



# DIABLO

# w a t c h

Save Mount Diablo

Protecting the Mountain Since 1971

Fall 2005 No. 40

## In Memory

### **Mary Leolin Bowerman**

January 25, 1908 - August 21, 2005

**Celebration of Life for SMD Founder - Oct. 9, 2005**

**Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park, Clayton**

RSVP 925 947 3535

(see page 3 for more information)



## **Mount Diablo Buckwheat Rediscovered Propagation Attempts Underway**

The list of extinct species just dropped by one!

On May 20th 2005, Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo's Director of Land Programs, and Scott Hein, an SMD Director and photographer, joined a small group of biologists and reporters. Their role was to assess and document the Mt Diablo Buckwheat, *Eriogonum truncatum*, a plant that hadn't been seen for sixty-nine years.

Resembling a small pink powder puff version of the baby's breath used in floral arrangements, the wildflower was found on land preserved by SMD.

"We are incredibly pleased and excited that the Mount Diablo buckwheat has been rediscovered on a property we had a hand in protecting," said Malcolm Sproul, President of the Board of Directors of SMD. "The rediscovery is an example of why we are working so hard to preserve similar properties around the

(continued on page 10)



*Mt Diablo Buckwheat, Eriogonum truncatum* (Scott Hein)

## **No on Measure P in Pittsburg & Measure K in Antioch on November 8 Developer Initiatives Threaten Natural Lands from Deer Valley to Willow Pass**

Developers including the Seeno Companies and Castle Company have qualified Urban Limit Line (ULL) initiatives in Pittsburg and Antioch that threaten thousands of acres of Diablo's foothills. The proposals would snarl Highway 4 in gridlock, and add thousands of houses to East County where thousands more have already been approved but not built. Save Mount Diablo's Board of Directors recommends a NO vote on Measure P in Pittsburg and Measure K in Antioch on Nov. 8.

Other opponents include State Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla, County Supervisor Federal Glover, Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance, California Nurses Association, Council member Michael Kee in Pittsburg and Citizens for a Better Antioch in that city.

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*Developer initiatives threaten thousands of acres in East County* (Scott Hein)

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Founded in 1971, Save Mount Diablo has been instrumental in expanding preserved natural lands on and around the mountain from 6,788 acres to more than 88,000 acres.

**Masthead Panorama:** *Dragon Oaks 550* by Stephen Joseph

*Diablo Watch* is printed on recycled paper with a soy base ink and can be recycled.



CONTAINS  
SOYOIL



Scott Hein



SMD Executive Director, Ron Brown (seated)  
with staff members (l to r) Jennifer House,  
Seth Adams and Julie Seelen

## From The Executive Director

"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." -- Mary Leolin Bowerman

This newsletter carries the sad news that Save Mount Diablo's co-founder Mary Bowerman died on August 21, at age 97. What a life she had; it stretched from the time of John Muir to that of the internet. She began her botanical study of Mt. Diablo in 1930 before the state park existed, and preserving the land within her study boundaries became both the State's and our goal. Mary regularly hiked Diablo's slopes well into her nineties.

While Mary was in the hospital earlier this summer, we were able to bring her photos of the newly rediscovered Mt. Diablo buckwheat. In 1936, Mary was the last person to see the buckwheat before its May 10, 2005 rediscovery. She simply stated her pleasure at the rediscovery, while letting us know that she always believed that it was still present. The last words several of us exchanged with her were about two land acquisitions we've been working on -- she was interested in preserving the mountain to the very end of her life -- what a legacy!

During Mary's lifetime, SMD realized that to protect the mountain's ecological health we would need to preserve a wider expanse of land than just the mountain's main peaks. Mary lived to see much of her dream realized, although there are still large parcels on the north and east slopes of the Mountain that remain threatened, in private hands.

## Mangini Ranch

One of those parcels is the 207 acre Mangini Ranch project. We'll have more to tell you next issue but we signed the deal in late February, and have two years to raise \$1.45 million. During the spring we led many preview hikes there. To date we've raised \$445,000--one third of our goal. As part of the funds already raised, the City of Concord donated \$100,000 as mitigation required by the Dept. of Fish & Game for a drainage project. We have submitted grant applications for funding, but even if the grants are awarded, we will still need to raise funds from the community to complete this important acquisition.

We have also come to realize that appropriate development projects can benefit the mountain's protection, such as the one in Concord, and the development of the East County Habitat Conservation Plan. Other projects, such as the Urban Limit Line initiatives proposed in Antioch and Pittsburg continue to generate threats to the mountain's integrity, and therefore, to Mary's vision. Another place where you can help.

With Mary's passing, Save Mount Diablo will renew its efforts to accomplish her dream. As we enter our 35th year, we're finding new ways of accomplishing our mission. We're developing new partners and coalitions and increasing public awareness of the threats to the mountain. We must continue to raise significant sums of money to keep pace with the increased costs of land. Most importantly, we need people of vision, people with passion, and people who recognize that we must work together, to preserve Mt. Diablo's natural lands. With your help, and that of your friends and neighbors we will be able to ensure the realization of Mary's dream.

We'll include more about Mary's legacy in the Spring '06 *Diablo Watch*, but we hope to see many of you at the celebration of her life in Mitchell Canyon on October 9.

*Ron Brown*

Scott Hein



(Left) Brian Hickey, retiring Superintendent of Mt. Diablo State Park accepting a Stephen Joseph photo from SMD. We wish Brian well in his retirement and thank him for his efforts on behalf of Mount Diablo.

(Right) Ron Brown accepting a \$100,000 check from the City of Concord's Mark Migliore for acquisition of the Mangini Ranch



Seth Adams

**Save the Date: Mt. Diablo Trail Adventure - Sunday, Nov. 6, 2005**



Mary Bowerman hiking lower Sycamore Canyon at the Blackhills dedication April 1997

### **In Memory**

## **Mary Leolin Bowerman**

**January 25, 1908 - August 21, 2005**

**Celebration for SMD Founder  
to be held Sunday, Oct 9, 2 pm  
Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo**

RSVP to 925 947 3535

*"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."*

*"Over the last 25 years I have participated with Save Mount Diablo in achieving the preservation of much of the area in my original dream however, as Senator Nejedly once observed, 'She's always asking for more'. May Save Mount Diablo fully realize my dream during my lifetime."*

*"Little did I know 65 years ago that my senior project would become my life's work"*

Mary Leolin Bowerman

**Dr. Mary Leolin Bowerman** "Leo" was co-founder of Save Mount Diablo in 1971 and served on its Board of Directors until her death (d. 8/21/2005 in Lafayette, California).



Mary Bowerman & Arthur Bonwell, co-founders of Save Mount Diablo, winners of Diablo Magazine's 2000 Threads of Hope Award

Born 1/25/1908 in Toronto, Canada Dr. Bowerman was a resident of Pasadena as a teenager, of Berkeley and the Bay Area beginning in 1928 and of Lafayette since 1954.

A botanist and student of the flora of Mount Diablo for seventy-five years, she received her Ph.D from U.C. Berkeley. Her doctoral advisor was famed California botanist Willis Linn Jepson; she was his last surviving student. Beginning in 1930, her botanical research pre-dated the creation of Mt. Diablo State Park and became a basis for preservation there. She expanded her 1936 doctorate into *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California; Their Distribution and Association into Plant Communities*, The Gillick Press, 1944. In 2002 the book was updated and republished by Bowerman and Barbara Ertter, Curator of Western North American Flora at the U.C. Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium. Her other area of expertise was the flora of southern British Columbia.

