KATHLEEN’S CANYON OVERLOOK
CREATING A CONSERVATION PARK

Kathleen Goddard Jones—naturalist, conservationist, and protector of the Dunes—held a special place in her heart for the beauty and wonder she experienced when visiting Nipomo’s Black Lake Canyon. Her dream for this unique corner of the Dunes, “a rare and beautiful park— all of it carefully protected— for peace, pleasure, research...”

After 30 years of work preserving Black Lake Canyon, The Land Conservancy is one step closer to making this dream a reality. A year ago, we completed the first phase of this project, acquiring permits, installing benches and picnic tables, and designing conceptual site plans.

Recently, we were awarded a $360K grant from the CA State Coastal Conservancy and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Office of Spill Prevention Response through the Guadalupe Natural Resources Restoration Trust. This grant will help us complete a conservation park at Kathleen’s Canyon Overlook, a property owned by The Land Conservancy, and it will serve as the gateway to the Black Lake Canyon Preserve System. We are hopeful that Kathleen’s Canyon Overlook will be open to the public by summer 2017.

The total project is expected to cost $470K. The Land Conservancy is seeking $110K in matching funds from local donors and businesses to realize the complete vision for Kathleen’s Canyon Overlook. We hope you will consider donating to this special place where children will learn about Black Lake Canyon and the Dunes, and where neighbors can gather together to connect with nature.

If you are interested in supporting projects like these, consider donating to the Heart & Soil Campaign which includes the Kathleen’s Canyon Overlook project.

This is a much-needed amenity for South County residents and visitors. It’s an opportunity to get outside and explore the beautiful surroundings of the Dunes.

—Jon Hall, Restoration Manager

PLANS FOR KATHLEEN’S CANYON OVERLOOK

- Interpretive viewing platform and ADA boardwalk
- Designated loop trail
- Innovative multi-lingual audio cell phone tour
- Spirit circle for educational talks
- Raptor pole and native plant restoration areas
- Picnic area with tables and benches
- Signs interpreting the key ecosystem features on-site and in view
- Playground area
SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THANK YOU
- We would like to honor and thank Pete Jenny who has served on our Board of Trustees for the past six years. Pete recently stepped off our board, and we sincerely thank him for his wisdom, guidance, support, and service.
- We would like to thank Kara Woodruff who also served on our Board of Trustees but recently decided to step away, but not far away! We thank Kara for her service.
- Joe Bowman from SLIME and Genuine Innovations for providing freebies during our Bike Breakfast.
- Craig Campbell, Ben Jensen, and Jorge Aguilar of Wallace Group for the bags & cream cheese and lending a helping hand.
- Kathy Colton for all her tremendous help during the Bike Breakfast and Octagon Burn 4th of July Open House.
- Breaking Bread for their generous ickind donations of yummy breads for our events.
- Roger and Susan Card for a compound miter saw.
- Grace Crittenden for a chainsaw.
- Gary and Darlene Felsman for a big wheel lawn mower.
- Joyce and John Polewczak for a brand new digital pen and drawing tablet.
- A special thank you to Chris and Lynn Helenius for donating reclaimed wood from their old barn structure.

CONGRATULATIONS
- Scott Couture and Hillary Lisenbigler on getting hitched!

FAREWELL
- Good luck to Michelle Perez, Restoration Specialist, who has moved on to more traveling and new adventures!
- Thank you to Craig Campbell (Wallace Group) on being a trail builder, Scott Couture (LCSLO) on getting hitched, and Hiller Lisenbigler on the upcoming wedding.

WISHLIST
- Inclinometers (examples: Suunto PM-4/360 Clinometer or Trupulse 200)
- Cuddeback Black Flash Model C3 wildlife camera
- Wood bookcase, tall to medium size
- EZ Up canopy tents
- Samsung Galaxy tablet with waterproof case
- Wood chipper
- Arc welder
- Santa Maria style BBQ Grill
- 170 square concrete blocks (approximately 12x12x2)
- Gas or electric outboard freshwater motor (2HP)
- Check out our Wishlist on www.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.

