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Gary Bogue: Help us save another piece of Mount Diablo!

By Gary Bogue
Contra Costa Times

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For every mountain there is a miracle.

-- Robert H. Schuller

Dear Gary:

We all care deeply about protecting the majestic landscapes of Mount Diablo. That's why we are hoping you and your readers will help Save Mount Diablo in our work preserving the mountain and its foothills.

Your readers may recall that last year we purchased "Viera-North Peak" -- 165 acres of spectacular chaparral, oak woodlands and streams right on the slopes of Mt. Diablo's second highest point, North Peak.

Rising to an elevation of 2,300 feet, "Viera-North Peak" is one of two highest elevation private properties remaining on Mount Diablo. It shares half of its border with Mt. Diablo State Park, for which it is a natural addition.

More than 55 rare plant species, like the Mt. Diablo jewel flower, and several rare animal species, like the Alameda whip snake, have been sighted there.

We have nearly raised all funding needed, but still need to raise \$100,000 to complete the purchase and to keep our land preservation work moving forward.

Your readers' support will ensure that lands like "Viera-North Peak" will be preserved forever.

For the past 39 years Save Mount Diablo and its allies, the State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, local cities, businesses and supporters like you, have increased preserved lands on and around Mount Diablo from less than 7,000 acres to nearly 100,000 acres.

But 80,000 acres remain unprotected and could be developed.

These natural areas are important wildlife corridors, are home to all kinds of critters, and

are beautiful. They add to our communities' quality of life by providing open space, clean water, fresh air, great views and plenty of trails to explore our wild "backyard" and for all kinds of recreation.

We all benefit now, but so will future generations.

Many of your readers and residents in this area enjoy Diablo by hiking, cycling, horseback riding, trail running, birding, painting, photographing, looking at it from their kitchen windows, or just taking in the mountain's breathtaking beauty at the end of a long drive home.

We all think of it as "our mountain."

The opportunities to save more of the mountain and its foothills are now. If we wait, these lands will be lost forever.

In fact, the recession means we can pick up multiple parcels at reduced prices. Thanks for letting your readers know that they can make a difference by supporting Save Mount Diablo and its work to protect the mountain now and for the future.

Ron Brown,
Executive Director,
Save Mount Diablo

Dear Ron:

Viera-North Peak is a treasure that absolutely must be protected, no matter what it takes. That's why I, and hopefully my caring readers, will do everything we can to help you raise those funds.

Let's start a "Friends of Gary" fundraiser today and end it Nov. 28, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. That seems appropriate.

You think of it as our mountain, and I think of it as my special island in the sky.

Both are excellent reasons to protect Mount Diablo.

Dear Readers:

As I've said many times before, here in the Bay Area, just about everything revolves around Mount Diablo.

"It's our island of tranquility in an ocean of frantic suburbia."

Please join with me and send your tax-deductible donation to:
Save Mount Diablo -- Friends of Gary,
1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Please join with me in saving another piece of our island!