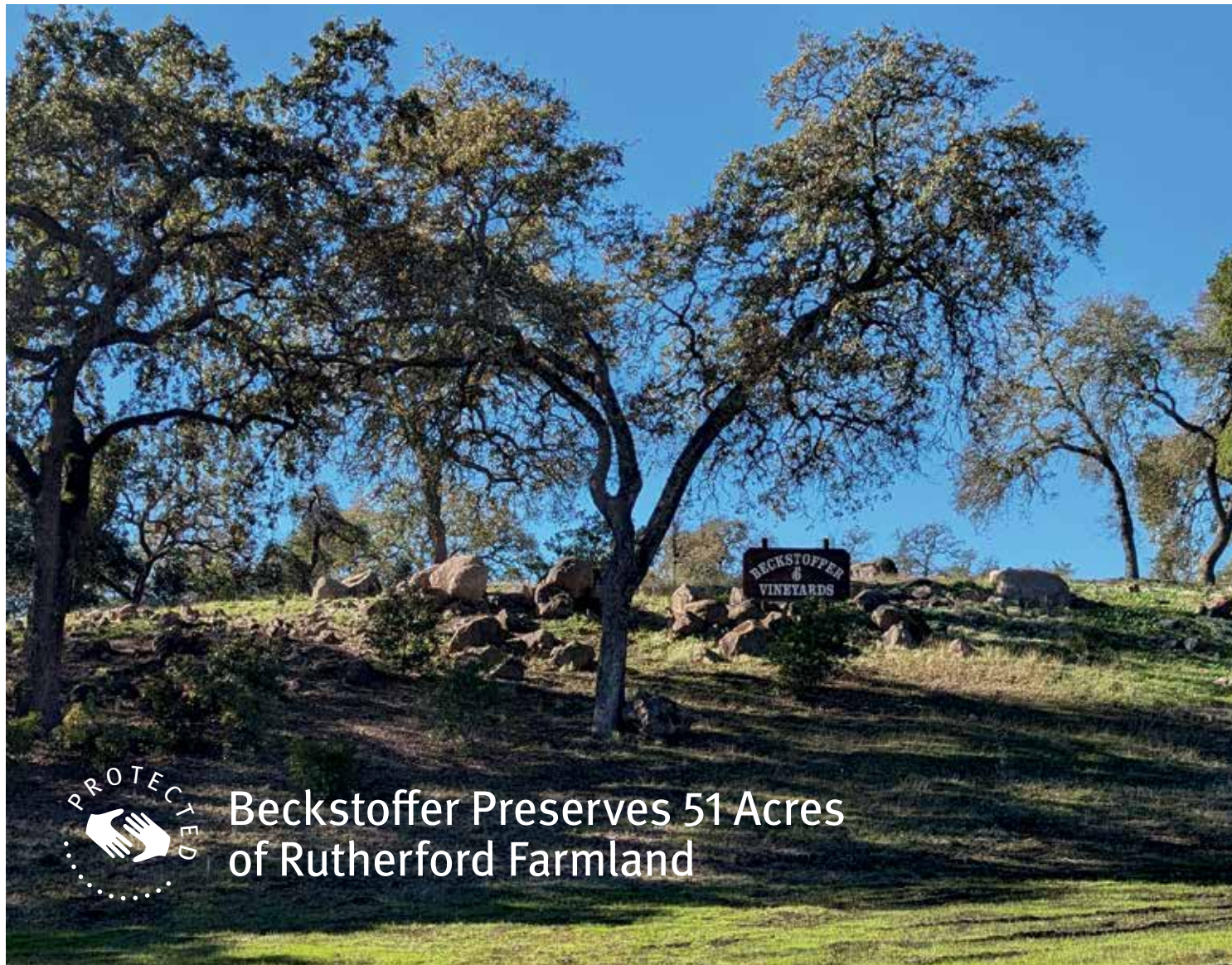
The easement will permanently protect the agricultural and scenic views along Big Ranch Road by permanently removing the potential to subdivide the property and eliminating the potential to develop wineries and two residences. The land will remain in private ownership, and the easement will not interfere with the vineyard operation.

