



SPRING 2019 | Volume 38 | Number 1

KATHLEEN'S CANYON OVERLOOK

A PARK FOR ALL TO ENJOY

On Saturday, April 27th The Land Conservancy officially opened Kathleen's Canyon Overlook (KCO) park in rural Arroyo Grande, to the cheers of neighbors and visitors.

Seven years in the making, KCO will now serve community members from all walks of life with its meandering 1/4 mile trail, interpretive viewing platform and accessible boardwalk, and bi-lingual audio tour.

Named for Kathleen Goddard Jones, a local naturalist, conservationist, and champion of the Dunes who passed away in 2001, the conservation park aims to create a "gateway to nature" where people can easily access information and explore the amazing ecosystems that surround them.

"At the age of twelve I began to really hike," Kathleen once said. "To go to the higher peaks and to learn to sleep outdoors and cook outdoors, and to find that this was something that was important to me."

"The Land Conservancy shares in Kathleen's belief that Black Lake Canyon is a truly wonderful and unique ecosystem worth preserving and protecting and we are honored to dedicate this park in her memory," said Executive Director Kaila Dettman.

Over one hundred people came out for the grand opening celebrations, which included free face painting, live music, and Mexican cuisine from Taqueria 805.

While the park is fully open to the public, **The Land Conservancy continues to fundraise the final \$50,000 needed to build the last peice of the park - a playground.**

Special thanks to the CA State Coastal Conservancy, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Edwin and Jeanne Woods Family Foundation, the Community Foundation, and all of our members (that's you!) for getting us this far. If you are interested in making a donation to complete this project please contact our office at (805) 544-9096.

Exploring "K.C.O"

Address: 1290 Mesa View Drive, at the corner of Highway 1 and Callendar Road in rural A.G.

Hours: Open daily from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week.

Volunteers needed! We need neighborhood volunteers to help with daily opening and closing of the parking lot gates, and general minor oversight at the park. Call (805) 544-9096 for more information.

VIEWS FROM THE OVERLOOK



Executive Director Kaila Dettman and Melissa Boggs from the Department of Fish and Wildlife Office of Spill Prevention and Response officially open Kathleen's Canyon Overlook to the public. (photo by Michelle Garrick)



Oak Ambassadors Sawyer, Nora, and Paige taught guests about local wildlife and enjoyed face-painting by volunteer Jan Fox.



Guests enjoyed new interpretive signage which illustrates native birds, plants, and ecosystem habitats. (photo by Marilyn Darnell)



Wildlife artist Robin Carlson poses next to her artwork featuring the habitats of Black Lake Canyon. (photo courtesy of Robin Carlson)



Neighbors, volunteers, and Land Conservancy staff and board enjoy the views from the newly constructed overlook and boardwalk.

EXPLORING THEIR OWN BACKYARD

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM MAKES NEW USE OF OLD NATURE TRAIL



Thirteen freshly minted Vineyard Elementary School Oak Ambassadors are now at work guiding hikes for fellow classmates exploring the school's nearby nature trail.

The Land Conservancy's Learning Among the Oaks (LATO) children's education program expanded to Vineyard School in the fall of 2018 thanks to supporters like you, and incredible partnerships with the Morro Coast Audubon Society, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, Cal Poly Biological Sciences, and school faculty and staff.

Vineyard was a prime location for LATO, already having an established nature trail which meanders

through oak woodlands and grassland to a section of Paso Robles Creek adjacent to the school.

"These students have demonstrated extraordinary enthusiasm and readiness to take on the challenges involved in teaching others about their oak nature trail," said Oak Education Manager Bev Gingg at their graduation ceremony on April 26th.

This summer, these same students will have the chance to be involved in a hands-on habitat restoration and stewardship project directed by US Fish and Wildlife biologists and The Land Conservancy's stewardship team. Thanks to your support, opportunities like this instill a greater appreciation of our local landscapes and wildlife that these future conservation leaders will carry with them the rest of their lives. **Thank you!**





THE HOMESTRETCH

If you have driven up the coast on Highway 101 since November, you have probably noticed a lot of movement at the Pismo Preserve. We are excited to say that The Land Conservancy has completed “Phase 1” of construction, which included roadway improvements on Mattie Road right up to the entrance of the Preserve.