Bowerman was involved in the expansion of public lands on Mt. Diablo from 6,788 acres in 1971 to more than 88,000 acres in 2005, including the tripling in size of Mt. Diablo State Park to 20,000 acres. At Mt. Diablo she was directly involved in preservation of Blackhawk Ridge, the Blackhills; Sycamore, Mitchell, Back, and Donner Canyons; and North Peak.

Mt. Diablo State Park's summit *Mary Leolin Bowerman Fire Interpretive Trail* was named in her honor on 5-22-1982. She was further honored by East Bay Regional Park District on 11-20-2001 when the crest of Highland Ridge, in Morgan Territory Regional Preserve, was renamed *Founders Ridge* in honor of SMD's founders.

She received many awards for her Diablo preservation efforts including a State of



Governor Gray Davis, Rep. George Miller and Assemblyman Tom Torlakson with Mary at the final Blackhawk dedication May 15, 1999

California *Golden Bear Award*, John Muir Memorial Association's *John Muir Conservation Award* (1980), the Chevron Times Mirror Magazine *National Conservation Award* (1996), Contra Costa County *Women of Achievement Hall of Fame Award* (1998), *Diablo Magazine's Threads of Hope Volunteer Award for Lifetime Achievement* (2000), and the Daughters of the American Revolution's *National Conservation Medal*. She was the subject of interviews, news articles, and editorials including in photographer Galen Rowell's book *Bay Area Wild*, 1997. She was recognized in the Sept. 9, 1998 *Congressional Record*.

Miss Bowerman was a major donor to Audubon Canyon Ranch, the California Native Plant Society, the Jepson Herbarium, the Nature Conservancy, Save Mount Diablo, the Sierra Club, and the University of California, as well as many other environmental and botanical organizations.

She is interred with her parents Ada Sarah (Wesson) Bowerman (9/03/1872 - 9/28/1980) of England and Lindley H. Bowerman (2/16/1864 - 2/28/1954) of Toronto, Canada, at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, CA.

**A "Celebration of Life" event and hike in Mary's honor will be held Sunday, October 9, 2005, 2:00 pm, Mitchell Canyon, Mt. Diablo State Park, Clayton** (from Ygnacio take Clayton Rd east, and Mitchell Cyn Rd south to the end). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Mary's memory to: Save Mount Diablo, 1196 Boulevard Way #10, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Info provided by Seth Adams, Bob Doyle, Barbara Ertter, Sharon Walters and Susan Watson. Photos top, Susan Kraughto, bottom l-r by Sandra Hoover-Saul Bromberger, Stephen Joseph, Jepson Herbarium.



Mary signing the 2002 update of her Diablo flora, with Susan D'Alcamo, Barbara Ertter & Lisa Schultheis standing.



The 617-acre Souza addition to Vasco Caves (Nancy Wenninger)

## Two Square Miles Preserved & Other Recent Developments

Few years are as momentous as 2005 for Mt. Diablo's natural lands. Thousands of acres are threatened by developer initiatives in East County but 1,338 acres--more than two square miles--have also been preserved this year by East Bay Regional Park District and Save Mount Diablo.

Ironically, much of this preservation involves developer mitigation (preservation related to conditions of approval required by regulatory agencies, to balance environmental impacts, especially related to endangered species).

SMD frequently stops projects or negotiates for wildlife, recreational and other benefits, and for land donations.

Other than staff time, these development dedications are being protected at no cost to the public.

The largest is the 617 acre Souza addition to Vasco Caves Regional Preserve, which nearly doubles the size of that preserve. The 211.6 acre Fox Ridge Manor dedication, negotiated by SMD adjacent to Cowell Ranch State Park, and the Park District's 320 acre Lentzner addition to Black Diamond Mines both narrow two remaining gaps in a sixty-mile "Diablo Grand Loop" recreational and wildlife corridor. Souza and Fox Ridge are described below.

30 acres of the Brandt property, negotiated by SMD as a condition of a one unit subdivision, will buffer our Wright Canyon

property. The 160-acre Shapell-Elworthy property will expand Morgan Territory Regional Preserve below Highland Ridge.

Finally, the proposed Brentwood Rod & Gun Club was denied by the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors. It would have threatened the Los Vaqueros watershed, the Marsh Creek Trail, and Cowell Ranch State Park. We're close on another 62 acres in Alamo.

## Moore Foundation Helps Double Vasco Caves

By Nancy Wenninger, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society

On December 14, 2004, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors unanimously approved the purchase and permanent protection of the Souza property, 617 acres of important wildlife habitat in southeastern Contra Costa County.

This region has one of the fastest growth rates in California. During the past ten years, the City of Brentwood has experienced a 260% increase in population with a 40% increase in housing units. The expansions of Vasco Road, Byron Airport, and

the Los Vaqueros Reservoir also threaten the wide variety of wildlife and high quality habitat which need to be protected.

Generations of the Souza family have owned and ranched the property and surrounding lands along Vasco Road since 1940. The rolling grasslands and localized wetlands support special status species like California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog and longhorn fairy shrimp. In the 1970's, the California Department of Fish and Game designated the acquisition site an area of "statewide biological significance," due to its unique combination of rare plant and animal species, cultural resources and geological features, including rock outcrops and vernal pools. The property also contains a large population of California ground squirrel, a keystone

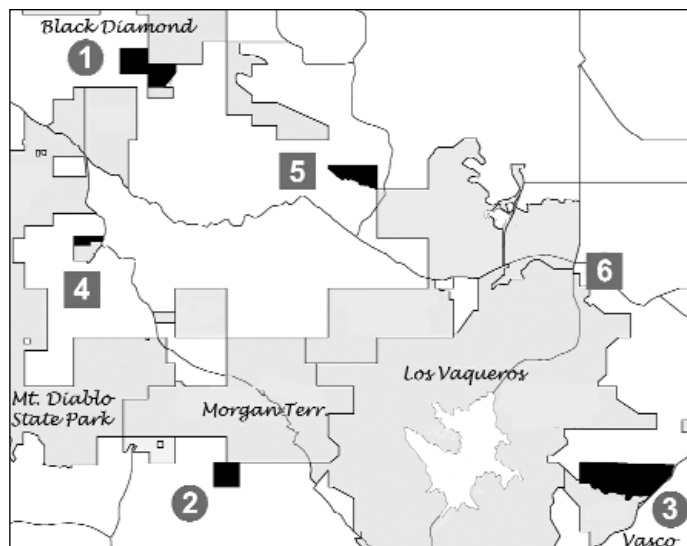


The 320-acre Lentzner addition to Black Diamond (Scott Hein)

species whose success supports a number of other species, including the golden eagle, Western burrowing owl and San Joaquin kit fox.

Wind and open grasslands benefit the high concentration of raptors which forage on the Souza property. The abundance of wind, however, has also resulted in a conflict between these legally protected birds and wind turbines, an important source of "clean" energy. The machines in the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area--which includes the Souza property--continue to have a significant unmitigated impact on raptors and other wildlife. The species most heavily impacted are raptors, primarily golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, Western burrowing owls and American kestrels.