“We are so grateful to the landowner for making this very generous donation,” said Doug Parker. “This is a valuable site for both wineries and houses, so this was a very significant charitable contribution by the landowner toward the goal of permanently protecting this area as open space into the future.”

The owner, who wished to remain anonymous, said, “We can act by saving the ground that we are connected to. There’s no new land being made, and we all need to save what we have now and protect it for future generations. I thought, if I don’t do it, who will? But anyone can do this—it was wonderful working with the Land Trust on this project.”

The land will protect scenic views for residents in the area, but also for everyone traveling along either Big Ranch Road or Silverado Trail. 🌿





Beckstoffer Preserves 51 Acres of Rutherford Farmland

The Land Trust was pleased to announce the permanent protection of 51 acres of prime agricultural land in Napa Valley’s Rutherford district thanks to a conservation easement donated by the Andy Beckstoffer family. This easement marks the 12th conservation easement donated by Beckstoffer Vineyards, demonstrating a very significant commitment to preserving Napa County’s agricultural heritage and rural character for future generations.

The newly protected property holds significant conservation value as prime farmland, primarily planted to vineyards, within Napa County’s Agricultural Preserve. The eastern end of the property also includes a scenic knoll of valley oaks and annual grasses, site of the well-known Beckstoffer Vineyards sign on the west side of Silverado Trail. The easement will ensure that no structure will be built on this highly visible hill.

This represents the fifth conservation easement over Beckstoffer Vineyards’ Georges III Vineyard portfolio and contributes to a contiguous network of what is now 900 acres of protected easements along this stretch of Silverado Trail,

including the easements on other sections of the Georges III property as well as the Upper Range easements across the road. This section of Silverado Trail will continue to provide scenic views for residents as well as for thousands of visitors each year. In addition to its scenic values, a segment of Conn Creek along its western boundary enhances the property’s ecological importance.

“We are very grateful to Andy Beckstoffer for his ongoing commitment to protect the character of Napa through donations of permanent conservation easements,” said Land Trust CEO Doug Parker. “Andy’s vision and dedication to conservation set a very high standard for long-term land stewardship. Protecting properties like this will ensure that Napa’s agricultural lands and iconic landscapes are safeguarded for generations to come.”

“Protecting Napa Valley’s agricultural lands has always been a core principle for our family and business,” said Andy Beckstoffer. “Partnering with the Land Trust of Napa County allows us to ensure that these lands will remain dedicated to agriculture and conservation forever.”



Napa Land Trust Acquires 547 Acres of Land Along Two Creeks

The Land Trust worked with four landowners to successfully protect 547 acres of ecologically significant land lying between Pope Creek and Putah Creek. The property includes frontage on Putah Creek, the largest source of water for Lake Berryessa.

These newly acquired acres are almost entirely surrounded by federal land, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), as well as State land, managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). It also connects to land previously protected by the Land Trust.

The acquisition involved four different landowners. All four transactions closed at the same time. “One of the key reasons to protect these properties was that together, they fill in gaps between existing protected lands,” said Doug Parker. “These lands abut thousands of acres of public land managed by BLM, BOR and CDFW, just north of the 6,400-acre Cedar Roughs Wilderness Area.”

“The Land Trust had previously acquired several other nearby properties,” said Parker. “In total, we now own over 2,100 acres in this area, all acquired in the last few years. These acquisitions help protect most of the land along the lower five miles of both

these streams before they empty into the lake.”

This area has been recognized as a conservation priority in CDFW’s five-county 800,000-acre Blue Ridge Berryessa Conceptual Area Protection Plan as well as in the Bay Area Conservation Lands Network.

