# Diablo Watch

FALL/WINTER 2018 No. 66

## The Marsh Fire

Born in Fire, Marsh Creek 4, 5, & 6 Burn Again

## **Proposition 68**

After Years of Hard Work, Parks Funding Approved with Passage of \$4.1 Billion Bond

## **VICTORY in Antioch!**

Let Antioch Voters Decide: Sand Creek Protection Initiative ADOPTED

## **Moving Mountains**

To Save the Mountain

### "Nature Deficit Disorder"

In Our Young, Wired Generations

## 2018 Mount Diablo Trail Map

Newly Updated Free Regional Trail Map Goes Mobile for the First Time





#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Scott Hein, President
Burt Bassler, Treasurer
Amara Morrison, Secretary
Heath Bartosh
Jim Felton
John Gallagher
Liz Harvey
Claudia Hein
Margaret Kruse
Frank Martens
Bob Marx
Sue Ohanian
Robert Phelps
Malcolm Sproul
Jeff Stone

#### **STAFF**

Ted Clement
Executive Director

Seth Adams
Land Conservation Director

Meredith Hendricks
Land Programs Director

Monica Oei Finance & Administration Director

Marcia Slackman

Lydia Burstyn

Development Associate

Caleb Castle
Communications Manager

Hidemi Crosse Bookkeeper

Karen Ferriere
Assistant Development Director

Juan Pablo Galván

Shannon Grover
Development Administrative Assistant

Dana Halpin General Office Manager

Katie Lopez
Accounting & Administration Associate

Roxana Lucero Land Stewardship Associate

Joanne McCluhan Executive Assistant





**Dear Save Mount Diablo Supporters,** 

t takes a community, with longterm vision, generosity, and leadership, to succeed with the mission of permanently protecting Mount Diablo and its associated open space lands in a densely developed and competitive real estate market like the Bay Area.

We have such a community because of awesome people like you, and your support of Save Mount Diablo (SMD) has given us much to be grateful for and celebrate this year. Let me give you some examples of the successes you have been helping us with.

It had been almost fifteen years since California passed a parks bond, and many parks were hurting, especially in our state park system. A couple of years ago, SMD started working with our legislators, especially Senator Glazer and Assemblywoman Baker, and partners like East Bay Regional Park District, to try for legislation that would allow for a statewide parks bond. Eventually we and our partners were successful and got the legislation passed that paved the way for Proposition 68.

SMD sat on a Prop. 68 campaign committee with our partners, and we worked hard to get the word out about the need for this investment in our parks and water resources. We were successful because on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Californians approved a \$4.1 billion parks and water bond. Contra Costa and Alameda Counties had higher approval ratings for the bond than the statewide approval rate because our Mount Diablo community is one of long-term vision, leadership, and generosity.

We are in the final third of our historic \$15 million Forever Wild capital campaign, which will forever transform and perpetuate SMD's work by establishing a permanent Stewardship Endowment Fund, a Revolving Land Acquisition Opportunity Fund, and a more robust Legal Defense Fund, along with protecting priceless lands. Recently, one of our great community members gave a \$100,000 challenge grant to Forever Wild, which we are working to meet. Forever Wild enables our community to create a lasting green legacy and perpetuate the land conservation work of SMD for the benefit of current and future generations.

REI released a report in 2017 entitled *The Path Ahead*, and it noted that "Today, kids spend less time outside than prison inmates, with the average child playing freely outside for just four to seven minutes a day." The findings of this report confirmed Richard Louv's groundbreaking work and documentation of "nature deficit disorder" in our young, wired generations. This is a widespread cultural problem we are faced with today. If our young people do not develop a loving relationship with our beautiful Mount Diablo area, in the future it will put at risk all the land conservation victories we have worked so hard to achieve.

Recognizing this threat to the Mount Diablo natural areas, Save Mount Diablo has stepped up and is working to help better connect our young people to our natural world through our new Conservation Collaboration Agreement program with local schools; our new free public hiking program, Discover Diablo; and other efforts.

Thus far this year, we have completed Conservation Collaboration Agreements with Pittsburg High School and Campolindo High School.

This fall, we will do a Conservation Collaboration Agreement with De La Salle High School; California State University, East Bay; and sponsor Progressive Asset Management.

In August, the Antioch City Council voted 3-1 to adopt our Let Antioch Voters Decide: The Sand Creek *Area Protection Initiative!* After years of our efforts to secure better protections for the priceless Sand Creek area in Antioch, our leading a coalition, and intensely working to write and qualify our initiative for the ballot—now more than 1,200 acres of beautiful land, creek, and wildlife habitat west of Deer Valley Road have a new robust layer of protection on them.

We are grateful that you understand that our natural abundance is critical to our quality of life while also providing us an economic advantage by making our area a desirable place to live, work, and visit—as recognized by many of you like our friends at Compass who provide the gift of SMD memberships to their clients at real estate closings.

Compass at Moonlight on the Mountain 2018.
Compass is part of our realtor program and is also a sponsor of SMD's Conservation Collaboration Agreement program, sharing in our vision to inspire community conservation.







Hosted by
Valley Spokesmen
Bicycling Club

THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE 2018 CHALLENGE!



With Gratitude,



Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr. Executive Director Save Mount Diablo

## Meet Our Newest Board Members!

e d



Margaret Kruse Land Committee

Margaret Kruse holds an MS in Educational Leadership from California State University, East Bay and a BA in Liberal Studies from Sacramento State. She recently retired after 37 years in public education, the most recent 25 years having served as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources in the Brentwood Union School District. Kruse has volunteered on East Contra Costa County land use and urban limit line issues, advocating for the protection and conservation of open space and managed growth in the area. Kruse lives in the beautiful rolling hills of the Marsh Creek corridor of Brentwood, where she strives to instill a sense of wonder in her four grandchildren for what nature has to offer—as well as the attention and effort required to preserve and protect the land.