PISMO PRESERVE
BUILDING TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

For a trail builder, there is nothing more exciting than a new trail. The thought alone sends a few shivers of excitement down one’s spine. The creation of a whole new system of trails is certainly near elation. The gift the Pismo Preserve has bestowed on us as trail builders is a lush canvas with which we may paint a line: a few elegant arcs of our brush and we can create a journey through the Preserve. The task is to add our lines to this already beautiful painting to make this landscape into an interactive work of art. Our brush strokes are pathways by which we experience and engage with the Preserve; they are measures of our commitment to protect and enjoy the natural environment; and they are the medium we employ to explore by foot, by wheel or by hoof.

Restoration Specialist and veteran trail builder, Scott Couture has been working with a few key members of Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers and the Wallace Group, LCSLO is in the process of identifying the trail corridors on the Preserve. This process, often slow and full of debate, is the first step in identifying the special places, the view sheds, and the overall experience we want with our trail system. Climbing up through open grasslands as the trail corridor leaves the proposed trailheads, we enter into a portal of Oak woodsland. As the ocean view extends from Point San to Point San Luis, the vision of a new trail corridor comes to life. The further the corridor climbs, the more the confines of city streets and highway traffic gives way to a grandiose views enhanced by tranquility and a simplified relation to the land.

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The reason LCSLO acquired this property becomes abundantly clear. The vision of a new trail corridor leaves the proposed trailheads, we enter into a portal of Oak woodsland. As the ocean view extends from Point San to Point San Luis, the vision of a new trail corridor comes to life. The further the corridor climbs, the more the confines of city streets and highway traffic gives way to a grandiose views enhanced by tranquility and a simplified relation to the land.

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The planning process is well under way, and fear not, your time to be involved in the trails at the Pismo Preserve is coming soon. We are hoping to begin construction this winter pending a handful of variables at which point a volunteer base will help in our construction efforts.

Please contact Scott for more information regarding the volunteer trail work at SCOTTC@LCSLO.org.
DEFENDERS OF THE LAND:
THE 2ND PHASE OF LAND PROTECTION

Local land trust saves an additional hundreds of acres. When the headlines fade, the story still goes on. Land protection does not stop after we purchase a property or conservation easement. Our work is barely getting started as we enter the next phase of land protection called stewardship.

Stewardship means caring for the land by responsibly planning for and managing its resources, but it also includes the not-so-glamorous issues created by peoples’ interaction with the land. Our Stewardship Manager, Dylan Theobald, works as an ambassador for the organization managing the properties we own outright in “fee” and monitoring all of our easement and fee properties.

The most important part of easement monitoring is maintaining a positive relationship with the landowner. Conservation easements are complicated legal documents, but convey relatively simple concepts about protecting the natural resources on the property. Most of the easement violations that occur happen when an eased property is sold to a different landowner who may not understand the terms of the conservation easement or who may not be as conservation-minded as the previous owner who initiated the conservation easement.

Monitoring fee properties that we own presents different challenges. One of the most significant challenges we run into is making sure we can visit each of our properties often enough to prevent undesirable situations such as vandalism, trespass, or property damage.

Our ultimate goal is to enhance our own properties through restoration and planting native vegetation to optimize their natural landscapes, but that doesn’t always take precedence. Unfortunately, there is an “ugly” side to stewardship that people may not realize. In recent months, The Land Conservancy has been faced with some of the most challenging situations in our history of stewardship. Some of our fee properties are located in remote areas with heavy brush and foliage that are ideal conditions for homeless camps and illegal squatting. Littering, dumping, and vandalism are constant battles. These issues must be attended to immediately and they negatively impact the stewardship dollars that would otherwise be spent on restoration or enhancement.

