Those of us who value the natural beauty, rural character, and wild landscapes that define San Luis Obispo County have much to celebrate. In the last 30 years, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect and open to the public special places that make this region unique. Iconic experiences like biking along the Bob Jones Trail, enjoying the quiet of Cambria’s Monterey Pine forests, hiking to the “M” on Cerro San Luis, and savoring a pie from the Avila Valley Barn made with locally grown fruit are all made possible by the work of The Land Conservancy.

Our leadership has also led to the historical preservation of cultural landmarks like the Port San Luis Lighthouse, Dana Adobe, and Octagon Barn. Yet we didn’t do it alone. With the steady support of our annual members, who have recently grown to include over 1,400 households and businesses, The Land Conservancy has created a culture of love for our local lands.

But the iconic views and outdoor trails that have become an essential part of our everyday lives demand our constant attention. Many of these places are threatened by future land use changes, and others require considerable maintenance to protect the essential benefits they provide to our communities. To meet the growing demands for land protection in San Luis Obispo County, The Land Conservancy needs to increase its support base with its annual members.

Many of you have recently donated or joined in support of the Pismo Preserve. For that, we are grateful. The 1,300+ community contributions that have been made towards the permanent protection of the 900-acre Pismo Preserve total over $1 million! In addition, we have secured $10 million from...
WISHLIST

- Smart, flat screen TV 42-48” for conference room
- Refrigerator
- Santa Maria style BBQ Grill
- Bushnell Scout 1000 ARC Laser Range Finder
- 170 square concrete blocks (approximately 12x12x2)
- Pressure washer (minimum 2500psi, gas powered)
- Gas or electric outboard freshwater motor (2HP)
- Check out our Wishlist on amazon.com and enter “land conservancy” to find us.

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

MISSION STATEMENT

Through voluntary and collaborative measures, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County works to permanently protect and enhance lands having important scenic, agricultural, habitat and cultural values for the benefit of people and wildlife.

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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you

- Bruce Severance for going above and beyond to coordinate and manage our Jazz & Blues Benefit Concert, helping us raise $80,000 towards Pismo Preserve.
- Students at Central Coast New Tech and Nipomo High Schools for all their hard work, enthusiasm, and presentations in support of Pismo Preserve.
- Volunteers and members who showed their support wearing “green shirts” and speaking out to support our project at public meetings.
- Bob DeGraff and Mary Sampson for donating 4 new 6’ folding tables for events and outreach engagements.
- Michael and Susi LeBrun for donating funds to help us purchase a bike rack for our office.
- Joyce Polewczak for a brand new GoPro Hero camera.
- Rod Hadley of Peak Racks, Inc. for donating their services and goods to create a custom made bike. We love the steelhead design!

Printed on recycled paper.

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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DOLLARS AT WORK

Continued from page 1

State Coastal Conservancy and local governments including $4 million committed by the Wildlife Conservation Board. The remaining $950,000 is expected to come from a combination of local government funding and private donations. Land Conservancy leaders remain diligently focused on meeting the project’s August 2014 deadline in order to create a premiere hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding destination that serves the most populated region in our county.

The Pismo Preserve is just the first in a series of ambitious land projects. The Land Conservancy aims to complete in the next five years through the Heart & Soil Campaign. We invite you to learn more about these upcoming projects, look at pages 4-5 to see the project highlights that correspond to each number.

By 2018 we aim to protect an additional 15,000 acres of local lands in order to:

- Protect watersheds in North County;
- Safeguard scenic & productive North Coast ranches;
- Preserve farmland in Los Oso Valley;
- Extend the Bob Jones Trail at the Octagon Barn Center;
- Create new outdoor recreation trails;
- Establish a conservation park & trail system in South County;
- The Land Conservancy’s Heart & Soil campaign challenges the community to contribute $5 million over the next five years in order to leverage an additional $25 million in funds we plan to bring in from outside San Luis Obispo County.