Frank
Martens
Finance
Committee

Frank Martens is President and Founder of Peninsula Engineering Solutions, where he oversees the sales, marketing, and operational aspects of the company. Martens has more than twenty years of experience in microwave, cellular, and alternative power systems. His experience includes sales, production, customer service, inventory management, quality assurance, accounting, and general business management. Martens holds a BS in Accounting from State University of New York at Albany and an MBA from Long Island University. Martens has also been a CPA in New York State. He served on the Hospice of the East Bay Board of Directors as Executive Secretary and Chairman of the Audit Committee from 2009 to 2017 and is currently on the SMD Finance Committee. Martens lives in Danville and enjoys hiking, biking, squash, and watching SMC college rugby.



Robert
Phelps
Board Governance
& Nominating
Committee

Robert Phelps is an Associate Professor of History at California State University, East Bay and the Executive Director of Cal State East Bay's branch campus in Concord. The author of numerous articles on the history of California and the American West, Phelps has also worked extensively in the realm of public history, serving as an interpretive advisor and content editor for a number of historical museums, including the Oakland Museum of California. As campus Executive Director, he has worked extensively to preserve the Galindo Creek section of university property. Phelps holds an MA and PhD in United States History from the University of California, Riverside and a BA in History from San Diego State University. Born and raised in San Diego, he is a member of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians of California and a former tribal Vice Chairman. He lives in the North Bay region with his wife Meri and son Aaron.



From July 25 to 27, the Marsh Fire burned 247 steep wooded acres on Marsh Creek Road, including three Save Mount Diablo properties—Marsh Creek 4, 5, and 6. Nearby Anderson Ranch was threatened but untouched. A month earlier, a similar-sized fire had threatened our Mangini Ranch property near Lime Ridge.

The Marsh Fire was a tragedy for our neighbor who lost his house. SMD lost equipment, a gazebo, fences, and restored areas, but these properties have burned before, and they will again. What's changed in the past ten years is how much greater our capacity is to face challenges, and how much better we're preparing financially.

Both places have burned many times in the past. The Marsh Creek properties were literally born in fire, mini-volcanic plug domes or plug necks at the northeast corner of the mountain. We bought MC 4 in 2008 at the beginning of the recession; then our first volcanic dome, MC 5, in 2011; and the second, MC 6, in 2012. All three are at the western end of the narrowest part of the "Dark Canyon" section of Marsh Creek Road. The canyon is well-known for springs but also funnels hot air like a blast furnace during fires.

We learned about the Marsh Creek properties' volcanic origins during acquisition, but we've

recently learned a lot more. The volcanoes had been thought to be aged somewhere between 65 million to 2.6 million years old, but recent work has established that they're actually 7.5 million years old. They predate Mount Diablo's exposure above ground.

Three-acre Marsh Creek 4 had burned more recently, destroying a house and leading to our purchase in 2008. Our first steps were to use old-growth redwood posts from another property to create an instantly old, split-rail fence. We moved a gazebo and made it structurally sound—it became the centerpiece of the property. Then we simultaneously began knocking down the non-native seed bank of poison hemlock and wild mustard while beginning years of native planting and watering. The fence and gazebo are now gone, along with many of our plants—we won't know for some time how many have survived.

When we started planting three-acre Marsh Creek 4 in 2009, it was our biggest restoration project out of two or three. We had just seven staff members and just one specifically for stewardship, taking care of all of our properties and restoration projects along with a dozen or so stewardship volunteers. Overall, nearly a hundred volunteers helped plant and water that year.

We now have sixteen staff members, two for stewardship, and hundreds of volunteers. Our stewardship projects have scaled up significantly in size and number. This past year, thirtythree property monitors, twentysix work project stewards, and twenty-eight hike leaders logged 4,754 hours; over sixty-seven work projects; and twenty-four hikes. Twenty-four workdays were organized to treat nonnative, invasive species on Save Mount Diablo properties. We're now managing eight different planting sites.

Marsh Creek 5 had no structures but was scorched; it will be interesting to watch manzanita regeneration there. At Marsh Creek 6, on the other hand, we had removed two houses to restore the rare volcanic dome plant community. Both would have burned in this fire and created a huge cleanup mess. Unfortunately, we also



lost a water system that had helped with the parcel's revegetation.

How do you value a fence made of hundred-year-old, old-growth redwood and installed with hundreds of hours of volunteer labor? Basically, you use replacement value and labor. Our insurance will cover some of our expenses, but there are always deductibles. We'll apply the lessons of past restoration work to our new plans. Should we reseed the entire property with native grasses before the rains start? Should we rebuild the gazebo? Is this the right time to take out the non-native redwood tree?

Luckily, we've been hard at work on our \$15 million FOREVER WILD capital campaign. The campaign has several funds we're raising dollars toward. The goal of raising at least a \$3 million Stewardship Endowment Fund will support Save Mount Diablo's ongoing care of the land it preserves. It will pay for woodland and stream restoration, property cleanup, volunteer engagement, fire abatement, and the many other activities that keep the land healthy and safe—such as mitigating fire damage and the staff needed to restore properties.

The fire season stretches four months longer than it did forty years ago. Our properties will burn from time to time. We'll replant and restore them and get better at it each time. Each property or acre matters less than our cumulative total of increasingly interconnected habitat, constantly shifting and changing, and our growing numbers of committed volunteers who help us clean up and restore habitat.

The Marsh Fire that tore through Marsh Creek Road in July 2018 torched three Save Mount Diablo properties: Marsh Creek 4, 5 and 6. Long designated as three of Save Mount Diablo's habitat restoration sites, these areas have been carefully stewarded since their purchase with the help of stewardship volunteers and the Diablo Restoration Team. The effectiveness of our efforts to restore native bunchgrasses and remove invasive species will not be known until spring 2019, when vegetation returns to the burned areas.

#### Get Involved!

Please continue to support our work. Consider donating to the *Stewardship Endowment Fund* in support of our FOREVER WILD campaign. For information, contact Marcia Slackman, Development Director, by email at mslackman@savemountdiablo.org or call (925) 949-4513.





