



DIABLO

w a t c h

Save Mount Diablo

Protecting the Mountain Since 1971

Fall 2006 No. 42

Young Canyon Protected !

Sisters' Gift Will Forever Preserve Family Ranch

Gilbert Young always said "I won the race I wanted." Gil was a high school track star in Nebraska in the late 1920's. He attended the University of Washington and then trained at the Olympic Club in Los Angeles, qualifying to attend the Olympic trials. Yet he gave up a chance at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Only the first two qualifiers got their tickets back east to the trials paid for so Gilbert, who came in third, paid his own way. He had grown up in Hastings, Nebraska, and stopped there on the way east to visit his high school sweetheart Phyllis, a school teacher from Aurora, who happened to be out on a date when he arrived. He decided to give up the Olympics and three days later they got married and then got on a train headed west. Their four kids, Pam, Penny, David and Sarah, were born over the next twelve years.



Young Canyon was preserved May 24th. View of Clayton & Concord. (Scott Hein)

In 1956 Gil and Phyl bought a 500 acre farm near Clayton-- "I have no idea how my dad talked my mother into it," said Sarah (Young) Shaeffer--part of which has since been added to Mt. Diablo State Park. On May 24th Save Mount Diablo preserved 18-acre Young Canyon, the family's last parcel on the mountain, half-way up North Peak. The property had been a high priority for decades because of its location and botanical significance.

The acquisition is precedent setting because, for the first time at Mt. Diablo, several landowners have donated their entire interest in a property. On September 2nd SMD recognized Sarah and David Shaeffer, and Pamela Young, as the first winners of Mountain Star Landowner awards.

The Very Slopes of North Peak

"We're always glad to work on projects on the north side of Diablo," said Malcolm Sproul, SMD President. "Many of our projects are on the east where most unprotected land is located. Large areas are still unprotected on the very slopes of the major peaks. The preservation of this property helps to fulfill the dream of our founder, botanist Mary Bowerman,

Young Canyon (cont. on page 6)

Mangini Ranch !

We're in the Home Stretch

Save Mount Diablo is close to acquiring the historic 208 acre Mangini Ranch, just off of Ygnacio Valley Road, near the Crystyl Ranch community in Concord. It would almost connect Lime Ridge Open Space and Mt. Diablo State Park. On February 28, 2005 we signed a deal with the Mangini family which gave us two years to complete the purchase.

The total price for the property is \$1.46 million. With a \$900,000 grant from the Coastal Conservancy, we're just \$100,000 short of completing this critical purchase, with just a few months until our deadline.

So where will the remaining \$100,000 for Mangini come from? Hopefully from people like you. On Sunday, October 8th *Contra Costa Times* columnist Gary Bogue began a campaign to raise the final \$100,000. We are trying to complete the fundraising for

this project by Thanksgiving-in time for Save Mount Diablo's 35th anniversary, on December 1, 2006.

On October 9th, the first donation showed up, a \$500 check. As we write this article other checks are arriving at our office. We also received two other extraordinary offers.

Your Donation Will Be Doubled or Tripled

The East Bay Regional Park District has money set aside for the California Riding & Hiking Trail, which ends at the Mangini Ranch gates. The District has offered a \$50,000 match for public donations. In addition the Walnut Creek Open Space Foundation is vitally interested in expanding Lime Ridge and in connecting that open space to Mt. Diablo State Park. The Foundation has offered another \$10,000 as a match for donations by Walnut Creek residents.

In short, if you donate toward Mangini your donation will be matched and doubled, up to \$50,000. If you're a Walnut Creek resident, it will be tripled, up to \$10,000. Donations can be sent marked "Mangini" to Save Mount Diablo, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

Mangini Ranch (cont. on page 9)

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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 89,000 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



From The Executive Director . . .

Dear Friends,

December 7, 2006 will mark the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of Save Mount Diablo. As we come close to this date, I have been thinking about this past year, as well as about what lies ahead for us, in our effort to realize the vision that Mary Bowerman and Art Bonwell had when they created our organization in 1971.