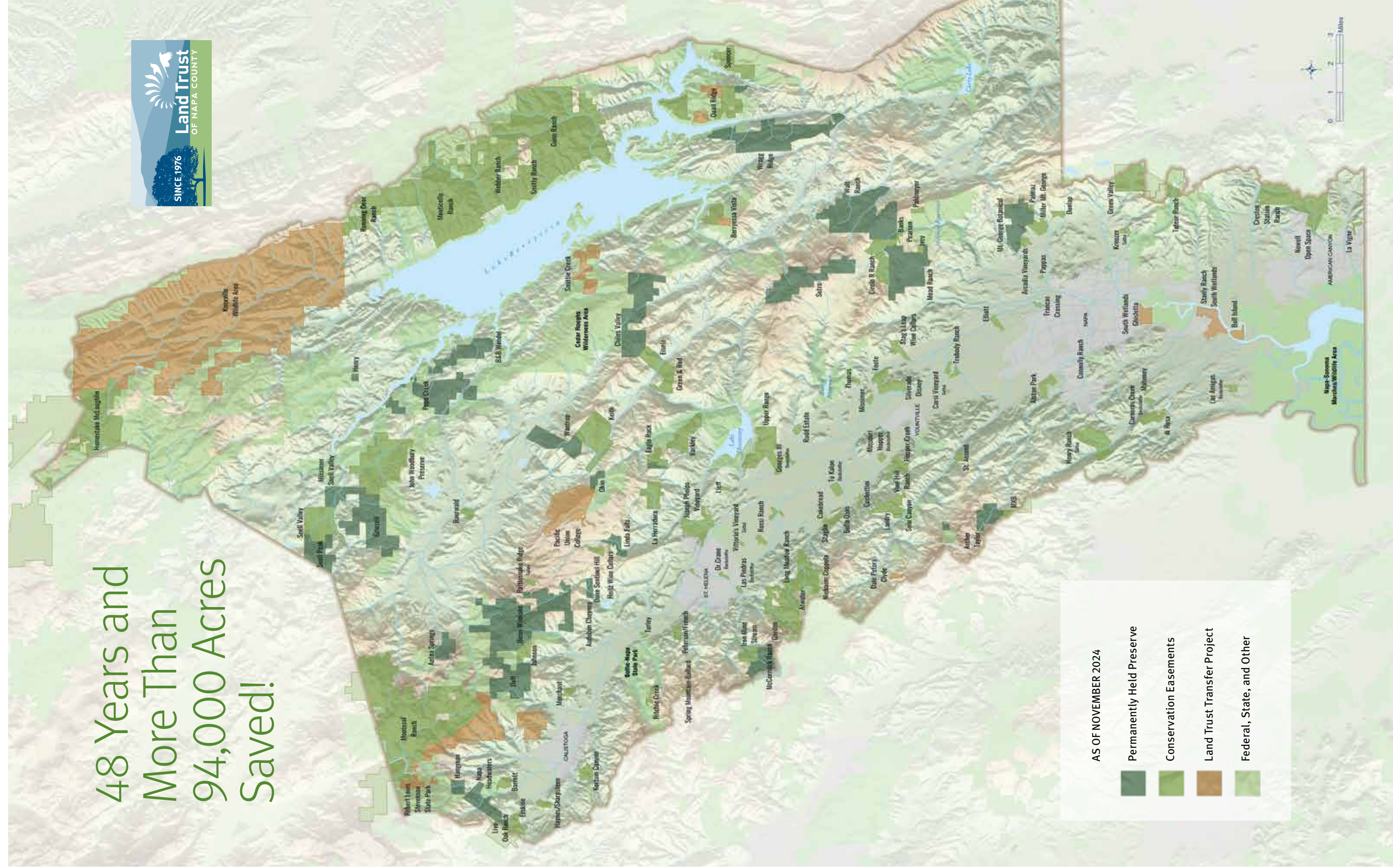
The land is home to extensive oak woodlands, chaparral, serpentine grasslands, and serpentine conifer forests and includes rare species that exist in this region only, nowhere else in the world. These include Green Jewelflower, which exists in only three counties in this area, and Swamp Larkspur that occurs in only four counties, centered on Napa.

“The protection of these properties is part of our larger strategy to connect together protected land around Lake Berryessa,” Parker added. “Over the last few years, the Land Trust has protected over 14,000 acres on the east side of Lake Berryessa. Now there are over 30,000 acres of contiguous protected land there. We are currently working to connect protected land on the west side. These latest acquisitions fill in key gaps, helping make connections that today, bring the total of protected land on the western side of the lake to 25,000 contiguous acres.”