## After Years of Hard Work, Parks Funding Is Approved in Proposition 68

June 5<sup>th</sup>, California voters approved the \$4.1 billion
Proposition 68, the California Drought,
Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal
Protection, and Outdoor Access for All
Act of 2018. Save Mount Diablo (SMD)
was honored to be on the Clean Water,
Natural Resources, and Parks Campaign
Committee that worked to achieve this
successful result.

It had been almost fifteen years since California passed a parks bond, and many parks were hurting, especially in our state park system. A couple of years ago, SMD started working with our legislators, especially Senator Glazer and Assemblywoman Baker, and partners like East Bay Regional Park District to try to advance legislation that would allow for a statewide parks bond. Eventually we and our partners were successful and got the legislation passed that paved the way for Proposition 68.

SMD worked hard to inform voters about the great need for this critical investment in our parks and water resources. Our organization got the word out about Prop. 68 over the NBC Bay Area network through an episode of *OpenRoad with Doug McConnell*, one of the few television spots for the proposition because of a small

campaign budget. We did a lot of social media work with our vast network, and we helped distribute Prop. 68 lawn signs for the Bay Area. Plus, we worked with Doug McConnell to produce a special public service announcement for Prop. 68. Contra Costa and Alameda Counties ended up having higher approval ratings for the Prop. 68 bond than the statewide approval rate.

### Prop. 68 invests in California's treasured natural resources.

From this approved bond, there are now a number of specific funding opportunities eligible for the Bay Area, such as the following examples:

- a \$200 million formula allocated to park districts and counties for local and regional parks on a per capita basis;
- \$21.25 million for the San
   Francisco Bay Area Conservancy
   Program;
- \$20 million for restoration grants to augment San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority's Measure AA; and
- \$14 million for climate adaptation

and mitigation efforts through the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program.

As a result of this approved bond, there are also now a number of competitive funding opportunities, including

- \$725 million for parks in park-poor neighborhoods;
- \$218 million for existing state parks and improving public access; and
- \$30 million for competitive grants to regional park districts, counties, and regional open space districts to create, expand, or restore parks.

It was a long road to achieve this historic success, and we are thankful for our wonderful supporters and partners who helped make it possible. More financial resources can now be applied for to help Mount Diablo State Park with critical needs and acquisitions, open the long-awaited Marsh Creek State Park, and support other important park and water projects.



## **SAVE MOUNT DIABLO ENDORSES**REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT MEASURE FF

(THE EXTENSION OF MEASURE CC) ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Measure FF extends the benefits of Measure CC.
Measure CC was passed by Oakland, Berkeley,
Richmond, Alameda, San Pablo, El Cerrito, Albany,
Emeryville, and Piedmont voters in 2004 with more than twothirds support to provide local funding for park infrastructure,
maintenance, safety, and services.

Measure CC is a \$12 per year parcel tax and is set to expire soon. Measure FF would extend the expiration date, and we support this extension. Measure CC has provided over

\$37.4 million dollars over the past thirteen years for park improvements and services in its area.

Given the geographic area covered, why do we endorse Measure FF, the Measure CC extension? The East Bay Regional Park District does a great job and is one of our strongest allies. Operations and maintenance funds are more difficult to raise than capital funding. The park district originally considered a tax covering the entire East Bay but realized it wouldn't pass and drew tax boundaries to cover parts of the district that were more supportive. Our hope is that other areas will be added in the future.

PUBLIC SAFETY, WILDFIRE PREVENTION, AND HEALTHY FOREST Measure CC funds support police protection at shoreline and

fter almost four years focused on Antioch's Sand Creek area, this August we achieved a huge milestone with the adoption of *Let Antioch Voters Decide: The Sand Creek Area Protection Initiative* by the

Antioch City Council.

Now more than 1,200 acres of hills, creek, woodland, and rare wildlife habitat in south Antioch west of Deer Valley Road (DVR) have increased protection. Any proposal for land uses other than agriculture, open space, or extremely low-density rural housing needs to be put to a vote of Antioch residents. So if

a proposal comes along for a several hundred or thousand house subdivision, Antioch voters would decide directly if that's something they want. Our initiative also makes Antioch's current Urban Limit Line permanent.

The roots of this great victory go back to early 2015 when a development called "The Ranch" was proposed in the Sand Creek area. Seeing that Antioch residents really cared about protecting their hills and avoiding more traffic, we helped create the Antioch Community to Save Sand Creek, a coalition of Antioch residents, regional volunteers, and environmental groups. Together we helped get a plan that would have allowed 4,000 houses to be built across most of the Sand Creek area tabled in late 2017. We were already at work writing our initiative when this happened, and in March through early June of this year, our highly dedicated staff and volunteers collected nearly 10,000 signatures to qualify our initiative for the ballot.

At the same time, staff members of Richland Communities, the developer behind "The Ranch," realized they had erred in not taking us seriously. They made some major improvements to their project and basically copied

our initiative with one major change: allow an improved version of their project. They started collecting signatures while we were still collecting, and in late July got their initiative adopted by the Antioch City Council. We counted this as a major indirect victory, since as a result, about 70 percent of the Sand Creek area west of DVR had development restricted on it.

VICTORY

version of They star signatures we collecting, got their in by the Antic We counted indirect viresult, about the control of the counted indirect viresult, about the counted the count

Now, with our initiative adopted, victory is complete! Even more land is protected under our initiative than was under Richland's initiative, and what the community worked so hard to achieve has now been implemented. Even though the improved "The Ranch" project is approved, many saw this as a good compromise between balanced development and conservation of the most important areas west of DVR, the ones with the hills, woodland, creek, and highest biodiversity. In many ways, we would have preferred no houses west of DVR too, but the balance created between conservation and development will serve the community far better than the even larger proposals and plans that loomed over the whole of the Sand Creek area before.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers and thousands of Antioch residents who collected signatures, spread the word, went to meetings, and signed to help make this a reality! It is because of your support that Save Mount Diablo can achieve such great things.

urban regional parks, as well as fire protection in the East Bay hills. Thanks to Measure CC, more than 500 acres of urban forests and brush along the ridgelines from Castro Valley to Richmond have been thinned or removed—helping prevent catastrophic fires and maintain safe and healthy forests. Each year, the park district spends over \$1.6 million on fire hazard reduction—much of it funded thanks to Measure CC.