This has been a dramatic year for SMD, packed full of achievements and challenges, achievements and successes:

- We began the year by moving into our new (larger) offices. The new space not only upgraded our image, but in fact, it had a dramatically positive effect on the ways in which we are able to work - better work environment for our staff and more space for volunteers, plus easier access to important files and more storage.
- We have seen a big increase in the number of volunteers working in the office and Land Department and at our events.
- This year we published "*Speak of the Devil*" as a supplement to *Bay Nature* magazine (see story on page 4). We also received front page news coverage in the *Contra Costa Times* and in the *S.F. Chronicle*. Our *Mt. Diablo Bike Challenge* was the cover article in *Diablo* magazine's September issue, a large feature article and photo spread. Plus, we received significant additional media coverage on a variety of land use and acquisition projects--hundreds of articles.
- *Moonlight on the Mountain* and the *Diablo Challenge*, our two most recent fundraising events, netted over \$237,000 - roughly equal to our total expenses for the year 2000.
- Six years ago we had just three staff members. Shortly after the first of the year we hope to hire our sixth.
- In the past six years, total assets have grown from just over \$2 million to just over \$6 million - bear in mind that much of this is land waiting to be transferred to park agencies.
- This year we are making unprecedented contributions to state ballot measures (NO on 90 and YES on 84).
- Increasingly SMD is being perceived as a leading non-profit organization in Contra Costa County and within the statewide land conservation movement.
- In the Land arena: We hope to close escrow on a \$1.5 million acquisition (208 acre Mangini) before the end of the year--we're raising the last \$100,000 now--and we are currently negotiating on another similarly sized transaction. We helped to bring together the funding for the \$1.5 million Mt. Diablo Gateway conservation easement purchase and we just completed the sale of a \$500,000 agricultural easement on our Chaparral Spring property. Plus, we soon will be transferring the Morgan Red Corral to Mt. Diablo State Park.

SMD is preparing to enter a new era. With the assistance of the Harvard Business School Community Partners program we are starting a strategic planning process. During this process we will be challenging ourselves to think of things in different ways. We will be examining our priorities and objectives, and our methods for achieving our goals. Our organizational structures will be reevaluated - everything from how our Board and staff are structured, to how reactively or proactively we position ourselves in relation to land conservation and in how we generate funding.

While we conduct this planning process, we will need to continue our public relations and community outreach and educational efforts, and to further develop our fundraising efforts. We will need to continue our vigilance in monitoring land use applications in maintaining land owner relations and acquisition efforts. We expect to add greater capacity to our staff and to add highly skilled volunteers in order to remain responsive to the many land use opportunities and threats that arise.

When Art and Mary created SMD in 1971 their objective was clear - "Preserve Mt Diablo." Their vision of what it would take to achieve this goal was tempered by the knowledge, realities and threats of that era. As time has moved on, the vision of what needs to be accomplished to truly save Mount Diablo has evolved. The challenge for achieving their objective is still a long way from being realized. Today's threats to the mountain are different, but just as real. The landscape is larger and the costs for land are staggering compared to when they started protecting Mt. Diablo's natural lands.

If we view these challenges as opportunities, if we thoughtfully utilize the upcoming strategic planning process to rethink the ways in which we can achieve success, and if we continue to earn the support of our members, we will realize Mary and Art's vision.

We encourage you to let us know your thoughts about the work that we have accomplished in our 35 years. Let me know your ideas for ways in which we can expand upon our success, or what you are able and willing to do to help us in our effort to "Save Mount Diablo."

Contact me at rbrown@savemountdiablo.org.

Ron Brown

Sandra Hoover-Saul Bromberger



Mary Bowerman & Art Bonwell

Preserving the Mountain since 1971

Autumn on Diablo

November - December 2006

Events

Published By Save Mount Diablo

November

Sat, Nov. 11, 9:30am

Chaparral Spring hike & Heritage Trees (Save Mt. Diablo)

Leader: Burt Bassler 925 820-5816; lebasler@yahoo.com

Meet at Three Springs Entry, east of Clayton on Marsh Creek Rd. 2.2 miles east of Regency Dr. Look for the "Divide Tanks" sign underneath the high tension power lines.