Think of the many reasons you love to live, work, and play in San Luis Obispo County. Now consider your essential role in helping us bring in additional funding for these projects.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
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ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
CONSERVE, CARE, AND CONNECT

Big, exciting land deals are underway! Increased community support strengthens our chances for competitive grants. We need your ongoing support to take on new projects and protect these special places.

The Land Conservancy started out protecting family farms and ranches and continues to do today. We are working with nearly a dozen local farmers and ranchers in the Los Osos Valley, North Coast, and the Adelaida regions.

With outreach and fundraising for Pismo Preserve, our membership has doubled in the past year—the largest in our organization’s history. We aim to steadily increase our membership, engage our supporters, and establish The Land Conservancy as a household name in SLO County.

As one of our precious resources, water is a major concern for us all. We are working to protect 2,500+ acres of private ranches that will help safeguard North County watersheds which are essential to drinking water.

We are continuing our cutting-edge work to restore and enhance habitat in the world-class Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes complex and wetlands throughout the county.

In the next two years, we expect to open three significant community gathering places for public enjoyment: the Pismo Preserve, Octagon Barn Center, and Kathleen’s Canyon Overlook.

Your membership dollars will support these upcoming projects. Renew your membership today!

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The Port San Luis Lighthouse has stood sentry over the local coastline since 1874. One of the lesser known facts about the Port San Luis Lighthouse is how The Land Conservancy played an instrumental role in saving this iconic landmark.

The Port San Luis Lighthouse has stood sentry over the local coastline for over one hundred years. Since 1870, when it first shined a light across the harbor, the lighthouse has weathered many storms. It has a unique and varied history that reflects the coastline around which it stands.

The lighthouse functioned until 1974, when it was replaced with automated signals. After this time, the property fell into a state of disrepair. The seven abandoned structures and 34 acres of surrounding land were the victim of vandals, while the pier that once stretched out across the water was torn out after a suspected arson fire.

There was a time when San Francisco and Los Angeles were difficult to reach for those who lived on the Central Coast. The Port San Luis Lighthouse was how The Land Conservancy played an instrumental role in saving this iconic landmark. The Port San Luis Lighthouse has stood sentry over the local coastline for over one hundred years. Since 1870, when it first shined a light across the harbor, the lighthouse has weathered many storms. It has a unique and varied history that reflects the coastline around which it stands.

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When a much loved trail docent died unexpectedly last July, Learning Among the Oaks friends looked for a way to honor and remember Glenn Sparks. Glenn had been involved since the beginning of LATO as a volunteer docent, generously sharing his time and talents to teach all of Santa Margarita’s school children about local wildlife and outdoor safety.

As LATO grew, so did Glenn’s contributions to the program. He became an integral part of the Oak Ambassador training program, involved in everything from interviewing and selecting each new OA class to serving as a teacher and mentor. With a ready smile and words of encouragement for the kids, he brought out the best in everyone around him. The idea for a fitting tribute came to us when we saw that another old oak had fallen in the trail area.

With help from an amazing California Conservation Corps crew, led by Melinda Winn-Shriver, and Santa Margarita Ranch, we were able to create a beautiful new trail station from this fallen coast live oak. Many friends gathered with Glenn’s wife Charron to dedicate the Glenn Sparks Memorial Station this spring.

**OCTAGON BARN CENTER PROGRESS**

In early June, the County Board of Supervisors approved the Operating Agreement between San Luis Obispo County Parks and The Land Conservancy. This reflects years of work, to mutual benefit, in formalizing how the Octagon Barn Center will be operated in the future. The agreement includes a commitment on the part of the County to grade and surface the parking lot, build a segment of the Bob Jones Pathway, install restrooms, and develop a South Higuera Street turn lane. In exchange, we will operate and maintain the site. By formally breaking ground at the site for these improvements in late summer or early fall. An exceptional team of architects, engineers, and construction managers, including Jim Duffy, Greg Crabtree, Bob Vessely, Bob McCain, Joel Snyder, and Santa Margarita’s school children about local wildlife and outdoor safety.