#### PARK INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE

Because of Measure CC, many regional parks, trails, and open spaces in western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties have been repaired and upgraded, including visitor centers, staging areas, trails, picnic tables, restrooms, and water fountains, among others—ensuring quality public access and recreational opportunities for visitors.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND HABITAT PROTECTION

Thanks to Measure CC, many natural areas in western Alameda and Contra Costa Counties have been restored and preserved, including shorelines, marshes, wetlands, and urban creeks—protecting sensitive habitat for endangered species and preparing parks for the future impacts of climate change.

#### SO ON NOVEMBER 6, VOTE YES ON MEASURE FF!

(THE MEASURE CC EXTENSION)

**LEARN MORE ONLINE** 

WWW.YESEASTBAYPARKS.COM



The FOREVER WILD campaign's success will provide the robust toolkit we need—a substantial **Revolving Land** Acquisition **Opportunity** Fund, Stewardship **Endowment** Fund, and **Legal Defense** Fund.

Many of Save Mount Diablo's supporters have heard about our historic capital campaign to raise \$15 million for the protection, stewardship, and defense of the Diablo wild lands for our work today and into the future.

But why does the mountain need such a monumental effort and what is the urgency?

Housing development is surging in the growing hot real estate market, particularly in Contra Costa County. State and regional park budgets have barely recovered from the last recession. Thus, our past business model of assisting agencies to buy land, or promptly transferring our own land acquisitions to these agencies (and relieving us of the financial costs associated with long-term land stewardship)—are two scenarios we can no longer depend on.

The Forever Wild campaign's success will provide the robust toolkit we need—a substantial *Revolving Land Acquisition Opportunity Fund*, *Stewardship Endowment Fund*, and *Legal Defense Fund*.

#### **IN BRIEF**

- The Revolving Land Acquisition Opportunity Fund will enable us to work strategically as opportunities arise to acquire wild open spaces with critical conservation values.
- The *Stewardship Endowment Fund* will provide funds for ongoing care of the land—monitoring, protecting, and restoring ecosystems. It will pay for fire abatement, stream restoration, volunteer management, and many other activities that keep the land healthy and available for wildlife habitat and human outdoor enjoyment, and as cultural and historic resources.
- The *Legal Defense Fund* will ensure that Save Mount Diablo has the financial resources to legally defend its conservation easements and fee simple–owned lands so that they can be protected when challenges arise, for the public's benefit.

Thanks to the leadership of donors over the past few years, we have raised over two-thirds of our goal—\$10+ million!

We are so grateful to our dedicated and generous supporters. To ensure the viability of our work for the long-term, we must raise the remaining *less than* \$5 million.

We invite you to participate by making a gift, pledge, or bequest to FOREVER WILD—this is a unique opportunity to establish a personal living legacy in the mountains, hills, trees, rocks, wildlife, and wild lands of Mount Diablo.



We must be ready to actively build relationships with local landowners to learn about opportunities to purchase land going on the market; competitively bid on private property when it goes up for sale; conduct independent appraisals to

be in the best position to negotiate; proactively pursue conservation easements (purchase land protection rights when owners wish to keep a property); and steward the properties we own, as long as they are in our care.

<sup>1</sup> Greenbelt Alliance, At Risk: The Bay Area Greenbelt (2017 study).

## **MY Mount Diablo**

Protecting My Mountain: So We Can All Experience, Enjoy, and Connect to the Natural World

By Papa John Kiefer, Save Mount Diablo Supporter since 1974 y childhood was in the country behind Stanford University, where I roamed the hills in search of treasure, played hide and seek, and learned to swim in the creek.

Life's journey brought my family to Lafayette in 1966. My attraction to our new home was a view of the top of Mount Diablo from my backyard, and a creek with water flowing year-round. I envisioned our new home as continuing my childhood gift of connecting to the natural world. Soon I was roaming the hills of both Briones Regional Park and Mount Diablo State Park, feeling an aliveness in connecting with the vegetation and wildlife. I discovered the Briones to Mount Diablo Regional Trail, and realized I could hike from my home to Mount Diablo.

Over the years, the mountain came to life. For twenty-five years, I led hikes, usually following the  $7 \frac{1}{2}$ -mile perimeter trail around the mountain. Visiting waterfalls, a few of us shivered beneath the frigid spring runoff; continuing, we enjoyed the mass of wildflowers, and picnicked near babbling creek water.

Hiking in the shadows of Jeffrey pines, we kicked fallen pine cones in hopes of discovering a pine nut overlooked by squirrels or raccoons. Carefully dislodging the seed from the cone, we banged the pine nut between two stones to crush the protective shell. Feasting on the delicious meat was reward enough for the effort. Old and young tasted life on the mountain.

Over time, I came to understand a significant difference



John Kiefer, his daughter Kim Kiefer (left), and Alison Hill (right) enjoy Save Mount Diablo's annual Moonlight on the Mountain, held in September in Mount Diablo State Park.

between the two parks. Briones was protected from development, whereas Mount Diablo was only partially protected. In 1974, when I joined the Save Mount Diablo family, 7,000 acres were protected in the Mount Diablo State Park, but that was surrounded by another 200,000 acres still vulnerable to development. I felt threatened as I envisioned My Mountain being transformed into suburban sprawl. Over the decades, a small and hardworking staff with dedicated volunteers continues to accomplish the mission: to preserve, educate, and provide recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

My time of hiking has passed, but my footprints continue upon the pine needles through my children and grandchildren. My roots shall forever be a part of the mountain. Whenever driving to do local errands, I whisper, "May all who call you home be blessed, and may all who enjoy your gifts feel connected."

A necessary part of each child's development is experiencing, enjoying, and connecting to the natural world. Mount Diablo offers a treasure trove of gifts, resources, and fun, which hopefully will become a part of every family's backyard.