Three separate wind companies currently have leases for approximately 70 turbines on the Souza property. For the remainder of the leases, EBRPD will work



Three additions to Regional Parks 1) 320 acre Lentzner, 2) 160-acre Shapell-Elworthy, 3) 617-acre Souza Ranch; and three development resolutions 4) the Brandt property, 5) Fox Ridge Manor, and 6) Brentwood Rod & Gun Club



211.6 acres preserved at Fox Ridge Manor (Scott Hein)

proactively to seek solutions to mitigate wildlife impacts, and can renegotiate the leases when they expire in 2014. In the interim, they will produce revenue which will be used by EBRPD for the restoration and management of the preserve.

The total purchase price for the Souza property was \$2,961,600. The acquisition was made possible in part by a \$1.5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, established in September 2000 by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore and his wife Betty.

### **Saving Briones Valley Fox Ridge Manor Cuts Gap in Half**

In May 1998 SMD broadened the area within which it works to include Diablo's foothills in Eastern Contra Costa County.

We proposed a Black Diamond Mines to Los Vaqueros wildlife and recreational corridor, covering a distance of about seven miles. We thought it might take fifteen to twenty years to preserve the seven mile corridor.

In October 1998, as a condition of approval for a golf course, SMD negotiated donation of development rights to a three mile long area- the 1,123 acre Roddy Ranch Open Space-and a trail easement, stretching southeast from Black Diamond Mines.

Then, on July 26, 2000 the County Board of Supervisors tightened the County's Urban Limit Line (ULL) excluding most of Cowell Ranch (which had at one time been proposed for 5,000 houses). A small part of Cowell was left inside the ULL for development in exchange for public acquisition of the remainder as a new State Park. Cowell Ranch State Park was dedicated on May 3, 2003, bridging another 2.5 miles stretching northwest from Los Vaqueros-leaving a 1.3 mile gap of private land between Roddy and Cowell.

Nearly half of that gap is owned by a partnership of five Brentwood area families, known as Fox Ridge Manor. Their 221.6 acre parcel is a triangle of flood plain and grassland hills following Briones Valley Creek and Road southeast into Cowell.

Briones Valley is a hot spot for rare species. They include the woody plants, heartscale and San Joaquin saltbush, and twelve special status animal species including two types of fairy shrimp, a diving beetle, California tiger salamander, northwestern pond turtle, California red-legged frog, San Joaquin pocket mouse, loggerhead shrike, California horned lark, burrowing owl, prairie falcon, and northern harrier. The area contains suitable habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox.

In late 2000 the Fox Ridge Manor families proposed subdivision of their property into five lots. Despite the small number of units, and given the property's importance to wildlife and as a recreational corridor, SMD opposed the project. With the help of Catherine Kutsuris (Deputy Director of Current Planning in the County Community Development Department) and project planners Aruna Bhat, Rose Marie Pietras, and Will Nelson, in late 2004 SMD

*continued on page 6*



CC County's Will Nelson, SMD's Seth Adams, and Fox Ridge's Don Parscal & Weston Cook

## **No on Measure P & K**

*continued from page 1*

The new measures are an end run on work to create ULLs around cities, as required by last November's Measure J, the successful renewal of the County's transportation sales tax. It requires all nineteen Contra Costa cities to either adopt a voter-approved ULL's like the County's, or to adopt individual lines around each city.

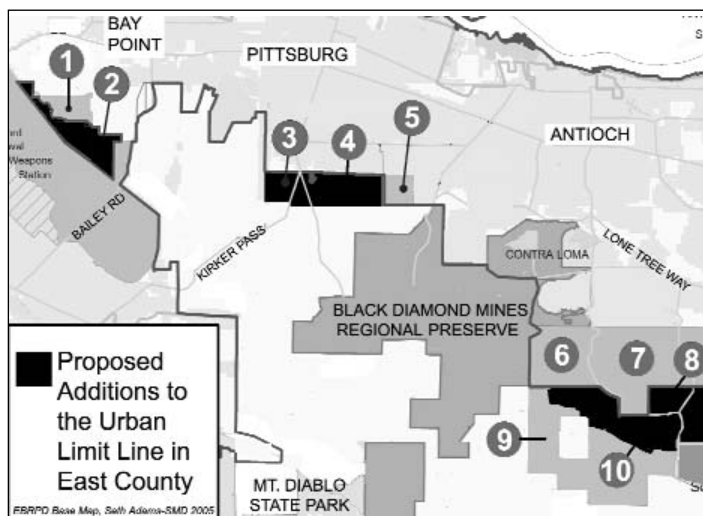
Cities agreed to the provision of Measure J, which is meant to lead to rational planning and to insure that \$2 billion in funding will be effective in improving traffic and congestion. The 19 cities and the county failed to reach consensus on a mutually agreed to line when cities including Antioch, Concord, and Pittsburg attempted huge land grabs. Developers stepped in and qualified initiatives to legalize these land grabs, cynically crafting the measures to suggest that they would accomplish conservation objectives. They won't.

Measure P in Pittsburg is sponsored by Albert Seeno, and would affect the slopes

of Black Diamond Mines and the Kirker Hills ridge line between Central and East County. Imagine grading and housing stretching up from Pittsburg to overlook Concord, the Naval Weapons Station, and all of Central County. Discussions with Seeno failed to get a commitment to stay below the ridge line.

Measure K in Antioch is sponsored by Castle Company, which bought the Roddy Ranch after its owners defaulted on investor bonds. This initiative would move Antioch's ULL to include the Roddy proper-

ty and part of the Ginocchio property. Development in these areas threatens Horse and Deer Valley wildlife corridors.



*Developers are proposing Urban Limit Line expansions & thousands of new houses on working ranches around Pittsburg & Antioch. 1) Seeno's San Marco Meadows, 2) Seeno's Faria on the Concord ridge line, 3) Seeno's Montreaux, 4) Thomas Ranch, 5) Seeno's Sky Ranch II, 6) Higgins Ranch, 7) FUA#1, 8) Ginocchio, 9) Roddy Ranch Deer Valley, 10) Roddy Ranch Horse Valley*





Scott Hein

Rich McDrew, Burt Bogardus & Beverly Lane

## 2005 Mountain Star Awards

### **Burt Bogardus and Rich McDrew - MDIA Trash Removal Project Mountain Star Restoration Award**

*for significant and unusual improvements in resource protection and enhancement at Mount Diablo*

Rich McDrew and Burt Bogardus are recognized for bringing attention to a problem many people would rather ignore. They are members of the Board of Directors of the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, and have coordinated MDIA's Trash Removal Project since 2000. TRP removes old fencing, abandoned cars and other potential hazards to park visitors, especially as new acquisitions are added to parks.

Rich was a Coast Guard "coastie" and a U.S. Secret Service agent protecting presidents from Eisenhower through Clinton, as well as the Pope, the Queen of England and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev during their visits to California. He is a hunter, historian and native plants enthusiast. He tackled North America's tallest mountain, Mt. McKinley, last year and published 51 Uncommon Place Names at Mt. Diablo State Park. As a sailor he was involved in helping to film *The Guns of Navarone*, starring Gregory Peck and Anthony Quinn, on the Greek island of Rhodes. Both Rich and Burt took on the task of updating Mount Diablo's out-of-date trails signs (with Harvey Brosler) for which they received the California Department of Parks and Recreation's Poppy Award.