“Phase 2” is scheduled to begin June 3rd, but we still need help.

Since our last update in fall 2018, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), the City of Pismo Beach, individual donors, and a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy provided \$2.2 million towards the completion of the Pismo Preserve, launching us into initial construction.

While our community partners have come through

for us in incredible ways, the timeline for completion of the parking lot and restrooms is dependent on fundraising the remaining \$2,400,000 this summer.

We are in the homestretch. There’s a light at the end of the tunnel. Completion is on the horizon... However you want to say it – **We. Are. Almost. There!**

“We are so close to realizing this incredible project and every bit of support helps us. It’s time to rally together

Put simply, if we had the money today, we would be open in 6-8 months.



Right: A new retaining wall along Mattie Road leads to the entrance of the Pismo Preserve



© Dylan Theobald

again and open this property for our community to enjoy. Let's all work together to finish it." said Kaila Dettman, Executive Director of The Land Conservancy.

Put simply, if we had the money today, the Preserve would be open in 6 to 8 months.

The first phase of construction began in October 2018 and included the widening of Mattie Road, a sidewalk and retaining wall, a water and sewer line, and a fire hydrant for emergency fire suppression.

These improvements were required by the City of Pismo Beach and other agencies to ensure safe access into the Preserve once open to the public. This first phase of construction will be completed in May 2019. The Land Conservancy is working with R. Burke Corporation and Precision Building Group to

complete the project, which will also include a parking lot, an ADA accessible trail, and restrooms.

Access to the Preserve's 11 miles of trail is closed while construction is ongoing, but the public can look forward to daily access, from dawn to dusk, once all construction is complete at the end of the year. Once completed, walkers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians will be able to enjoy the Pismo Preserve seven days a week.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Regular volunteer restoration days are scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **Visit lcslo.org/events to RSVP.**

Directions to the meet-up location will be provided in a confirmation email.

A TIME TO REMEMBER

BREATHING LIFE INTO SLO COUNTY'S DAIRY HISTORY

It is not often that one can witness both “history in the making” and history preserved in the same location. Yet that has been the goal of the Octagon Barn Center since The Land Conservancy set out to restore the iconic structure in 1997.

Commit to mind the names of John R. Damaso and Henry I. LaFranchi, who lived in San Luis Obispo when Queen Victoria was in power and built the Octagon Barn for a San Francisco ship captain named William E. Mighell. Thanks to his granddaughter Donna Young, who still lives in San Luis Obispo, Damaso's tools are now valuable artifacts that will be seen and studied by students of all ages.

Although secure display cases are still needed, plans are forming to develop educational displays around these and other artifacts that have been donated over the years. Oral tradition and documents have

been uncovered which will also be made available for study. These memories live on for current and future generations to learn from when they visit the Octagon Barn Center.

Decades of this community's generosity have brought us to this point to tell the important and enriching dairy story of this county. As we count down to the grand opening of the Octagon Barn Center this fall, your donation now of time, treasure or talent can assist in reaching our historic goals.

We couldn't do this without you. We are closer than ever to completing the project and your support is making this possible.

If you are interested to be a part of our Barn education, docent program, and other outreach, please email us at info@lcslo.org.



© BK Richard

YOU'RE AMAZING!