## THE NEW FREE MOUNT DIABLO TRAIL MAP IS MOBILE

our Mount Diablo Regional Trail Map was created to feature the Diablo Trail, a 30-mile trail from Walnut Creek to Brentwood, and all of the surrounding protected parks and preserves. It showcases the teamwork with our partners in protecting these majestic lands around Mount Diablo.

It is our hope that one day the 30-mile trail can extend around the parks in a Grand Loop Trail, encompassing protected lands within. Most of the route for the Grand Loop has already been protected; some sections of it are on public lands that are not yet open to the public.

In 2017, we had updated the trail map, which was the latest update since 2012. In just a few months, it became outdated when Anderson Ranch and more parks and preserves were protected throughout the area.

For the 2018 edition, we worked with our

partners to include all the new conserved lands in Contra Costa County, including some on Mount Diablo. The updated map is beautiful, with a new color scheme and shaded relief.

AND NOW, WE ARE ABLE TO OFFER THE MAP ONLINE!

The digital map is available on our website at <a href="http://www.savemountdiablo.org/activities/diablo-trail-map/">http://www.savemountdiablo.org/activities/diablo-trail-map/</a> and is free to download on any iPhone or Android device. It's also compatible with map navigating applications like Avenza.

We thank our partners and sponsors for helping to create this updated map and online version that's now making the map available to more audiences. We hope this free valuable resource will inspire more people to explore their backyards and deepen their love for nature.

TO RECEIVE A FREE HARD COPY OF THE MAP, please visit us at an event or email <a href="mailto:smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org">smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org</a>.



"Today, kids spend less time outside than prison inmates, with the average child playing freely outside for just four to seven minutes a day."

This report, commissioned by the REI Co-op, notes that the average American now spends about 95 percent of their life indoors. It further reports that we are becoming an "indoor species," which comes with consequences: "Our health and well-being may suffer. And the less we value our outdoor spaces, the less likely we are to protect them."

As the famed English broadcaster and naturalist, Sir David Attenborough, said, "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced." The findings of this report confirmed Richard Louv's earlier groundbreaking work and documentation of "nature deficit disorder" in our young, wired generations. The Path Ahead makes it clear that the long march indoors is not inevitable, and that we are at a crossroads.

More and more, visionary conservationists are recognizing that the most serious threat to our environment may be that people are increasingly disconnected from nature and therefore less likely to value, and take care of, nature. Peter Kareiva (Director of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA and formerly the Chief Scientist and Vice President of The Nature Conservancy) states that people are "increasingly disconnected from nature and as a result less likely to value nature," a dynamic that he warns "may well be the world's greatest environmental threat."

It is clear we must move beyond business as usual and help address this widespread modern cultural problem. We must look for ways to meaningfully connect people, especially younger generations, to nature so we help lead and inspire the transformation of our modern cultural value system to one where nature is at the center. Recognizing this threat to the Mount Diablo natural areas and our many hard-fought land conservation victories over the years, Save Mount

Diablo (SMD) has stepped up and is working to help better connect our young people to Mount Diablo and SMD through our new Conservation Collaboration Agreement program.

A Conservation Collaboration Agreement between SMD, a local school, and a participating sponsor business typically has three basic parts. First, the staff of SMD provides an in-class educational presentation regarding land conservation of the Mount Diablo area to the participating students—and also such an educational presentation to the staff of the participating business at their workplace.

For the second part of the agreement, SMD staff takes the students and participating business out to a SMD conserved property for a field experience. SMD staff leads the participating students and staff of the sponsor business in an outdoor, experiential environmental service project such as removing invasive plant species from the land.

Then, after a picnic lunch together, the participants do a mini solo on the land with a contemplative journal writing exercise about nature. Finally, in an act of educational and participatory philanthropy, the participants go on to raise funds so that they can become members of SMD. SMD has established a special discounted youth membership program.

Earlier this year, SMD completed Conservation
Collaboration Agreements with Pittsburg High School and
Campolindo High School. This fall, SMD will complete a
Conservation Collaboration Agreement with De La Salle
High School; California State University, East Bay; and
sponsor Progressive Asset Management. Last year, SMD
completed Conservation Collaboration Agreements with
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School; California State
University, East Bay; and sponsors Bedell Frazier Investment
Counselling and Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery, a Garaventa
Company. Compass also supports the program.

Together we can help our youth meaningfully connect to nature in the Mount Diablo area and be part of the solution to "nature deficit disorder" in our young, wired generations.

## Leaving a Legacy to Mount Diablo

with an Irrevocable Bequest: The Morrisons' Story

In cover 50 years of marriage,
Laurie and Dick Morrison
have lived much of their life together
enjoying a panoramic view of the
Mount Diablo range from their home in
Lafayette. Both have always felt a strong
connection to the natural world. Laurie
was an explorer of nature as a little girl.
Years later, she joined an all-women's
backpacking club and found joy in
the company of like-minded women,
roughing it in the Sierra high country.

Dick finds proximity to nature essential. He backpacked for almost twenty years. "Hiking out in nature," he says, "improves your health, builds your self-esteem, and makes you feel better about everything."

How have these experiences strengthened their commitment to the mission of Save Mount Diablo?



"Open space and carefully planned development are necessary to avoid what has happened to other areas where roads are so congested that air quality goes down and noise levels go up," Laurie says. "We love this region and wish to support the health and beauty of the nature that surrounds us, into the future. We also love how SMD works to opt for smart development, so that while the need for new housing is addressed, it is not at the expense of the community's quality of life."

"And not at the expense of the wildlife that need a home too," Dick adds.

The Morrisons found a way to express their personal values in perpetuity, receive tax relief, participate in Save Mount Diablo's FOREVER WILD capital campaign, and have an immediate impact on SMD's work. They named Save Mount Diablo as a beneficiary in their Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), with a designated percent of the Trust's assets. They provided a brief letter confirming their irrevocable designation and the current value of their gift.

With this binding commitment, the Morrisons' generous \$800,000 estate gift launched SMD's Stewardship Endowment Fund—from which SMD will draw interest to care for the land it stewards. This gift will count toward the \$3 million goal that Save Mount Diablo seeks to meet by March 2019. The Morrisons are happy with this plan.