Burt is a native Californian. From age six he explored the wilderness at his family's cabin in the Angeles National Forest. He attended U. C. Berkeley during the turbulent sixties. Following graduation he entered the U. S. Peace Corps, taught at Mpraeso, Ghana, and traveled extensively in Africa and Asia. His 22-year Park Ranger career culminated in service at Mount Diablo from 1975 to 1993. Burt built the stone pedestals for the two plaques at the summit, proclaiming Mount Diablo a Registered Historical Landmark (1978) and

a National Natural Landmark (1982). Burt is the only living person who knows how to run the "Eye of Diablo" beacon at the mountain's summit, lit each year for Pearl Harbor Day. After the historic aircraft beacon's aging electronics proved unreliable, he designed and built a remote control unit which is used for the annual December 7th event. He is a member of SMD's Stewardship Committee.

### **Beverly Lane - President, East Bay Regional Park District Mountain Star Leadership Award**

*For individuals who have made difficult and visionary contributions.*

Save Mount Diablo gives awards in eleven categories. When an individual qualifies in as many categories as Beverly Lane—Alliance, Public Service, Legislative, Media, Interpretative, Cornerstone, Trail Blazer—only the Leadership Award is appropriate. Beverly is current President and member of the Board of Directors of the East Bay Regional Park District. She has supported SMD projects in a variety of parks in her ward including Diablo Foothills, Morgan Territory, Round Valley, Riggs Canyon and Clayton Ranch.

Beverly is a three time Mayor of Danville, where she served on the first city council after incorporation (from 1982-1993). She chaired the Central Contra Costa Transportation Authority in 1988, was president of California Elected Women in 1992-1993, and is a former President of the Eugene O'Neill Foundation. She is a noted local historian and curator of the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, where she has coordinated exhibits and written histories of Danville, San Ramon and Blackhawk. She specializes in school programs about local Indians and created the Park District's map, Native Peoples of the East Bay. She has led efforts to establish the Iron Horse Regional Trail, the Calaveras Ridge Trail and Sycamore Open Space Preserve. She continues her environmental and recreational focus with efforts ranging from her presidency of the District's Board, to her monthly column in the *Sentinel*. She has written a book featuring photos on the history of the San Ramon Valley which will be available in November. She is married to Jim Lane and has three grown sons, Doug, Andy and Greg. They have lived in Danville since 1973.



Mountain Star Award  
Sponsors  
**Blackhawk-Nunn**  
Developers of Vineyards  
at Marsh Creek



Scott Hein

160 acre Shapell-Elworthy addition below  
Highland Ridge to Morgan Territory

*continued from page 5*

## **Two Square Miles Preserved**

and the Fox Ridge families began conversations about a compromise. Managing partner Weston Cook was especially helpful.

Over the next six months agreement was reached. The partners reduced their lots in size by 90% to five acres each, clustered south of Briones Valley Creek along the road frontage, and agreed to preserve 211.6 of the 221.6 acres with 196.6 acres and a trail donated to East Bay Regional Park District or another park agency. The compromise was approved by the Contra Costa County Planning Commission on April 26, 2005.

"It was clear to the Fox Ridge families that there were extremely sensitive resources at stake," said Seth Adams, Director of Land Programs for Save Mount Diablo. "Catherine and Will came up with the vehicle with which to protect them."

"Save Mount Diablo lived up to their word—once we worked out the details of an agreement, they fully supported the project. This park dedication is a significant win for our community and the environment. We are equally excited for the day when it will be connected to the larger park system," said Weston Cook, Managing Partner of Fox Ridge Manor. "We appreciate the time and effort SMD and others have spent on this project."

"This property was a top priority for Save Mount Diablo. It reflects the importance of working with private landowners and the variety of ways in which we can together protect important pieces of land," said Malcolm Sproul, president of the Board of Directors of Save Mount Diablo. "The Fox Ridge families are being extraordinarily generous. We appreciate their willingness to work with us."

The Fox Ridge Manor property and Cowell Ranch State Park are closed to the public until planning is completed.



Bob Brittain

## Walnut Creek Open Spaces - 14 Years of Oak Restoration

by Ralph Kraetsch

*Project Coordinator -Oak Habitat  
Restoration Project of the  
Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation*

In the fall of 1989 Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation member Dick Daniel planted some acorns in a small fenced area next to Bob Pond at Borges Ranch in Walnut Creek's Shell Ridge Open Space. This planting was quite successful. Others recognized the near absence of natural regeneration of oaks in the open space in 1990 and in early 1991 we gathered a group of enthusiastic volunteers to begin a restoration program.

Through the years we have experimented with different methods of planting acorns to protect them from rodents and later to protect the seedlings and saplings from browsing and other damage by deer. Experiments with planting unprotected acorns have been disappointing.

Our annual program is comprised of four principal activities. In late August to mid-September we harvest acorns from trees in the open spaces. The acorns are stored in a refrigerator at about 34 degrees to slow development until planting time, when fall rains have wet the soil to about 8" depth, usually mid to late November.

We plant the acorns between Thanksgiving and mid-January. Planting involves first selecting a site, preferably on a gentle slope. Next we scrape the grass and weeds from a 3' square and in the center dig a 7-8" diameter hole about 8" deep. We place a 6" diameter by 2' long screen cylinder in the hole. Then we refill the cylinder and hole to about 1" from the surface. We place 3 acorns inside, points (where both roots and shoots emerge) toward the center so the sprouts won't tangle with the screening, and fill to about 1/2" above the general surface. Finally, we place a 3' X 3' plastic mat with a hole in the center over the cylinder to cover the scraped area and stop nearby competitive growth of grass and weeds. The plastic mat has tiny funnel shaped perforations which allow rain water, but very little light, to pass through, thereby stopping the weed growth. We also install a 3' survey flag on top of the screen so that the site can be located later in tall grass.

In April and May we check the plantings, weed them, and put 4' plastic tree shelters on sites with a seedling. Our final activity is watering seedlings from the current year's plantings to help carry them through their first dry season. Every 4 weeks we pour a half gallon of water in each tree shelter. It doesn't take much to keep the seedlings growing with their root systems usually more than 2' deep, and there is often daily condensation inside the tree

shelter to help the watering program.

We have not planted extensively in grazed areas. In our first years we experimented with planting in grazed areas and found that cattle seriously damaged most of the planting sites by rubbing. Successful planting in grazed areas requires significant extra cost in protection by fencing, raising the cost per site from about \$6.00 to well over \$15.00, plus considerably more time in planting and maintenance.

We usually plant 250 to 300 sites each year and 75% to 90% of the sites will contain a seedling. In time various problems such as insects, poor soil and other factors reduce the ultimate success rate to an estimated 30% of the original plantings, about 11-1200 saplings in our 14 years of planting. Some of our early plantings are now trees 12' to 14' tall and this year at least one, located near the Sutherland Drive entrance to Shell Ridge, produced acorns. We planted those acorns at a December celebration last year marking the end of the 1974 bond issue that funded purchases of much of Walnut Creek's open space.

**To Volunteer:** visit [wcsof.org](http://wcsof.org) for info about our programs such as oak and other native plant restoration, weed control, quail habitat restoration and wildflower hikes.