Above: Green Jewelflower (*Streptanthus hesperidis*)

48 Years and More Than 94,000 Acres Saved!



AS OF NOVEMBER 2024

- Permanently Held Preserve
- Conservation Easements
- Land Trust Transfer Project
- Federal, State, and Other

Land Stewardship: A Holistic Approach to Protecting Napa County's Natural Resources



Land stewardship is about more than just protecting land; it's a deep commitment to nurturing and sustaining Napa County's ecosystems for future generations.

At the Land Trust of Napa County (LTNC), land stewardship means actively caring for our landscapes—safeguarding their health, biodiversity, and resilience so that they can continue to support wildlife, clean water, and the natural beauty that makes this region so special.

The Land Trust is deeply committed to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty, biodiversity, and resilience of Napa County.

Our multifaceted stewardship program focuses on science-driven conservation, habitat restoration, wildfire resilience, and community engagement.

These initiatives are all part of our larger commitment to safeguarding Napa County's natural heritage. Each project builds on our vision of resilient, thriving landscapes that benefit both nature and the community.

Here's how we're working together to ensure Napa's lands thrive today and in the future.

Applied Conservation Science

LTNC's stewardship work is rooted in science. We conduct research and monitor Napa County's unique ecosystems by partnering with agencies, universities, nonprofits, and local experts. Our field studies on plant and animal populations, ecological shifts, and natural processes allow us to make data-driven conservation decisions. These efforts help us steward the land effectively, ensuring that our actions contribute to regional conservation initiatives and the protection of Napa's natural heritage.

Habitat Restoration

Our restoration efforts aim to create diverse and resilient ecosystems. From removing invasive plant species to re-establishing native plant communities, we work to support Napa's biodiversity and the health of entire landscapes. Whether restoring degraded areas or protecting rare plant populations, our goal is to enhance wildlife habitats and create spaces where Napa's wildlands and wildlife can thrive for generations to come.

Forest Health and Resilience

With climate change increasing wildfire risks, LTNC prioritizes forest health and wildfire resilience. Through controlled forest thinning, native tree protection, and prescribed grazing, we reduce fire fuels and promote forest diversity. These carefully planned forest management practices help mitigate wildfire

impacts and support the resilience of native plant and animal communities.

Watershed Restoration

Protecting Napa's waterways is essential to the health of our ecosystems. LTNC works with local partners to prevent sediment pollution, address erosion on unpaved roads, and restore riparian habitats along streams and wetlands. These efforts improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and support the natural hydrology of the region, benefiting both ecosystems and local communities.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Conservation

Napa County is a biodiversity hotspot, home to numerous species found nowhere else. LTNC is dedicated to protecting and recovering these species through focused habitat protection, monitoring programs, and targeted restoration. By safeguarding these rare plants and animals, we contribute to the resilience and richness of Napa's natural landscapes.

Wildlife Monitoring and Corridor Enhancement

To protect Napa's wildlife, LTNC ensures connectivity across landscapes so animals can move freely, adapt to climate change, and maintain healthy populations. Our long-term Wildlife Picture Index (WPI) project, using motion-activated cameras, provides valuable insights into species like mountain lions, black bears, and even the elusive ringtail. These projects allow us to understand wildlife dynamics and inform our conservation strategies. In addition, we recently engaged with partners to gain further color about our bear populations. By gathering and analyzing bear scat, 38 individual bears were identified on Land Trust preserves in the northern hills. And working with the Department of Fish

and Wildlife, two bears were collared; transmitters on those collars are periodically sending their location information, so that we can learn where, and how far, they roam.

Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience

Climate change presents significant challenges to Napa County's ecosystems, altering habitats and stressing species. LTNC actively addresses these impacts through conservation strategies that build ecosystem resilience, from habitat restoration and wildlife corridor creation to carbon sequestration projects. By protecting climate refuges and enhancing ecosystem adaptability, we work to mitigate climate change effects and preserve Napa's natural beauty.

Connecting Community to Nature

LTNC's stewardship program goes beyond conservation; it fosters a connection between people and the land. Through field trips and educational outings, we invite community members to explore Napa's natural wonders. These experiences inspire current and future stewards to value and protect our local environment, fostering a legacy of conservation that benefits everyone.