The problem of displaced humans is larger than a couple bucks into a tin can or a new shanty being erected. We are impacted by the stewardship dollars that would otherwise be spent on restoration or enhancement.

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The Oak Ambassadors, an elite group of 5th and 6th grade students from the Learning Among the Oaks program, have specialized training to serve as nature guides for young students on the Learning Among the Oaks trail at Santa Margarita Ranch. Recently, the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) 4-H Youth Development Program (YDP) in San Luis Obispo County was treated to a recent guided tour of the delightful Learning Among the Oaks trail led by the Oak Ambassadors. The Oak Ambassadors put on an entertaining and informative puppet show “California Oak Woodland Birds” that was especially exciting for the 4-H youth studying Cornell’s Bird Sleuthing curriculum. The 4-H youth studying oak woodlands learned about blue, valley and coast live oaks, niches within the oak ecosystem and adaptations that help the plants and animals there to survive and thrive. The Oak Ambassador program and 4-H YDP share emphasis on youth leadership development, inquiry-based learning, and hands-on activities. When youth are provided with opportunities to explore nature and develop leadership skills, everyone benefits—the kids, our community and our world!

What do you need? You will probably want a pair of kid’s binoculars which can range anywhere from $10-$20. HABA Terra Kids binoculars seem to hold up well and are great for young birders. Binoculars will let you see the birds up close and get a better look at a bird’s distinct features, markings, and colors. There’s no need to invest a lot of money into the first pair of binoculars. A bird guide book is the other item you may want to invest in. Having a field guide will help young birders learn the names of the birds and will be a good reference. There are a lot of them available. The Stokes Beginner’s Guide to Birds: Western Region is a handy reference. For a more local guide, a waterproof pocket guide called Local Birds San Luis Obispo County is even more helpful. This particular pocket guide works well if your young birder wants to place little colored dots next to the birds she has already identified, the dots are easily removable from the laminated book. Now that you have all your tools in place, it’s time to get out there and find some birds! For better viewing, go early in the morning and try to be as still and quiet as possible. As an ongoing activity, your little birder can list all the different species he has identified and see how his list continues to grow! Happy Birding!

COWPARADE TO BENEFIT OCTAGON BARN
AN UDDERLY ARTFUL EVENT

The CowParade™, an arts movement that has raised over $30 million for local charities across the world, has landed in San Luis Obispo County and identified three title charities, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, ARTS Obispo, and the Heritage Foundation of Paso Robles, to each receive one-third of the net proceeds of life-size fiberglass rein cow sculptures painted by local artists and auctioned at a later date. The Octagon Barn Center has been designated as one of the beneficiaries of an auction to be held at the end of the “CowParade SLO” event (see www.cowparadeslo.com) CowParade is an art, agriculture, tourism, and education event which will take place across the County. Acrylic, lifesized cows will be painted by local artists and put on display for several months. CowParade has been occurring around the world for over 15 years and have drawn considerable interest and substantial numbers of visitors everywhere it’s gone. Since the Octagon Barn is a beneficiary of the event and because the event is designed to evoke memories of our County’s wonderful dairy history, The Land Conservancy has been helping to connect prospective cow sponsors to the organizers. Please let us know if there is a business or a local group that might be interested in sponsoring a cow.

The Land Conservancy has engaged Ten Over Studios to help with adding more details to the space between the Barn and the Milking Parlor, where we intend to build a multi-purpose (1,000 sq.ft) building called “The Shed”, an area of shelter (1,000 sq.ft), and 4-6 restroom stalls. This builds on preliminary design efforts by some of our dedicated volunteers earlier in the year. We hope to present our new plan in much more detail soon. This activity had been set aside for a long time while we dealt with other details. Funds from the recent grant of $206K from the City of San Luis Obispo will go toward the Shed construction and a Bob Jones Bicycle Trailhead building called the “Calf Barn”. We took delivery of a whole barn’s worth of (priceless) wood. Our Board President Chris Helenius and his wife Lynn owned a 100+ year old barn in the Santa Maria area that was collapsing. They generously donated the amazing redwood planks and beams to the Octagon Barn Center, and we intend to use the wood in the construction of the Shed, Calf Barn, and other site features.