Dick says, "The CRT lowers our estate taxes so that we can leave more of our money to SMD. We have hiked and benefited from the Mount Diablo area for decades. An irrevocable bequest is the best way for us to give back. We want Save Mount Diablo to keep protecting what we love for generations to come."

"We have hiked and benefited from the Mount Diablo area for decades. An irrevocable bequest is the best way for us to give back. We want Save Mount Diablo to keep protecting what we love for generations to come."



#### Make a Bequest

For information about leaving a lasting legacy to Save Mount Diablo, please contact Development Director Marcia Slackman at (925) 949-4513 or mslackman@savemountdiablo.org.

Irrevocable bequests can be set up in a variety of ways—with life insurance, property, or other assets.

Please consult your estate planning advisor to explore the tax benefits and options for making this impactful gift.



### THANK YOU FOR CELEBRATING WITH US!

With your generous support, we raised over \$460,000—critical funds that will allow us to continue our work preserving the natural lands and wildlife still at risk.

More than 500 community members and elected officials came together in Mount Diablo State Park to celebrate our successes of the past year and raise their paddles in support of Save Mount Diablo's important conservation work to preserve land on and around Mount Diablo. We are grateful to our Diablo Co-sponsors, Blackhawk-Nunn and Concord Feed; all of our generous event sponsors; our committed volunteers; and especially our guests who made this year's MOONLIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN such a wonderful and successful event.

#### **Live & Silent Auction Donors**

#### **LIVE AUCTION**

Audi San Francisco

Bill's Ace

Hardware

Jim & Bette Felton

Hansen Family

Liz Harvey

Hawaiian Islands

Land Trust

Stephen Joseph

Mount Diablo State Park

The Nature

Conservancy

Postino

Sky Terrace Vineyards

Southwest

Airlines

**Tender Greens** 

#### **SILENT AUCTION**

Amici's East Coast Pizzeria

Appleby Cleaning & Restoration

Asian Art Museum

AsuraRisk Insurance Brokers

Audi San Francisco

Natalie Avery B.L. World

**Back Forty Texas** BBQ

Assemblywoman Catharine Baker

Baratza

Kathy Barnett

**Bay Nature** Beach Blanket

Babylon

Mark & Silvia Belotz

Benvenuti

Ristorante Berkeley

Repertory Theatre

Bette's Oceanview Diner

Beyond Chiropractic

Blue Waters Kayaking

**Boundary Oak** Golf Course

**Bridges** Restaurant & Bar

**Buddy Burke** 

Harmon Burstyn Cakebread Cellars

Cal Shakes California Shakespeare Theater

California Academy of Sciences California Native Plant Society

Canvas and Cabernet

Captain Vineyards Casa Orinda

Century

Blackhawk Plaza Dean &

Renée Chapman

Charles M. Schulz Museum & Research Center

The Cheesecake Factory

City Lights Theater Company

Clementine's

The Coffee Shop Diablo Rock Gym

Touchstone Climbing

Corners Tavern Country Waffles

Crow Canyon Country Club

Danville Chocolates

Danville Cigar

Suzanne D'Arcy Debby Koonce Fine Art

U.S. Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

Diablo Creek Golf Course

District II Supervisor Candace Andersen

Duckhorn Vineyards

Ken Dyleski Eden Jewelry

**Eight Bridges** Brewing, Inc.

**Epidemic Ales** 

Esin Restaurant

Family Forever Photography

Forward Motion Sports, Inc.

Kathy Gleason

Janet Gray The Growler

Hafner Vineyard

Havana

Scott & Claudia Hein

Heller Jewelers Heyday Books

Lyn Hirahara

The Hop Grenade Jan Gunn Interior Architecture &

Desian Judd's Hill Winery Katy's Kreek

Restaurant

Kaur House of Portraits Kepler's Golf

Repair Paul Kratter

Lafayette Park Spa & Hotel

Las Positas Golf Course

**Brad Lawrence** Lawrence Hall

of Science Lindsay Wildlife

Experience Little River Inn

Resort & Spa Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center -Bankhead

Theater Local Color

Luna Loca Lunardi's

Paul Lundstedt

Mac's Old House Maria Maria Restaurant

The Marsh Mary Frances Accessories

Melo's Pizza and Pasta - Pleasant Hill

Betty Lou Moglen MoMo's Walnut Creek

Monarch Aesthetica

Ken Mozek Michael &

Mindy Murphy Napa & Sonoma

Valley Bike Tours Nancy Niemeyer

Shirley Nootbaar Nothing Bundt

Cakes Oakland East Bay

Symphony Cooper Ogden

David Oaden & Sandy Biagi

Sue Ohanian Pacific Coast

Carpet, Inc. Page Mill Winery

Patagonia The Patio &

Fire Place Peet's Coffee **Greg Piatt** 

Liz Piatt Piatti Ristorante & Bar

Pier 39 Pride Mountain Vinevards

Princess Monterey Whale Watching

Rachel Dunn Chocolates

Renaissance Club Sport Walnut

Retzlaff Vineyards

Revel Kitchen & Bar Round Hill

Country Club San Francisco Fire

Department San Francisco

Zoological Society Vincent Sciortino &

Tracy Archelis Robin Sexton

SF Bay Adventures SF Jazz Center

**SFMOMA** Shotgun Players

Sideboard Sonoma Raceway Malcolm Sproul

St. George Spirits Starbucks

Dr. Andrew & Karen Stein Martin Steinpress

Robert Storer Sunrise Bistro

Living

& Catering Terra Outdoor Tesla Motors Tony La Russa's

ARF Trader Joe's Walnut Creek

(123)