Bob Brittain

## Many Ways to Give

There are many ways to show your support of Mount Diablo. Our current members contribute in a variety of ways, including responding to our appeal letters, sending donations in honor or memory of special friends and family members, renewing their membership, sponsoring a Heritage Tree, pledging payroll deductions, donating stock, or remembering SMD during their estate planning.

In addition, we are grateful for our Corporate members who match their employees charitable contributions. So far this year, we have received almost \$5,000

from the following corporate match members: **Bank of America, The Rockefeller Group, Del Monte Foods, Tyco Employees Matching Gifts Program, Clorox Gift Campaign, Wellpoint Associate Giving Program, Microsoft Matching Gifts, Nissan North America, AIG Matching Gifts, Merrill Lynch, Moore Dry Dock, Bank of the West, Nike Employees Charitable Giving, and GlaxoSmithKline.**

If your employer is not listed here, please check with your Human Resources Dept. to see if it will match your charitable donations. We'd love to add your employer to our list of Corporate members.

Some of the ways to support SMD don't require fundraising. Consider holding your own get-together for friends, families, co-workers and neighbors. These social events help to promote and support SMD. Consider hosting a party in your home and having an SMD representative come with a slide show or to give a short talk. Or, invite folks to join you on a special hike. SMD staff is happy to work with you in picking a route and even in leading an interpretive hike.

"Friend" raising is just as important as fundraising. Think about ways you can help SMD to raise new friends. Call with your ideas - we'd love to hear from you.

# Diablo

## *The Mangini Ranch - Preview Hikes*

Save Mount Diablo signed a purchase agreement on the Mangini Ranch in February but we began showing the property to our Board and donors in December. Diablo Magazine was our first real public tour on January 21, followed by a large donor hike on March 19 and a public hike on April 3. The annual Healthwise-Dornsife hike was there on April 24. On May 21 we led two hikes, one for the California Native Plant Society, because of the property's outstanding botanic resources; the other was a BBQ for homeowners in the neighboring Crystyl Ranch development.



Mangini top to bottom: 1) Bella Rossi & Morgan and Mackenna Peterson on the March 19 Large Donor hike; 2) former County Supervisor Donna Gerber, Dave & Dana Dornsife and Greg Francisco at the Fourth Annual Healthwise-Dornsife hike; 3) following Galindo creek under the roots of the hobbit tree has become a rite of passage; 4) panorama of picnickers at the Crystyl Ranch BBQ; 5) March 19 Large Donor hike including Morgan, Bella & Mackenna (and dad, Concord Council member Mark Peterson (second from left); 6) Crystyl Ranch BBQ; 7) Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs leading staff from Diablo Magazine & Publications on a preview tour; 8) Healthwise-Dornsife hikers slipping down the hill; 9) Crystyl Ranch kids getting a kick out of the property; Adams co-leading a tour for the California Native Plant Society, with Sue Bainbridge of UC Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium.

## **Ron Brown's Summit Dinners** **Jan Richardson; Discovery Builders**

At Moonlight on the Mountain, SMD Executive Director Ron Brown (2nd from left) donates a dinner he prepares at Diablo's summit each year. In 2004 three separate parties bid \$7,000 for one of the dinners. Jan Richardson's dinner was on May 28 as fog rolled in; she's pictured with Bill in photo 3. Discovery Builders' dinner was on March 19 with Albert Seeno III and his wife Mindy in photo 5.





# Celebrated

## Four Days Diablo - April 27 to 30, 2005

Carl Nolte, a San Francisco *Chronicle* reporter, attended this year's sold out *Four Day Diablo*. (We're already taking reservations for 2006) To summarize his article: 'Diablo is the mountain in nearly everybody's back yard...surrounded on three sides by nearly a million people...Yet Diablo is a world apart, with more than 80,000 acres in public ownership, an area nearly three times the size of San Francisco...An island of wilderness in a metropolis. The four-day trip is a bit of a luxurious adventure...\$750 covers everything...it is worth it...This year produced the longest spring anyone can remember, with famous fields of wildflowers. In 31 miles, hikers crossed only two paved roads.'



Top, l-r: Group near Knobcone; Cindy Spring appreciates a hot towel as we reach camp; Mary Mills, Mary Anne Jorde & Cindy Jansen above Riggs Cyn; Peter Chastain of Prima; Bill Kondrat & Betty Falck; 'the help': Kerry Randall, maestro Ron Brown, Sharon Walters, Dave Sargent & Claudia Hein (Dick Heron not pictured); Anna Marie Powell & Sandy Ritchie; Seth Adams, Hike Leader #1; Chad Schmucker, medical officer & sweep; Dinner-Night 3; Scott Hein, Hike Leader #2 showing off a friend.

## Stargazing at Chaparral Spring with Ron Olowin May 7

People rave about St. Mary's astrophysicist Ron Olowin's use of the night sky as his chalkboard. Cloudy skies interfered on May 7 but everybody loved the sunset hike and BBQ anyway. (l-r) Seth Adams & Hikers; Olowin & Ron Brown; kids playing; SMD's Jen House & the BBQ; the BBQ line.



## "The Green Age of Asher Witherow" Reading by Mark Cunningham, Mining Museum tour & hike March 26

Mark Cunningham, author of the celebrated novel *The Green Age of Asher Witherow* which is set in Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve's Nortonville coal mining ghost town. 1) A Large Donor Mining Museum tour preceded a 2) reading by Cunningham at 3) Rose Hill cemetery, followed by a hike to Kreiger Peak and 4) down Coal Canyon to Nortonville.



Photos: Scott Hein & David Ogden,  
Chad Schmucker



Michael Park, leaning over a small Mt. Diablo buckwheat (Scott Hein)

## Buckwheat (Continued from pg 1)

mountain. Rare species focus the public's attention. Preservation of these species benefits a range of other wildlife that live in similar areas. The rediscovery shows that we can protect a unique species in the middle of a dense urban area and that the diversity of our natural resources can be protected despite intense development."

"The discovery of the Mount Diablo Buckwheat is monumental," said Adams. "This pretty wildflower is our own 'ivory-billed woodpecker'" he said, referring to the recent rediscovery of a bird found after 60 years during which it was considered extinct. "That the Buckwheat was found on land that Save Mount Diablo protected and that it's already being managed within Mt. Diablo State Park is icing on the cake."

In most modern references--primarily environmental impact reports with lists of special status species--*Eriogonum truncatum* is listed as "presumed extinct." The last documented observation of this plant had been in 1936 by Dr. Mary Bowerman, one of SMD's founders, and the author of *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mount Diablo, California* (published in 1944, and revised in 2002 with Barbara Ertter, Curator of Western North American Flora at U.C. Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium).

All but one of the historic records of the plant--there were just seven from 1862 to 1936--are from Mt. Diablo or the Antioch-Brentwood area; one record is from Solano County. SMD, the State Park, U.C. Berkeley's Jepson Herbarium and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), had made a concerted effort in recent years to find the wildflower, with no luck.

"We've been calling the Mount Diablo buckwheat the Holy Grail for botanists working in the East Bay. For professionals and for dedicated volunteers, it's been the number one priority that we've been trying

to relocate," said Ertter.