Join Burt for this 3-4 hour loop through SMD's Chaparral Spring property, especially if you're interested in adopting or visiting a heritage tree or grove. Chaparral Spring is not open to the public so this is a special opportunity. Moderate hike, approximately 3-4 hours, heavy rain cancels.

Sun, Nov. 12, 10:30am-12:30pm

SMD's Wright Canyon (Save Mt. Diablo)

Leader: Warren Tighe 925-787-3251, John Gallagher 925 200-9102

Meet east of Clayton on the west side of Morgan Territory Road, 2 miles south of Marsh Creek Rd, just before Curry Canyon.

Join Warren (member of SMD's Stewardship Committee and the East Bay Trail Dogs) for an interesting history and great Diablo peak views. Moderate 2 mile hike up a riparian canyon to "The Gathering Place" a Wright family monument. SMD preserved Wright Canyon in 2001. The property is not open to the public so this is a special opportunity. Heavy rain cancels, please be aware of Daylight Savings time change.

Sat., Nov. 18, 9:00 am

Cowell Ranch State Park (Save Mt. Diablo)

Leader: Ken Dyleski 925 518-1228, kendyleski@msn.com

Meet at the Round Valley staging area, on Marsh Creek Road - 1.6 miles east of Deer Valley Road between Clayton and Brentwood. Brand new 4000 acre Cowell Ranch State Park isn't yet open to the public, and will be the subject of a Management Plan this year. Join SMD Stewardship Comm member Ken Dyleski for a preview of this new Park. Hike through Briones Valley and learn about John Marsh, Contra Costa County's first U.S. settler, and the interesting history of Rancho Los Meganos. Incredible birding. Ken recently mapped an exciting addition to the 30-mile Diablo Trail-if two small gaps can be preserved it will be possible to hike the 60-mile Diablo Grand Loop. Moderate hike, 4-5 mile loop, approx. 4 hours. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen. Heavy rain cancels.

Sun, Nov. 19, 9:00 am

Visit SMD's New Young Canyon Property (Save Mt. Diablo)

Leader: Scott Hein, 925 671-0401

Meet at the Clayton Library, at 6125 Clayton Road

Join Scott Hein, Board Member & Chair-SMD Land Committee, for a preview of Young Canyon, our newest acquisition, on the slopes of North Peak (see cover article). Great

botany, interesting history, spectacular views. Easy hike, approx. 2-3 hours, 2 miles, heavy rain cancels.

December

Th., Dec. 7, one hour before sunset

The Eye of Diablo: Lighting of the Pearl Harbor Beacon

Pearl Harbor Survivors Association

Meet at the Mt. Diablo Summit

The Standard Diablo Tower was built in 1928, its huge beacon used to encourage commercial aviation by allowing night flights. Later the beacon, which had become known as the "Eye of Diablo" was transferred to the new Summit Museum building. It was turned off after Pearl Harbor in 1941. On Dec. 7, 1964 it was lit again, for just one night in honor of the survivors of Pearl Harbor in what has become an annual tradition. By chance Save Mount Diablo's first meeting was on Dec. 7, 1971. As a result of the confluence of dates and interest in the mountain, we now help support the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association by encouraging attendance at the annual lighting ceremony. Please be aware that space inside the museum is limited; most attendees simply stand outside. Dress very warmly.

Sat, Dec 16 (Central County)

Wed., Dec 20 (East County)

Annual Central Contra Costa Christmas Bird Count (Mt. Diablo Audubon Society)

Leader: Maury Stern 925-284-5980 or Jim Edgar 510-658-2330

Mt. Diablo Audubon Society will sponsor the annual central Contra Costa Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, Dec 16, 2006. This is the 107th annual Christmas Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society & the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's 54th count. All level of bird watchers are invited to participate on various sections of Mt. Diablo, including Mitchell Canyon, North Gate Road, the Summit, Pine Canyon, & South Gate Road. A compilation dinner will be held after sunset to talk about the birds seen during the day. For info, call: Maury Stern (925) 284-5980 or Jim Edgar (510) 658-2330

January

Sat, Jan. 27, 9:30 am

Mary Bowerman Trail Dedication & Walk (Save Mt. Diablo)

Leader: Susan D'Alcamo, 925 283-3302

Meet at the trailhead, Lower Summit lot just before the last section of road climbs to Mt. Diablo's peak.