THANK YOU

- Thank you LeftLane Sports and King Ventures for donating all proceeds from a screening of Reel Rock 13 at the Fremont Theater, and to RaceSLO for naming us as the beneficiary of this year's YogoMusic Festival.
- To the dozens of volunteers who helped with native plant restoration at the Octagon Barn Center and Pismo Preserve this spring.
- Marilyn Darnell for her incredible work documenting the history of the Octagon Barn Center for future displays and presentations at the site.
- Jen Lannon, a Santa Margarita Oak Ambassador mom and amazing volunteer who has donated countless hours to helping with projects and hikes from KCO to the Pismo Preserve and Vineyard School, in addition to Santa Margarita.
- Bill Kanne, who has been volunteering with the Gateway to Nature project in Santa Margarita and sharing his expertise and boundless energy to help with multiple projects, including work with the Atascadero Unified School District and LCSLO staff to improve the irrigation system for Marguerite's Native Oak Community Landscape, located at the entrance to the Santa Margarita LATO Trail.

WELCOME

- New board members Jim Grant and Joel Sheets.
- Community Stewardship Coordinator Scott Loosley! Scott joins us from Cal Poly where he retired as the Director for Strategic Projects in the Facilities Management and Development department.

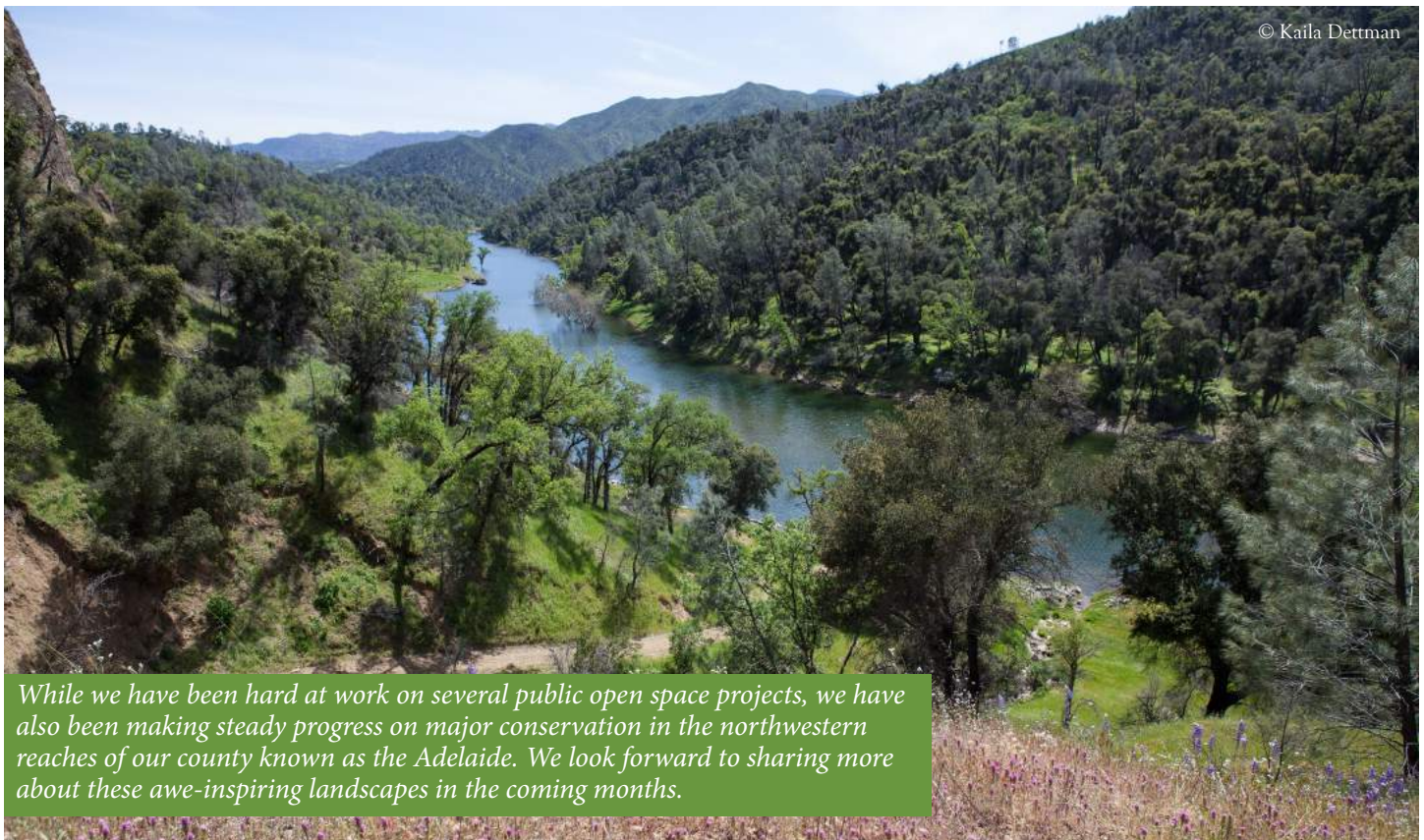
FAREWELL

- Stewardship intern Adam Norcott. Thank you for an outstanding year of service and best of luck on your future adventures!
- Restoration Crew Michelle Perez, Eric Brunschwiler, and Alison Kaplan. Thank you for an amazing season!

WISH LIST

- General tools
- Museum quality display cases (email jamiec@lcslo.org for details)
- Electric Golf Cart (for work, we promise)
- Weed wackers
- Security camera system

Donated goods are tax-deductible. Call us at (805) 544-9096 or e-mail LC@LCSLO.org.



While we have been hard at work on several public open space projects, we have also been making steady progress on major conservation in the northwestern reaches of our county known as the Adelaide. We look forward to sharing more about these awe-inspiring landscapes in the coming months.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RANDY KNIGHT, *President*