On May 10th, a small population of about 20 plants was rediscovered by University of California botanist Michael Park during a routine plant survey in a remote section of Mount Diablo State Park. Our job on May 20th was to assess the plant's condition; potential threats to it; how to stabilize the population; and how to develop a site management plan.

We announced the rediscovery to support ongoing research and conservation objectives--most of the plant's historic locations are threatened by development--and because the annual wildflower was in bloom at the time. The location of the discovery is being kept secret--a good thing considering the media furor that ensued. After the May 24th publication of the initial exclusive story by the *Contra Costa Times*, the news spread rapidly.

The Associated Press picked up the story (and Scott's photographs) the next day. The news went worldwide, in many languages, on television, radio, in print and online.

Michael Park's parents, for example, first heard about the story in a Korean language newspaper. Interviews with Seth and Barbara were aired on *NPR*, and the story could be read in Arabic on *CNN*. Interview requests are still coming in months later.

## Background

"California has about 6300 native vascular plant species, about 1/3 are endemic (found only) in the state," said Ertter. "Mt. Diablo has 900 plant species of which a quarter are non-native, yet non-natives represent a vast majority of what you see in grassland areas. Twenty-nine plant species on Mt. Diablo are considered rare or endangered and 12 are found only in the Mt. Diablo region."

The Mount Diablo buckwheat (*Eriogonum truncatum*) is an annual herb, 10-70 cm in height (the plants found range from 3-8" in height), with white to rose colored flowers from mid-April to May (although records show April to December, with May most common). It was historically found in chaparral, valley grassland, and northern coastal scrub habitats, in sandy soil and grassland slopes. It is thought that competition by introduced non-native plants is responsible for its rarity. In recent years its historic habitat has been threatened by development pressure.

*Eriogonum truncatum* was first recorded on May 29, 1862 by William H. Brewer, a member of Josiah Whitney's California Geological Survey from 1860-1867. Brewer's chronicle of the survey, *Up and Down California*, is an important work of early California history. What is less well known is that his biological collections during the survey include many of the first discoveries of California species.

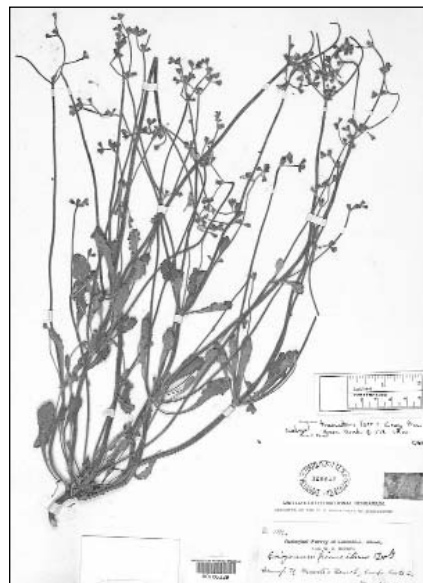
He collected the buckwheat at Marsh's Ranch near Mt. Diablo--nearly 4000 acres of the Marsh Ranch have recently been preserved as a new State Park. Over the next 78 years the Mount Diablo buckwheat was found just a handful of times, for a total of seven historic records.

## The Rediscovery

Michael Park, 35, is a wiry and energetic botanist based in Berkeley. He grew up in Los Angeles. A first year graduate student at U.C. Berkeley, he is continuing a survey on a portion of Diablo that was begun as part of his senior's thesis. 5'10" and 145 pounds, he is known for forgetting to eat while carrying out field work, and for hiking long distances to reach his study area, where he has made 90 field visits.

Says Park: "As I arrived at the location where I park my car for the survey, my cell phone rang. It was Dr. Bruce Baldwin, curator of the Jepson Herbarium, who is my major professor. We talked about... the search for the Mt Diablo buckwheat. I told him that I felt the plant was still present, but that I'd never be the one to find it. He replied that, 'It's just a matter of being at the right place at the right time.' He encouraged me with news of a

continued on page 11



William Brewer's collection of the buckwheat--the first ever--at Marsh's Ranch, May 29, 1862



*Site assessment tour on May 20, 2005 just prior to making the public announcement of the rediscovery. From left, Michael Park, Barbara Ertter, Mike Taugher, Cindi Christie, Joanne Karbavaz, Seth Adams (Scott Hein)*

### **Buckwheat** (continued from page 10)

recently rediscovered plant that was last seen in 1912. Prophetic words; I found the buckwheat that day!”

“On May tenth I was walking excruciatingly slowly in order to maximize the species count. The path made a slight detour from the usual survey route, to more thoroughly search promising areas that hadn’t gotten enough attention... I was looking at a common plant which likes rock outcroppings and was wondering why it was growing on sand when I realized that I was surrounded by early blooming buckwheat. I decided I needed a closer look since I didn’t recognize it and then realized ‘this is something new’. Once I realized that it was the Mt Diablo buckwheat I was so shocked, I pretended it wasn’t there and continued my other work.”

“The plants are all in flower, approaching full bloom, and they’re very distinctive because the flower stalks branch upward in a wishbone pattern, with flowers at the bottom node and at each end of each wishbone. They’re between three and eight inches in height, highly branched. The large plants have several dozen flowers which are pinkish with a maroon center line on each petal. It’s a surprisingly dainty plant once you see it in the field, because it’s so celebrated in the botanical community that it had grown in my imagination. It’s only because I stopped and was moving very slowly that I even recognized that it was there,” said Park.

“It’s growing in a strip next to chaparral. At one point it was thought that chemicals from the chaparral plants might make it harder for grasses and annuals to colonize but now the theory is that brush rabbits create the zone, hiding from hawks and eagles in the brush then darting out to browse, creating a narrow strip along the edge of the chaparral where native species persist.”

### **Reactions**

“California Native Plant Society started doing an inventory of rare plants over thirty years ago, many of which need management, and that’s when botanists started looking for the Mount Diablo buckwheat,” said Ertter. “There’s a list of about thirty species presumed extinct in California that we’ve been giving special attention. The buckwheat has been at the

top of the list because it’s a full species and the habitats are there, yet we weren’t finding it. Whenever you’re dealing with annuals there could be seeds that last for years. If we went to this exact same spot last year it might not have been present.”

“There have been a few special efforts to find the plant but mostly a few individuals have been making a concerted effort,” said Ertter. “I’ve been looking for twenty years, so my first reaction was that I was delighted for Michael. He got the gold ring. I was so overwhelmed with the sudden logistics of what to do about it, that I failed to jump up and down and wave my hands in excitement. But that’s how I felt.”

“We all felt there was a likelihood it still existed,” said Joanne Karbavaz, a State Park Resource Ecologist. “It’s in a rugged type of habitat that’s received a lot of protection so botanists didn’t assume that it was gone. It’s an annual and there are good and bad years. We didn’t know what year would be good. My first thought was hooray, this is something we’ve been looking for a long time and I was excited that it was found within the boundaries of the State Park. It’s part of the tapestry of life, the biodiversity that State Parks is in the business of protecting. Then I thought ‘how do we manage it?’”

“The native plants of California are some of the most exciting in the world, because so many of them are local,” said Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, an internationally renowned botanist and conservationist. “Taken together, they form an intricate jigsaw puzzle of interlocking and separate distributions. Many of them are of recent origin geologically, and the Mount Diablo Buckwheat is clearly one of these. Like many other annuals in California, it presumably originated when the formation of cold currents offshore lead to the summer-dry climates, Mediterranean

climates that are so characteristic of the State now, opening new habitats and forming an incredible array of new species.”