True Food Kitchen Kim Trupiano

Umigo Racing **Urban Plates** 

USS Hornet Sea, Air & Space Museum

Linda Van

Vintage Arts: Native Jewelry and Treasures

Walt Disney Family Museum

John Waterbury Marcia Waterbury

Alix Watson Charles H. White

Henry White Wild Birds

Wood Family Vineyards

Yoga Treat

YogaWorks Zachary's Chicago

Zoonie's Candy



DIABLO CO-SPONSORS





NORTH PEAK & MT. OLYMPIA SPONSORS



Charla Gabert & David Frane

Jeanne Thomas











#### **HIGHLAND PEAK & EAGLE PEAK SPONSORS**











































BEER & WINE SPONSORS

















SPECIAL THANKS TO



















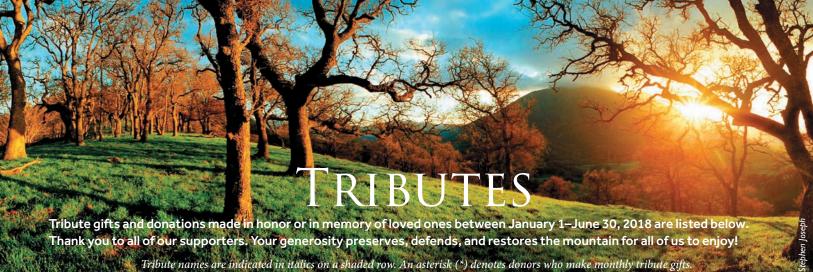












#### IN HONOR OF

#### Seth Adams 30th SMD Anniversary

Anonymous (5) Barbara J. Ageno Hanna & Gene Alger Keith & Jill Alley Roger & Gaye Alperin Wendi & Rob Baker **Burt Bassler** Claude & Carol Benedix Edward L. Bennett Bob & Cindy Brittain Robert & Gail Burnett Beth Burnside Bill Clarkson Dennis & Jane Costanza Brenda de la Ossa Alma DeBisschop Jean Vieth & Jan Diepersloot Dana & Dave Dornsife

Dana & Dave Dornsif Robert & Lucia Falcone Lawrence E. Ferri\* Sheilah & Harry Fish John & Tena Gallagher Adrienne Galvin Paul & Marilyn Gardner

Adrienne Galvin
Paul & Marilyn
Gardner
Noralea Gipner
Robert & Polly Gould
Ruth Gravanis
Charles Gresham
Dan & Kathy Griffin
Patricia J. Hague
Margaret HanlonGradie

Liz Harvey Karl & Billi Haug Brad & Judy Heckman Robert & Barbara Hill Randall & Anastasia Hobbet Kenneth & Joanne Hughes Martin & Mary Anna Jansen Toril Jelter Al Johnson Tom Jones John H. Kiefer Doug Knauer & Jennifer Babineaux John & Diane Kopchik Margaret Kruse\* Joan Kunz Jean E. Laird **Beverly Lane** Carol Lane Michael & Jane Larkin Manfred & Bernice Lindner David Loeb Bob & Diane Malucelli Carole Mason Amy McWlliams-Hess

John Michels

Alan Mitchell

Bielle Moore

Mount Diablo

Interpretive

Association

**Daniel Navarro** 

John & Ann Noll

David Ogden &

Sandy Biagi

Thomas Nootbaar

Nigel Ogilvie Sue & Steve Ohanian David & Dolores Olson Egon Pedersen Kerry Randall Jay & June Rosenthal Jeanne & Bill Ryan **Bob Ryon** Dave & Helen Sargent Sally Scholl Lou Scott Cece Sellgren Joan & Lynn Seppala Matt & Mary Smith Ron & Judy Smith Mary Alice Stadum Mark Stott Kermit Sveen Karen & Chris Swaim Jeanne Thomas Lorna & Mark Thomson Phillip Trapp Frank Valle-Riestra Frank & Barbara Varenchik Michael & Joyce Wahliq **Sharon Walters** Jeff & Sally Welborn Kristen Wick Sonja Wilkin Mary Louise & **Bruce Wilson** 

**Burt Bassler** 

Ron Brown

Steve Kaplan\*

Elissa Bassler

Steve & Brenda Benkly

Jody & George Benkly

Ted Clement Elise Clement Cutler Representative Mark DeSaulnier David Ogden & Sandy Biagi Johnathan Wayne Durant Robert Frost Dave Farabee Rita Breaux Bette & Jim Felton Michael Jameson & Hillary Hayden Karen Ferriere Eden Bruner Charla Gabert Anonymous Tyler & Beryl Anderson Quinn Chipley Kim Clark **Brent Cochran** Holly Dawson Kate & Paul Dougherty Rich Faber David Frane Stacii Gerson Don Guttenplan Denae Leigon **Bunny Martin** Megan McConachie David Ogden Darice Peruch Kathy Renger Barbara Strack

Danielle Woermann

Cindy and Gene Havrilenko Alan & Marilyn Lindquist Ed Haynes Donna Preece Dick Heron Marianne & T.C. Aude Jim Howard Lynn & Butch Brear Dr. Gregory L. Hummel Gene & Jeannine Hummel Michael Borden Jameson Jim & Bette Felton **Donald Jones** Jeanne Thomas Jason Katz Laura Faigle Margaret Kruse Sandra Woliver Michael Lloyd Jennifer Lloyd Tracey Loftus **Anonymous** Alan F. Neckritz Gavle Lombardi Kristen Noe David Ogden & Sandy Biagi Jacob & Allie Randazzo: in hopes that your outdoor spirit will have a place to grow. Salesforce

Frank & Gayle Servin

Mary & Bud Lembke

Leslie Servin

Jeanne Thomas

IN MEMORY OF William (Bill) Allen Carole C. Allen Nordyn Anderson **Ruth Eseltine** Ruth Bailey Jeanne & Bill Ryan Michael Benkly Jody & George Benkly Evan Blair Jerry & Floy Blair Donald Jepson Breuner Karoline Doberenz Jeanne & Bill Ryan Cali AnJenette Afridi Eugene Callahan Marianne Callahan\* Nancy Carter-Sabey Anonymous Stacy D. Clark **Arthur Richard Carter** Gene S. Coburn, M.D. Schuetze-Coburn Family **Bud Coleman** Anonymous Mardi Duffield Kristine Caratan Norval (VAL) Fairman