JIM PATTERSON, *Vice President*
ROB DEGRAFF, *Treasurer*
JIM BRABECK
ROGER BRIGGS
JIM GRANT
CHRIS HELENIUS
PAT MULLEN
CARRISA PEREIRA
ANNE ROBINSON
JOEL SHEETS
RON YUKELSON

STAFF

KAILA DETTMAN, *Executive Director*
DANIEL BOHLMAN, *Deputy Director*
JON HALL, *Stewardship Director*
KYLE WALSH, *Conservation Director*
JOEY CHAVEZ, *Operations Manager*
SCOTT COUTURE, *Field Manager*
JAMIE CREATH, *Outreach Manager*
BEVERLY GINGG, *Oak Education Manager*
KELLY LEWIS, *Restoration Specialist II*
SCOTT LOOSLEY, *Community Stewardship Coordinator*
LAUREN MEERS, *Development Manager*
LINDSEY RODDICK, *Restoration Ecologist*
NATHAN SHARON, *Oak Education Coordinator*
RACHEL TARCON, *Finance Manager*
DYLAN THEOBALD, *Stewardship Manager*



MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 12206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

OFFICE ADDRESS

1137 Pacific Street, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: (805) 544-9096

Fax: (805) 544-5122

E-mail: info@LCSLO.org



EVENTS CALENDAR

PISMO PRESERVE VOLUNTEER DAYS

Wednesdays June 12, July 17, August 14 • 9 am-12 pm

Join Land Conservancy staff at the Pismo Preserve for a morning of habitat restoration. RSVP required for driving and parking directions. Register online at lcslo.org/events or call (805) 544-9096

OCTAGON BARN VOLUNTEER DAYS

June 8, 13, & 27 • July 11, 13 & 25 • August 15 & 22 • 9 am-12 pm

The Octagon Barn Center is in need of ongoing landscape maintenance, including weeding and planting new plants! Join us for one day, or visit all summer! There are many volunteer opportunities available. Please RSVP at lcslo.org/events.

KATHLEEN'S CANYON OVERLOOK VOLUNTEER DAYS

Tuesdays June 4, July 23 & August 20 • 1-4 pm

Check out our new Kathleen's Canyon Overlook park and trails and help us keep this a beautiful place to walk and enjoy nature! Ten volunteers are needed for each workday. Please RSVP at lcslo.org/events.

LANDLINES © is a publication of The Land Conservancy
of San Luis Obispo County
Editor: Jamie Creath
Cover Photo: © Lindsey Roddick