Protecting Ecosystem Services

Healthy ecosystems provide essential services like clean water, pollination, flood control, and carbon storage. LTNC's land conservation efforts protect these benefits for Napa communities. For example, by conserving vital stream systems, we help ensure clean drinking water for local towns. Our work is a testament to the interconnectedness of nature and community, as we strive to protect the ecosystem services that enrich our lives. 🌿



Left to right, top row: Invasive French broom pull, before and after; Heartleaf milkweed mapping in Sutro Preserve; Creek restoration. Bottom row: Restored native wildflowers at Missimer Snell Valley Preserve shown next to unrestored neighboring property; Endangered red-legged frog, subject of a major species recovery effort; Forest-thinning at Linda Falls Preserve in Angwin, CA.

Window on Wildlife: Monitoring Population Health

The Land Trust uses an array of motion-activated cameras to track the long-term health of wildlife population in Napa County's protected wildlands.

Over the last nine years, a standardized protocol called the Wildlife Picture Index (WPI) has been used to monitor wildlife across nearly 5,000 acres.

In addition to generating long-term data on species distribution and abundance, the remote cameras generate striking and sometimes unusual images of bird and mammal species. Enjoy a few of our favorite views from 2024. 🌿



Clockwise from top left: Coyote (*Canis latrans*), Varied thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), Grey fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) with prey, Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*).



Clockwise from top left: Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Black bear (*Ursus americanus*), Black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*)

There's no better way to connect with the beauty and wonder of Napa County's protected landscapes than by experiencing them firsthand. The Land Trust of Napa County offers engaging field trips that connect people to the land and highlight the beauty and significance of Napa County's natural spaces.

These guided experiences provide a unique opportunity for community members to explore protected landscapes, learn about local ecosystems, and deepen their appreciation for the natural world.

Through hands-on learning and immersive activities, our field trips inspire a stronger connection to the environment and underscore the importance of land conservation as a benefit to our entire community.

Led by expert staff, knowledgeable guides, and an exceptionally dedicated team of volunteers, our field trip programs showcase the region's incredible biodiversity and stewardship workdays provide hands-on opportunities for volunteers to enhance the vitality of our lands and watersheds.

Boots on the Ground: Exploring Nature Through the Land Trust's Field Trips



2024 Highlights:

- 101 total field trips organized this year
- 55 guided hikes
- 23 stewardship workdays
- 23 orientation events
- 795 attendees joined us to discover, explore and care for the land



Participants enjoyed a wide range of experiences, including:

- Wildflower walks at Missimer Preserve in Snell Valley and Wildlake Preserve
- Summiting Maggie's Peak at Archer Taylor Preserve
- Exploring oak woodlands at Wantrup Preserve in Pope Valley
- Birdwatching adventures on the east side of Lake Berryessa

Stewardship Workdays brought volunteers together to tackle projects like removing invasive plants such as French Broom and star-thistle and improving hiking trails for community enjoyment. These hands-on activities make a lasting impact on habitat quality and accessibility.

Orientation Events at LTNC's Archer Taylor Preserve and Dunn-Wildlake Preserve allowed participants to gain access for self-guided hiking. After completing an orientation, attendees can return to enjoy the trails, wildlife, and world-class botanical diversity at their leisure.

Land Trust members also receive exclusive benefits, including priority sign-ups and specially curated members-only hikes. Join us to explore, restore, and celebrate the natural wonders of Napa County! 🌿



Honoring Warren Winiarski: A Legacy of Conservation and Commitment



The Land Trust of Napa County celebrates the life and enduring legacy of Warren Winiarski, a visionary vintner and steadfast conservationist, who passed away on June 7, 2024, at the age of 95.

While Warren Winiarski is globally renowned for his groundbreaking achievement at the 1976 Judgment of Paris—where his Stag’s Leap Wine Cellars 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon elevated Napa wines to international prominence—his extraordinary contribution to the preservation of Napa County’s rural character is also one of his most lasting legacies.

Warren’s passion for the land extended far beyond the vineyard. A staunch supporter of the Napa Valley Agricultural Preserve, Warren championed efforts to protect the region’s agricultural heritage and open spaces. His enduring commitment to conservation was further exemplified through his generous support of the Land Trust of Napa County.