Mary Fairman

Giovanna Stockman

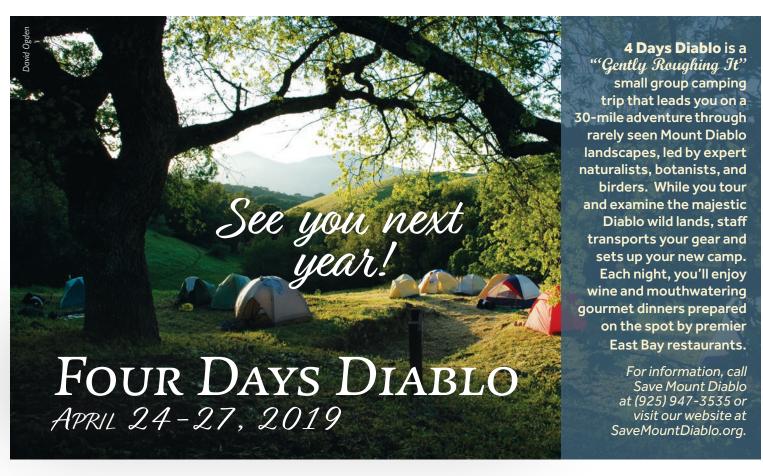
Anna Louise Ferri

**Evans Fielding** 

Steve Fielding

Lawrence E. Ferri\*

Wesley Fay



Joseph & Betty Goldstein

Janine Alden

Beatrice Gordon

Gaynel Wilhoyte

Jonathan Edwin Grisham

Kenneth Winters

Paul Grunland

Marty Osborn

Gus and Isabel Haro

Joe & Susan Ryan\*

A.S. Harvey &

Marian B. Harvey Victoria Harvey

Mary Heron

Marianne & T.C. Aude

Daphne M. Kimbell

Gary & Jo Ann Yates

Dr. Frederick Kovar

Lisa & John Borba Bob & Cindy Brittain

Robert & Janet Canning Garth Cummings

Ericksen, Arbuthnot, Kilduff, Day & Lindstrom. Inc.

Jon & Debra Kalan

Steven Kinney

Becky Kosach & **Brian Martisius** 

Connie Marc & Zane Kiefer

Gwen Regalia

Darrell Mortensen & Barbara Rivara

Eugene & Lily Schulting

Kristina Steward

Brian Kruse

Margaret Kruse\*

Grant Mainland

Doryce R. Partridge

Kate McKillop

Sandra Zwemmer

Janet Montes

Terry & Glenn Gonzalez\*

Dennis Moyer

Scott Moyer

Jane O'Donnell

Sue Tomidy

Patsy O'Grady

Karoline Doberenz

Norm Olsen

Richard & Sally Olsen

Danna Pierce

Paula Silver

Patrica R. Quinn

**Anonymous** 

Dr. Dan Reid: Mount Everest Summiteer. Finisher: Western States 100 Mile Run. Humanitarian. Accomplished Cardiac Surgeon, Beloved Husband, Colleague, and Friend.

Robert Cavett

Dean Rhodes

Frances Coburn

Ann Ryan

Joe & Susan Ryan\*

Stephen F. Sharkey

Bervyn Simonian

Anne Sharkey

Richard & Rayna Ravitz

your mother, Jean Smart

Kathryn S. Sawyer

Michael Smidebush

George W. Davis Fund

Vivian Sweigart

Terry & Glenn Gonzalez\*

your mother, Margaret M. Tetlow, who loved this mountain

Alice Noyes

The Warnke Family

**Howard Thomas** 

Judy Canright

Ed Tonningsen

Harvey & Louise Wall

Dr. William Weeden

Patricia Weeden

We have made every effort to accurately spell names. If your name or donation has not been recorded correctly or was mistakenly omitted, we offer our apologies. Please contact us so that we can amend our records by sending an email to Lydia Burstyn, Development Associate, at Iburstyn@ savemountdiablo.org.





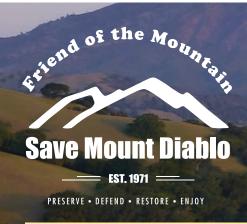
1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Tel: (925) 947-3535

www.SaveMountDiablo.org

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Walnut Creek, CA Permit No. 1553





## Thanks for being a friend.

As a Friend of the Mountain, you help to preserve the Diablo wild lands for future generations.

Whether you enjoy Mount Diablo when you are hiking, cycling, horseback riding, trail running, birding, painting, photographing, looking at it from your kitchen window, or taking in its breathtaking beauty at the end of a long commute home . . .

This is your mountain. Become a member to protect it today.

### Not a member yet? Join us!

Contact us for more information. Call or visit us online at (925) 947-3535 | SaveMountDiablo.org

## Enjoy a variety of perks!

Based on your annual membership gift, you can receive

- Members-only gear;
- Recognition in our annual report;
- Our biannual Diablo Watch newsletter, featuring stories about protected lands, habitat restoration, volunteer projects, and recreation opportunities;
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events, hikes, and tours of Mount Diablo



"My dream is that the whole of Mount Diablo, including its foothills, will remain open space... that the visual and natural integrity will be sustained."

—Dr. Mary L. Bowerman

To preserve Mount Diablo's peaks, surrounding foothills, and watersheds through land acquisition and preservation strategies designed to protect the mountain's natural beauty, biological diversity, and historic and agricultural heritage; enhance our area's quality of life; and provide recreational opportunities consistent with the protection of natural resources.

 Preserve natural lands through acquisition and cooperative efforts.

**Defend** Mount Diablo and its foothills from threats of development through land use planning.

**Restore** habitat prior to transfer to a public agency for permanent preservation and public use.

**Enjoy** Diablo's parks through events and recreational opportunities.

This is our home. Preserving natural land forever means safeguarding our quality of life, including our air, water, and views. Only half of Mount Diablo has been preserved. The other half of the area, over 60,000 acres, is privately owned and still threatened by development. That means risking the loss of wildlife corridors, ecosystems, and recreational opportunities.