SLO County Parks’ contractor Wallace Group continues to work on all of the site grading, surfacing and turn lane engineering work. We anticipate actual bulldozers to arrive on the site in mid-2016. We continue to make steady progress toward the development of our water system. The Land Conservancy has engaged Fluid Resource Management (FRM) to help with the engineering of the system. FRM is also helping to develop our concepts for waste disposal for the site. We hope to have our permits in place to begin construction of the pump house and water tanks in late 2015. Our vision for the Octagon Barn Center will soon become a reality!

In the meantime, we will continue to have small members-only gatherings at the Barn to encourage the community to support the final phase of this project. Don’t miss out on the Annual Holiday Lighting at the Octagon Barn (look on page 31 for events) keep up-to-date with Barn news by signing up for the Capiola View. Visit www.octagonbarn.org for more info.
Lauren moved from northern California to attend Cal Poly in 2001 and graduated with a BS in Psychology. San Luis Obispo has been home ever since! Lauren has 10 years of experience in the health and fitness industry, and one of her passions is teaching cycling classes at two local gyms. She joins our team coming from the local wealth management industry where she worked for the past eight years. She has unique training in financial planning and charitable giving strategies. Lauren brings extensive event planning experience as well as creative strategies for engaging our community in the Land Conservancy’s mission.

Lauren’s passion for people and her energetic personality make her a great fit for outreach and our membership growth. In her free time, you can find Lauren hiking local trails, gardening, reading, or enjoying dinner out with friends. Please reach out to Lauren if you have any community contacts, marketing concepts, or membership ideas to continue to sustain and grow our membership base.

I value building meaningful relationships, supporting connections in our community, and being an active participant in positive progress.

—Lauren Meers, Development & Outreach Manager

CONSERVATION CIPHER

Decipher the quote by E.O. Wilson, biologist and environmental advocate. Today’s clue: E=C

WAT BKSCL LTQTFLY KF MVFZP, XTEJVC

WATG JST UJOKS OCJGTSH PF WAT EGECFPZ KM

UJWTSJCY JFL TFTSZG JSKVFL WAT BKSCL.

Water Savvy Suggestions

Are you ever wondered what your neighborhood looked like before the houses and streets were built, when it was open space? With several years of drought upon us, many of us are returning our yards back to that native vegetation.

There are quite a few resources out there and incentives to steer those of us who may not know where to start, in the right direction.

The California Native Plant Society has a tool where you can input your street address and it gives you a plant list of what vegetation you could expect to find there, naturally. You can find out your native plant list at www.calscape.cnps.org.

Here are some tips we have collected along the way. Many of them you have probably heard before, but these days any ideas are welcome and some bear repeating:

- Conserve as much water indoors as you can such as short showers, low-flow toilets, fully loaded dishwashers and loads of laundry, etc.
- Take out your lawn and replace with native vegetation. Your area municipality may offer cash for grass, so check with them.
- Replace old, inefficient appliances and household items with new water-saving ones for washing machines, dishwashers, and toilets. Some areas have retrofit programs as well, so check with your city.
- Install a rainwater collection system. There are rain barrel rebates and incentives for rainwater harvesting so check with your local jurisdiction.
- Withhold water from plants you want to remove.
- Prioritize your trees and plants and water the ones that are the most important or the biggest first.
- If you must water, do it during the early morning or late in the day.
- Using mulch in your landscaping will conserve moisture in the soil as well as control weed growth.
- Keep irrigation at ground level. Overhead sprinklers waste water because of evaporation.
- Potted plants need more water than in-ground plants, so consider moving them in the shade or a cooler spot.
- Use Pandora to time your showers. Most songs are an average of three minutes long.
- After your guests leave, before you throw out the water in their drinking glasses, use the leftovers to water your plants.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pot of water rather than running the faucet. Then use the water in the pot for your plants.
- Use the same glass for water daily rather than using several and then having to wash all those glasses.
- Place a bucket in the shower as you wait for the hot water to heat up and reuse the water somewhere else.
- Consider using a sink strainer rather than a garbage disposal.