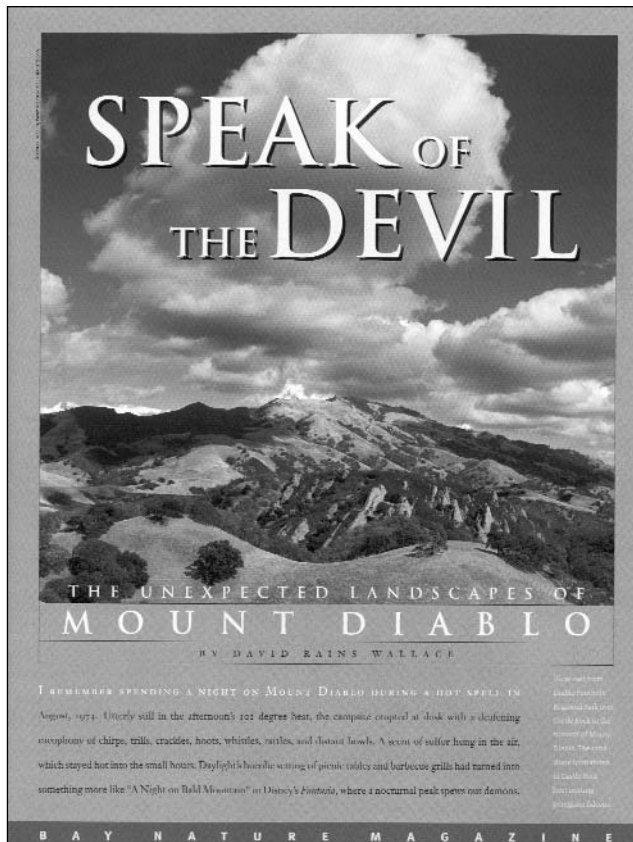
Join SMD for a short dedication event and Susan, a former SMD Board member and native plant expert, for a walk on Diablo's summit "necklace" trail. Both are to honor SMD founder & botanist Mary Bowerman (b. 1-25-1908, d. 8-21-2005). Mary began her research on the mountain in 1930, influencing the creation of Mt. Diablo State Park, then co-founded Save Mount Diablo in 1971.

The trail is being renamed in her honor. Great botany and amazing views. Easy hike, approximately 2 hours, 2 miles, heavy rain cancels the hike only.



Autumn on Diablo
Generously underwritten by
Chevron





SMD commissioned this Bay Nature magazine centerpiece insert.

Circle Mount Diablo's Peak The Summit Loop Hike

By David Rains Wallace

As part of our 35th Anniversary, SMD commissioned and David Rains Wallace wrote "Speak Of The Devil: The Unexpected Landscapes of Mount Diablo" a 16-page centerpiece to the July-September Bay Nature magazine. This hike description is included in the insert, which was created with major funding by Bob & Kris Nunn and Save Mount Diablo, and additional support by the Coastal Conservancy, the Strong Foundation, Close to Home, and the Friends of Bay Nature.

Wallace, whose writing has been compared to that of Henry David Thoreau and John Muir, is the Berkeley-based author of many natural history books, including *Beasts of Eden* (2004) and *The Klamath Knot* (1983, reissued 2003). His next book, *Neptune's Ark: From Ichthyosaurs to Orcas*, is about marine evolution on the West Coast, and will be published by UC Press in 2007.

Bay Nature info at www.baynature.com. For a copy of "Speak Of The Devil" please call SMD at 925 947-3535.

This strenuous 6.5-mile hike circumambulates Mount Diablo's summit, and traverses many of the mountain's geological and botanical features. When I was there in

early April 2006, the air was startlingly clear, and the snowy masses of the Sierra Nevada and Mount Lassen floated all along the eastern and northern horizons, while the watery realm of the Delta seemed close enough to touch.