The City continues to plan for a connection from this point to the Octagon Barn. A revision to the Environmental Impact Report for the County’s Bob Jones Pathway is underway. It should be back for public comment and eventual consideration by County Supervisors by fall or early winter.

The Land Conservancy has received the formal contract for its grant from the State of California Natural Resources Agency to help build out the water infrastructure and landscaping at the Octagon Barn Center. With the grant and the processing of our applications in place, we hope to formally break ground at the site for these improvements in late summer or early fall. An exceptional team of architects, engineers, and construction managers, including Jim Duffy, Greg Crabtree, Bob Vessely, Bob McCain, Joel Snyder, and Tim Tillman, has been assembled to make this happen. We are grateful for their time and energy! To get the latest updates on the Octagon Barn, subscribe to the Capuola View at www.octagonbarn.org.

In 2006, Dylan moved to California to pursue a BS in Natural Resources Management at Cal Poly University. After graduating, he worked throughout central California for the U.S. Forest Service doing Forest Inventory and Analysis. Dylan enjoyed the adventures associated with seasonal work, but decided to further his academic framework and pursue a master’s degree.

In 2011, Dylan returned to Cal Poly for his M$ in Forest Hydrology. The majority of his time in graduate school was spent at Swanton Pacific Ranch, Cal Poly’s research forest located on the coast north of Santa Cruz. While in graduate school, Dylan gained hands-on experience relating to the sustainable management of watersheds, rangelands, and forested ecosystems and also had the opportunity to explore the many beaches in-between Santa Cruz and San Francisco.

The Land Conservancy is a great match for Dylan’s educational background and personal interests. “I am a conservationist, but I also believe in the active management and restoration of landscapes that have already been altered or degraded by human impact. I love living on the central coast, and I take pride in being the Stewardship Manager for the over 14,000 acres of land managed by LCSLO.”

In his spare time, he enjoys surfing, camping, photography, and cooking.

**WELCOME ABOARD**

**DYLAN THEOBALD, STEWARDSHIP MANAGER**

**EMMA FUHS, MEDIA INTERN**

Emma Fuhs was born and raised in San Luis Obispo County. Some of her earliest memories are of long summer days spent exploring beautiful places like the Cascade Mountain Range in Washington and Glacier National Park in Montana. Growing up in an outdoor-oriented family, she was used to spending foggy Saturday mornings on the Nipomo Mesa, helping The Land Conservancy plant native flora in Black Lake Canyon.

After graduating from Arroyo Grande High School in 2013, she left to pursue a degree in English and Environmental Studies from UC Davis. Though Emma enjoys biking around campus and taking a variety of interesting classes, she is glad to be back at home and interning at The Land Conservancy during the summer. She hopes that the experience will equip her with an understanding of environmental conservation that she will carry with her in the future.

In her spare time, Emma loves catering and writing for the Santa Maria Sun. Her favorite pastimes include reading, writing, rowing, golfing, eating familiar food, and listening to music. She owns many leather-bound books, and her apartment “smells of rich mahogany.”

Dylan Theobald grew up in Seattle, Washington, and gained an appreciation for the mountains, clean water, and lush forests that surround his hometown. However, the sun and beaches of California were calling.

In 2006, Dylan moved to California to pursue a BS in
Cuesta Ridge performs during the Pismo Preserve Concert & Rally in May, which raised $30K.

B.K. Richard, LCSLO Trustee, donates an honorary bench to The Land Conservancy. The bench sits atop the Irish Hills. Helping with the installation are (l. to r.) Doug Carscaden, Paul Courcy, Darlene Felsman, Bob Hill, B.K. Richard, and Pete Jenny.

Thumbs up for the Yoga Shala fundraiser. It was a smashing success and raised $30K towards the Pismo Preserve.