If you have any waterwise tips that we did not mention and would like to share them with us, let us know! Drought or no drought, we all need to do our part and continually be mindful of our water usage because after all, water is a limited resource.
MEET THE FARMER & PICK A PECK OF APPLES
DATE/TIME TO BE DETERMINED
Come and meet Avila Valley Barn grower Jake Smith and learn about what kind of crops they grow. While you’re there, treat yourself to a complimentary bag of apples from the orchard. You pick and BYOB (bring your own bag). The first bag is free, and subsequent bags are $5 each. This is a MEMBERS-ONLY event. RSVP required. Space is limited. Check back on our website for date and time.

HALLOWEEN HIKE AT BLACK LAKE
Thursday | October 29 | 6:30-8:30 pm
Join Stewardship Manager Dylan Theobald and Restoration Specialist Scott Couture on an evening hike at our Black Lake Ecological Preserve. There is a rumor that the ghost of Agnes has been seen wandering around these parts, even seen walking on the surface of Black Lake! If you’re ready to brave this potentially eerie outing, we’d love for you to check it out yourselves. Learn about the restoration efforts that The Land Conservancy has done throughout the years. Who knows what we’ll see: bats, owls, snakes, or Agnes. This hike is free for members. RSVP required. Space is very limited. Reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. For non-members a $10 donation is required per person.

ORGANIC SQUASH BOX BENEFIT
Tuesday | October 27 | 3:30-4:30 pm OR Thursday | November 12 | 3:30-4:30 pm
Exclusive offer for Land Conservancy members only! Branch Mill Organic Farm has harvested its entire crop of squash and pumpkins, including Butternut, French Rouge Vif d’ Étampes (Cinderella) baking pumpkins, Delicata, Kabocha, and Sweet Dumpling (stuffing squash). For every $35 box purchased, the Branch Mill will donate $10 to LCSLO. To purchase a box, contact Ruth at (805) 481-9205 or email Ruth. Boxes must be prepaid to Ruth and can be picked up at The Land Conservancy office on one of the dates listed above. Call for alternative pick-up options.

LOCAL FACES, LOCAL PLACES

LCSLO staff and board members sporting their Octagon Barn bandanas during a city council meeting.
Volunteers unload reclaimed lumber to be used at the Octagon Barn Center.
LCSLO hosts a bike breakfast while Slime provides some high quality products for bike enthusiasts.

4 As another successful year comes to an end, the Learning Among the Oaks team celebrates their accomplishments.
5 Volunteers with Cal Poly’s chapter of Engineers Without Borders help clean up the pocket park, removing overgrown brush and weeds at Old Towne Nipomo.

To RSVP for an event, please visit www.LCSLO.org/events to register. Once your reservation is received and membership status reviewed, we will send you confirmation and directions. Please note that for outdoor activities, RAIN CANCELS the event. In some cases, an event may be full. If you would like to be placed on a waiting list, please contact Teresa at LC@LCSLO.org. We may get a cancellation and will notify you if a spot becomes available.
Membership is important for us to continue doing the work that we do. Without our membership base, we could not fund our core mission and would cease to exist. Please consider renewing your membership today.

You can check the expiration date on your membership located next to your name and address information. If you have any questions about your membership, please call (805) 544-9096 and ask for Lauren or Teresa.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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.
• Donor acknowledgment.

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
________________________________________________
Email __________________ Phone ______________

Membership Amount $ __________________________

☐ Do not publish this donation.

Membership is on an annual basis for a year long. 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!