He ensured that his own land was permanently protected by completing conservation easements with the Land Trust at both Stag’s Leap and at Arcadia Vineyards, tangible testaments to his belief in preserving Napa County’s landscapes for future generations. His contributions have played a pivotal role in safeguarding Napa County’s agricultural lands, water resources, and native habitats for future generations.

Welcome New Board Members Blakesley Chappellet, Chris Miller and Tim Persson



Blakesley Chappellet is a lifestyle author, branding expert, and marketing professional with over 30 years of experience leading communication initiatives for Fortune 100 companies and startups. A former senior vice president at Bank of America, she later transitioned to the nonprofit sector, serving as executive director of the San Francisco 49ers Foundation and co-founding the Guild of Sommeliers Education Foundation.

In 2016, Blakesley published *Napa Valley Entertaining*, reflecting her passion for entertaining and life as a vintner. She serves on the boards of the Saint Helena Hospital Foundation and the Land Trust of Napa County. Blakesley lives with her husband, Cyril Chappellet, on their Napa Valley vineyard, where they enjoy life with their two Labradors and Quarter Horses.

Blakesley said, “Joining the Land Trust board allows me to help preserve the natural beauty and agricultural heritage of Napa County—a legacy I’m deeply committed to protecting for future generations.”

Born in Carmel, California, and raised in Southern California, **Chris Miller’s** formative years were spent exploring the remnants of agricultural land and the nearby Santa Monica Mountains, which fostered a lifelong connection to the environment. His path led him through the film and bicycle industries, and he is now making art in his Napa studio.

Miller and his wife, Catherine McNamee, settled in Napa Valley’s Soda Canyon in 2012, after raising their daughters in Telluride, Colorado.



A strong advocate for land conservation, Chris’s deep appreciation for nature is also in his family’s legacy. Chris’ family worked with the Land Trust to place a conservation easement on their Silverado Vineyards property, protecting this 214-acre property in perpetuity.

“I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Land Trust of Napa County board,” said Chris. “The beauty of this region and the importance of protecting it has always been close to my heart. I look forward to contributing to the Land Trust’s efforts to preserve Napa County’s natural landscapes for future generations.”



Tim Persson is the Chairman and CEO of Hess Persson Estates, a second-generation family-owned and operated wine business based in Napa Valley.

The wineries and vineyards that Hess Persson Estates own are all certified sustainable. Under his leadership, the company has strengthened its focus on Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon and pioneered sustainable vineyard practices. Prior to joining

the family business in 2011, Tim was a corporate lawyer and practiced in London and New York.

“Preserving native biodiversity is essential for the health and vitality of our community. The Land Trust of Napa County is making a real impact, with visible benefits that will shape our future and support generations to come. I’m proud to be involved with such a dedicated organization, committed to safeguarding the natural beauty and resilience of our region,” Tim said.

Farewell Outgoing Board Members Kellie Duckhorn and Bill Nemerever



Kellie Duckhorn has been a dedicated Land Trust board member since 2018, making a significant impact during her six years of service. She served on the Walt Ranch Fundraising Committee and was instrumental in supporting the Linda Falls forest thinning and fuel break projects. As a neighborhood liaison in Angwin, Kellie actively fostered connections between her community and the Land Trust’s mission.

“As a life-long resident of this beautiful Valley, before I joined the board I had no idea what amazing behind the scenes work is being conducted by the Land Trust,” she said. “They and their supporters ensure that Napa will continue to be beautiful far into the future. Everyone should take some time to learn more about this wonderful organization.”

During her time on the board, the Land Trust protected over 20,000 acres. Thank you so much Kellie!



Since joining the Land Trust board in 2017, **Bill Nemerever** has been an invaluable leader and supporter of our mission. Serving on the Finance and Executive Committees, Bill also held the roles of Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. His leadership helped guide the Land Trust to protect an incredible 29,000 acres of Napa County during his tenure.

In addition to his wisdom and dedication, Bill also endowed a stewardship position at the Land Trust, a gift that ensures the long-term care and protection of Napa County’s preserved lands. And Bill continues to volunteer as a member of the Finance Committee, furthering his ongoing impact on conservation.

“I am incredibly proud of my time on the board and of the Land Trust’s work in preserving Napa County’s natural beauty,” said Bill. “It has been a privilege to contribute to such meaningful conservation efforts and to help protect this unique and beautiful place for generations to come.”