Ride Nipomo equestrian members show their support for Pismo Preserve with several fundraisers of their own.

Kaila Dettman gives Supervisor Adam Hill a tour of Pismo Preserve.

Just Looking Gallery in downtown SLO is featuring a new piece in a series of vintage style posters from artist, Steve Thomas. The new poster is the iconic Octagon Barn. Proceeds from the sales of this poster will support local land conservation. The gallery is located at 746 Higuera St. in SLO. Hours are 10am-6pm daily and 12-5pm on Sunday.

San Luis Outdoor Painters for the Environment (SLOPE) is showcasing their Pismo Preserve exhibit which features dozens of plein air landscape paintings of the preserve. Proceeds from sales will benefit the Pismo Preserve project. This exhibit runs through July and is located at Blakeslee & Blakeslee, 1101 Marsh Street in San Luis Obispo.

Experience the breathtaking views of the dunes complex from the Point Sal Overlook! Join Dunes Center docent, Ray Segovia on an eight mile round trip hike to the Point Sal Overlook. This is considered medium to difficult hike. Bring water, a jacket and a lunch to enjoy at the overlook. Meet at the Point Sal Trail head at the west end of 6404 Brown Road in Santa Maria. For questions about this hike, contact the Dunes Center at (805) 343-2455.

Join us for the annual Creek Day Clean-up for the City of San Luis Obispo. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Meeting location is at Santa Rosa Park in San Luis Obispo. Please note that the county-wide Creek Day cleanup will be on Saturday, September 27th. For a full list of other participating locations in your area, visit www.creekday.org.

This exclusive members-only hike in a surprise location provides a chance to explore a private ranch. Led by photographers and LCSLO leaders, Kaila Dettman and Rob DeGraff, this excursion includes nature photography skills and tips, but all are welcome to attend. Space is limited. RSVP required for directions and your spot. First come, first serve with priority sign-up for current members.

Join us for a morning of family-friendly apple picking on our Lower SLO Creek property. Meet and greet the grower, Jake Smith, from Avila Valley Barn. Current members receive the first bag free. Non-members and subsequent bags are $5 each. Space is limited. Members receive priority registration. RSVP to reserve your spot and receive directions. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Land Conservancy and Atascadero Mutual Water Company are teaming up to visit Hidden Springs Christmas Tree Farm to learn how the Frank Family is keeping tradition alive through conservation. The farm parallels a spectacular section of Graves Creek. The farm will be in full operation for the season. Hot cider and cookies provided following the walk. The location is 3202 Monterey Road in Atascadero.

To RSVP for an event or to volunteer, go to www.LCSLO.org/events to register. We may add more events throughout the year, so be sure to check back with us for an updated list of events, or “LIKE US” on Facebook for recent news.
It’s Annual Membership time! Join or renew your Land Conservancy membership to kick-start our next 30-year journey with Heart & Soil.

Please fill out the form below so we know the best way to direct your donation. Include this form in the attached remit envelope. (You do not need to fill out your information on the inside of the remit envelope).

2014-2015 Annual Membership Campaign

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

• Hikes on private lands with local experts.
• Exclusive tours like wine tasting, apple picking, photography, and more.
• Invitation to our Annual Conservation Reception.
• Landlines newsletter subscription featuring local and national conservation news.
• Networking with conservation professionals.
• Priority registration for special events.
• Satisfaction for permanently protecting local lands.
• Personalized donor acknowledgment.

Name __________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Email __________________ Phone ________________

Membership Amount ($35 suggested minimum) $ ______

Optional Donation towards Heart & Soil Campaign (which includes Pismo Preserve) $ ______

☐ Do not publish this donation.

Membership is on an annual basis from July 2014 – June 2015. Donations are fully tax deductible. Please make checks payable to The Land Conservancy or LCSLO.

DONATE TODAY TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

If you recently renewed your membership or made a contribution, we thank you for your support. Please pass along this newsletter to someone else and share your reasons for being a Land Conservancy member!