“One of many species of buckwheat in California, Diablo’s Buckwheat has had its own history, and differs in its features, in its genes, and in its associations with other plants and animals in nature from every other kind of organism,” said Raven. “If it had really been lost, it would have been gone forever, and a unique part of our heritage vanished permanently. Now we have the chance to understand it, to enjoy it, and to know that we haven’t done it in!”

### **Conservation & Next Steps**

In June several more site visits were made. The buckwheat plants were maturing quickly. Some were still flowering, a few were seeding, and seeds were collected off the ground below some plants. Seeds will be tested and stored at the Jepson Herbarium until next year’s growing season. Metal staples were placed next to each plant, in order to document the locations of the plants and to see if plants grow in the same area next year.

Trampling remains a possible threat, so chicken wire cages were installed around a number of the plants, secured with short rebar stakes. A two foot tall cage with a closed top was placed around the largest individual plant and a three foot tall, open-top one around a cluster of a few plants. The remaining plants were left uncaged.

“We have a chance to save the Diablo buckwheat,” said Ertter. “We can’t allow this opportunity to slip through our fingers. Why did it survive here? For one, the site is preserved. The chaparral edge is also one of the few places where the balance has been against invasive non-native plants so that the species could survive... We’ll need to study what the factors are that allow it to persist.”

In early 2006 seeds will be germinated at U.C. Berkeley and botanists will start surveying the Diablo site again. “We’re not out of the woods yet,” said Ertter, “it’s still hanging on by its fingernails. At least now we’ve got a lot of hope and some things to run with, a chance that we’ll be able to pull this plant back from the brink.”



*Buckwheat flower being visited by a pollinating flower fly (Syrphidae).*

## Spotlight on Sponsors, Staff & Volunteers



Scott Hein

### Sponsor: Jamba Juice

Last November, SMD Trail Adventure participants were treated to free smoothies, as they passed the finish line, courtesy of Jamba Juice, a sponsor for the event. Started in 1990 under the name Juice Club in San Luis Obispo, Jamba has a commitment to providing nutritious, vibrant foods, and to giving back to the community. This year, Jamba Juice has graciously agreed to become the event sponsor for both the Mount Diablo Bike Challenge and the Trail Adventure. Look for the Jamba Juice team riding up the mountain on October 2nd!



Seth Adams

### Making A Difference

SMD would like to extend a big thank you to volunteers **Keith Bigelow** and **Mary Louise Wilson**. Keith, a retired distributor of remanufactured engines, is indispensable. He set up SMD's new computers and expanded our data base for Mount Diablo Challenge registrants. Mary Louise, an avid hiker and Heritage Tree sponsor, comes in every Friday morning to help with office work, no task too big or small. We love her help and ideas. Without their help, as well as the help of many other volunteers, SMD would not be able to reach its goals.



Scott Hein

### Julie Seelen

#### SMD's new Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator

Julie Seelen was hired Valentines Day as SMD's Administrative Assistant. When a Special Events & Volunteer Coordinator position was created she was promoted.

A native of Venlo, in the southern Netherlands near the German border, she moved to New Haven, Connecticut fifteen years ago to do research for her architecture thesis. That's where she met her husband, Carl Steefel, a geochemist at Lawrence Berkeley Labs.

"My father had a big commercial greenhouse and he often took us hiking in the border area near Germany-it's recently become a big preserve-so I grew up learning about plants and wildlife. I like hiking and kayaking. Every summer we go to

Carl's family cabin on Star Island in Minnesota's Cass Lake. One of the things I like about the U.S. is that there is still so much beautiful open space. The parks are bigger so you can really get away from civilization."

"After being on the mommy track for ten years and doing a lot of volunteer and events work for the schools, SMD was a natural fit for my experience and interests. Before I was hired I thought a dinner on the mountain would be a great fundraiser, only to find that SMD has one, Moonlight on the Mountain. It's a unique experience that's taking up a lot of my time right now, along with our annual Trail Adventure. We're also getting ready for the Mount Diablo Challenge, a bike race to the summit. It's fun for me, because it's new event for SMD and I get to be involved on the ground floor."

"I like working at SMD because I support its mission. I like that we have a small staff and a pleasant office. We also have a large base of wonderful volunteers, each with different skills but with Mt. Diablo as their common interest. I love that we preserve natural lands; SMD helps to balance development and to give wildlife room to survive."

Julie, Carl and Evelyn (10) and Cristoph (8) have lived in Virginia, Washington, and Florida, and in Livermore and Moraga.

### Stuff An Envelope, Save A Mountain

We would love to add you to our volunteer list. Volunteers help our small staff accomplish big things ultimately saving the mountain and preserving the natural lands around it. What's the benefit for you to spend an hour or two (or more) a week volunteering for Save Mount Diablo? You work with people who are committed to the environment and probably think a lot like you. You'll work to help reach and achieve tangible goals. Goals that range from fundraising, community outreach, leading hikes, property maintenance, fence-mending (literally), trail-building, and yes, plenty of office work. Whatever your skill level or experience, we can use your help to continue our vital and successful work. There are lots of ways to help us and we'd love to get you involved. Please email Julie Seelen at [JSeelen@savemountdiablo.org](mailto:JSeelen@savemountdiablo.org) or call her at 925-947-3535, to volunteer.

*Here are some great ways to get involved:*

**Help with Events** - Help SMD get ready for an event or help event day. The three largest events are **Moonlight on the Mountain** - a dinner/auction fundraiser, the **Mount Diablo Challenge** - a bicycle event, and **Trail Adventure** - a hike/run event. Volunteer opportunities vary widely from registering participants, handing out t-shirts or awards, to auction item solicitation, pick-up and display preparation.

**Office Help** - Stuff an envelope - Save a mountain. One hour a week or more. Our over-worked office staff can use your help with the basics - stuffing envelopes, copying, archiving news articles, and related tasks. They like company.

**Follow-up Phone Calls** - Can you spend a half hour a week to make five phone calls? We need people to follow up with prospective, current, as well as new members, and to event participants. We give you a script and training - all you have to do is call.

**Coming soon:** Tabling at trailheads - Can you spare 3 hours on a Saturday or Sunday? We'll be setting up information tables at selected trailheads to talk to park users. People who access these trails, whether hikers, bikers, or equestrians, are already supporters of Mount Diablo, the Regional Parks, and natural lands surrounding the mountain. They may not know about Save Mount Diablo, but you will be there to tell them.

# Membership Matters

We are extremely grateful to our members who, through their generosity, have enabled us to continue our work of saving Mount Diablo.

Special thanks to new members who have joined as a result of the direct mail campaign we launched late last year. Over 425 people responded, joining at various membership levels and contributing over \$20,000. Special thanks to the PeopleSoft Creative Services team, for so generously donating their time to design such a powerful "call to membership". The campaign was so successful that we were able to fully use a \$15,000 matching grant from the San Francisco Foundation, meant to encourage new membership, in just 4 months!