Thank you so much Bill for your leadership in protecting the beauty of Napa!



Cornerstone Society: Preserving Napa for Generations to Come



On a warm September evening, Land Trust Cornerstone Society members gathered at the beautiful Hess Persson Estates to celebrate another incredible year of conservation. Hosted graciously by Tim and Sabrina Persson, the event offered guests an inspiring evening filled with camaraderie, gratitude, and a shared commitment to protecting Napa County's outdoor treasures.

During the dinner, we proudly announced the protection of over 3,100 acres since last year's celebration. Even more remarkable, since the Cornerstone Society's founding ten years ago, the Land Trust has permanently protected over 42,000 acres—a testament to the vision and generosity of our Cornerstone members.

Tim and Sabrina Persson, longtime conservation advocates,

exemplify the spirit of sustainability. Their Hess Persson Estates is a trailblazer in sustainable winemaking, with all estate vineyards and winery facilities certified sustainable by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

The Land Trust extends its deepest thanks to our 2024 Cornerstone Society members. Your unwavering support fuels our mission to protect Napa County's biodiversity, wildlife corridors, agricultural values, watersheds, forests, and unique natural landscapes for future generations.

We also wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to Tim and Sabrina for their generosity in hosting this memorable evening. With the support of visionary families and organizations, the Land Trust continues to safeguard Napa's beauty and character for the long term. 🌱

Acre by Acre Award: Dario Sattui



The Land Trust awarded Dario Sattui the Land Trust's Acre by Acre Award for 2024. The award recognizes exceptional contributions to conservation in Napa. By working with the Land Trust to complete five separate conservation easements on five of his properties, Dario Sattui has permanently protected nearly 600 acres of his land in Napa. This includes properties that are in vineyards as well as land with significant natural habitat.

"Thank you, Dario, for your dedication to the protection of Napa's rural character and scenic beauty by permanently

protecting your land," said Doug Parker. "These donations of easements are tangible demonstrations of your commitment to ensuring the beauty of Napa for generations to come."

"Over the last six decades I have seen the erosion of the Napa County environment," said Dario, "as more people have moved to Napa County and as buildings, cement and asphalt replace farmland and vineyards. I wish to do my part to stem this growing tide by putting all V. Sattui and Castello di Amorosa Winery lands into the Napa County Land Trust so that they will never be built upon, ever." 🌱



The Perfect Holiday Gift

Share the gift of conservation with someone you care about this holiday season. A Land Trust membership makes a thoughtful present for birthdays, special occasions, business associates, or simply to show you care.

Your gift not only celebrates your connection with loved ones but also supports vital efforts to protect and steward the natural beauty of Napa County for future generations.

With a range of donation levels to fit every budget, giving is simple and meaningful. Visit napalandtrust.org today to make a lasting impact.



Land Trust of Napa County:

As of December 2024, the Land Trust has permanently protected 94,000 acres—over 17.5% of Napa County. Here is how we've protected land:

- Through 160 Conservation Agreements (properties stay in private ownership, but the Land Trust holds the land conservation agreement)
- Through 24 property transfers to resource agencies (such as Fish & Wildlife and State Parks)
- Through 29 property acquisitions, donated or purchased directly
- 46,673 acres are under Land Conservation Agreements
- 26,462 acres have been transferred to resource agencies
- 21,000 acres are owned by the Land Trust



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Land Trust of Napa County
is a nonprofit dedicated
to preserving the character
of Napa by permanently
protecting land. Updates
and last-minute news:

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**Upcoming Field
Trips & Events**

For details, to register
or to join as a member, visit
napalandtrust.org
or call 707.252.3270.

We'd love to see your adventures!
Please share your pictures and use
#gohikenapa

JANUARY

- 1: New Year's Day hike up Mt. St. Helena
- 19 Linda Falls French Broom Pull (workday)
- 25: Maggie's Peak

FEBRUARY

- 9: Wragg Ridge Ridgetop
- 15: Dimmick Property French Broom Pull (workday)
- 22: Exploring the PUC Forest
- 28: ATP Trails Volunteer Workday