Golden Eagle

Michael Sewell

## Summit Club

(\$1,000 or more)

**ABI Industries**  
**Blackhawk-Nunn AAC of Brentwood**  
**Braddock & Logan Group**  
**California State Society, NSDAR**  
**Carlson, Barbee & Gibson**  
**Chevron Industries, Inc.**  
**Concord Feed & Pet Supply**  
**Diablo Funding Group**  
**DK Associates**  
**East Bay Regional Park District**  
**ENGEO Inc**  
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**KB Home**  
**Lemke Construction Inc.**  
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**Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP**  
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 Burt Bogardus  
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 Rena Brantley  
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 Elizabeth Girgich  
 Charles Gresham  
 Ralph & Jo Ann Hanna  
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 Roger & Sue Lang  
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 Marian Scott  
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 Dana Sketchley  
 Richard & Sandra Smith  
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 Malcolm & Casey Sproul  
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 David & Deborah Trotter  
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 Peg & Steve Wilcox

## Peak Guardian

(\$500 or more)

**Affiliated Engineers**  
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**Delco Builders & Developers, Inc**  
**Jax Kneppers Associates, Inc.**  
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**Mills Associates**  
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 Ceasar Albert  
 Karl Bartle  
 Bryant & Inga Bennett  
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 Ralph Cotter, Jr.  
 Sally Dalton  
 Don de Fremery  
 Kaye Decker  
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Pitcher Sage (Scott Hein)

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 Susan Flaatt  
 Mary Flett Allmart  
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 William Robinson  
 Wayne Rudiger  
 Daniel & Janet Schalk  
 Henry Stauffer  
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 Frank & Barbara Varenchik  
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 Marilyn Wojcik

## Mountain Saver

(\$250 or more)

**Bunker & Company**  
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**Encina Bicycle Center**  
**Encina Bicycle Center**  
**Jeff Schwarck Construction**  
**Pegasus Development**  
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 Peter Hagen  
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 Delbert & Mary-Louise Hendrix  
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 Deborah & Steve Kaplan  
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 Leslie Wyatt  
 Milo Zarakov & Deborah Long

## Diablo Donor

(\$100 or more)

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**Alamo Women's Club**  
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**Butera Video Productions**  
**Consulting Civil Engineer**  
**Gail Murray Consulting**  
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**Jerry Marks Plumbing Co.**  
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**Orinda Hiking Club**  
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**Sierra Club - Mt. Diablo Group**  
**Studiostu**  
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 Rhonda Bartlett  
 Virginia Bary  
 Hunt & Patti Bascom  
 Mark & Silvia Belotz  
 Claude & Carol Benedix



Larkspur (Scott Hein)



# Membership Matters (Continued from pg 13)



Valley Oak (Scott Hein)

John & Kristin Bengston  
Lesley Benn  
James Benney  
Bennett Berke  
William Bernell  
Bruce & Sandra Beyaert  
Dick & Alice Biagi  
Patty Biasca  
Frank Blanchard  
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Margaret Bloisa  
Daniel Boatwright  
Andrei Boitor  
Adela & Norman Bonner  
Bruce & Iola Bordelon  
Earl & Lavon Bouse  
Don & Jeanne Boyd  
Emily Boyd  
William & Zanya Bradfield  
Edward & Patricia Brands  
Butch & Lynn Brear  
Peter & Waldy Breidbach  
Bradley & Lori Briegleb  
Jennifer Brodie  
Ray & Barbara Bronken  
Gary Brown  
Richard & Alice Brown  
John & Laurie Bruns  
Katherine & Fred Brunswig  
William & Suzette Burdt  
Dennis & Christina Butkowski  
Pam Butler  
Julie Cahill  
Kenneth & Janet Caldwell  
Sarah Anne Ginskey & Greg Caligari  
Elizabeth Callahan  
David & Janet Carlson  
Ginger Carpenter  
William & Deborah Carr  
Allison Carter  
Alice Castellanos  
Harvey & Phyllis Ceasar  
Gale Chapman  
Kris Chase  
Eric Chiang  
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Western bluebird (Scott Hein)

**All contributions were made from  
January 1, 2005 through  
July 31, 2005**

## DAR & SMD Dedicate Interpretive Kiosk

When Nancy Alexander was elected as the State Regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), one of her first acts was to contact Save Mount Diablo about a Conservation Project.

In consultation with SMD and the State Park, Nancy raised \$2000 to fund the construction and installation of an interpretive kiosk that would be placed in the lower parking lot at the summit of Mt. Diablo.

SMD Board member Sharon Walters coordinated the project for SMD and worked with Nancy, the state park staff and SMD volunteer David Frane. David constructed the kiosk that was installed on May 11.

The dedication on May 20 was attended by more than 30 DAR representative from all over the state.



Ron Brown, SMD's Executive Director; Dan Stefanisko, State Park Supervising Ranger; Nancy Alexander, State Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution; and Sharon Walters, Chair of SMD's Development Committee (Quentin Alexander)



Sue Schwartz, State Park Maintenance Supervisor; Wendy Martin, State Park Sector Maintenance Chief; Jess Beach, State Park Maintenance Worker help SMD's David Frane install the kiosk he built. (Seth Adams)

**s a v e MOUNT DIABLO**

**extends its thanks to the following  
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# MOONLIGHT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The 2005 event is being held on September 17. As of this pre-publication date in August, we are sold out at 450 participants. We thank this year's sponsors for so graciously supporting our efforts.

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Scott Hein

## ***Lighting of the summit's "Eye of Diablo"*** ***Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2005, sunset***

Since 1964, the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association has memorialized Pearl Harbor Day by turning on the summit beacon atop Mount Diablo. The "Eye of Diablo" as it's known, was extinguished in 1941 just after the attack. The beacon is lit at sunset and shines all night on this single night each year. The event begins each year at sunset and the public is invited to attend.

The "Eye" crowned Standard Oil's Standard Diablo (SD) tower, erected in 1928 to aid in the expansion of commercial aviation, and was transferred to the Summit Building after it was completed in 1942. Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, Commander in Chief of Pacific Forces during World War II, relit the beacon in 1964 for the first time and suggested it be lit every December 7 to honor those who served and sacrificed.

Former state park ranger Burt Bogardus, a recipient of SMD's 2005 Mountain Star award, is the only living person who knows how to run the beacon. After the historic aircraft beacon's aging electronics proved unreliable, Burt designed and built a remote control unit which is used for the annual December 7th event.

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## **Save Mount Diablo's Mission . .**

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

*In support of our mission, we:*

- Protect natural lands through purchases, gifts and cooperative efforts with public and private entities
- Educate the public regarding threats to the mountain's flora, fauna and rugged beauty, as well as

the history and heritage of the mountain and its surrounding foothills.

- Work with landowners to preserve their property and to ensure that they receive fair value in any transaction aimed at preserving their land.
- Work in partnership with Mt. Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, and other public and private entities to increase and manage public lands and to identify mitigation opportunities.
- Participate in the land use planning process for projects that could impact Mount Diablo and its surrounding foothills.

- Aid in the restoration of habitat and the protection of rare species.
- Offer technical advice to community and neighborhood groups regarding preservation of natural lands.
- Raise funds and sponsor events to build public awareness and to carry out our programs.
- Temporarily own and responsibly manage lands prior to their transfer to a public agency for permanent preservation.
- Encourage recreation and public enjoyment of Mount Diablo's park lands consistent with the protection of their natural resources.

**s a v e MOUNT DIABLO**

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