The clear air also provided a stunning view of the urbanization that besets the mountain, not only to the west, where most towns are, but on all sides, including the Central Valley, where massive blocks of new housing looked odd among bright green fields and pastures.

The hike starts at the summit's lower parking lot, and follows the Summit Trail southeast to Devil's Elbow, then keeps turning left around the summit via the North Peak Trail to Prospector's Gap, the Bald Ridge Trail, the Meridian Ridge Road, and

Deer Flat Road to Juniper Camp, returning to the parking lot via the Juniper Trail. (There is a total climb of 1,820 feet, much of it steep and rocky.)

The trails pass over the Jurassic and Cretaceous deposits that Whitney identified in 1865. Tectonic pressures have squeezed and twisted the rocks into such tortured shapes it is hard to imagine their origin on the flat Pacific ocean floor. Impressive red outcrops of radiolarian chert dominate at Devil's Pulpit. Slick green serpentinite along the Deer Flat trail originated when plate movements scraped up mantle material and mixed it with ocean water before squeezing it up toward the surface.

Undersea eruptions created the greenish, dome-shaped pillow basalts visible along the Juniper Trail.

Myriad variations of chaparral occur on the rocky, exposed summit, so the hike is a great chance to get acquainted with it and its odd creatures. When I started through the heavy brush along the Summit Trail, a California thrasher ran in front of me, a shy, long-billed bird that lives only in chaparral. It sings like the mockingbird, to which it is closely related.

There's also a chance of seeing rarer creatures like the endangered Alameda whip-snake, an extraordinarily slender snake that flashes past almost before you can see it.

Shrub species are surprisingly diverse, from scattered clumps of California sagebrush, creambush, and poison oak to dense, tall tangles of scrub oak, silktassel, and buckbrush. Another common shrub in the chaparral on the peak's north side is hop tree, a mildly allergenic relative of poison oak with hop-shaped fruits and lime-green, tripartite leaves.

The summit's exposed, rocky terrain challenges other plant communities, forcing them to adapt. Their foliage shifts and whispers uneasily in the relentless summit winds. Only a few riparian plants like bigleaf maple have been able to grow along the steep creeks, which are virtual waterfalls in spring, but dry stony staircases for most of the year. The broadleaf-sclerophyll community occupies shady spots, but wind and shallow soil stunt the laurels and canyon live oaks into a dwarf forest. The deciduous oak-pine community occurs as scattered trees, with drought-resistant pines and another gymnosperm, western juniper, predominating over oaks.

Sparse grasslands on exposed ridges and unstable slopes feature many native wildflowers because the poor soil discourages exotics. Flower displays change from day to day. Baby blue eyes and goldfields were common on my April walk. A hiker a few weeks later reported bright patches of gold-embush and California poppy, with wiry bird's-eye giliae carpeting some sites.

Many flowers seem to grow happily from bare rock. In early spring, bright orange-yellow wallflowers, related to wild mustard, occupy sandstone outcrops, and miniature gardens of pink-flowered Claytonia (a relative of miner's lettuce) and Allium (wild onion) brighten scree fields. In summer, yellow sulfur buckwheat and scarlet hummingbird fuchsia bloom profusely despite infernal temperatures.



Coyote, by Michael Sewell, visualpursuit.com



Scott Hein, www.heinphoto.com

Malcolm Sproul at Moonlight on the Mountain

Celebrating 35 Years of Saving Mount Diablo By Malcolm Sproul, President, Save Mount Diablo

*Delivered at Moonlight on the Mountain,
Save Mount Diablo's 35th Anniversary
event on September 2, at Mt. Diablo State
Park's China Wall, above the Macedo
Ranch staging area in Alamo.*

In 1971 Mary Bowerman and Art Bonwell convened a small group of individuals and Save Mount Diablo was born. There was just one park on Diablo at the time, 6,788 acre Mt. Diablo State Park. The only way to get there was to drive up one of the two roads, half-way up the mountain before you reached the park.

Today, thirty five years later, there are twenty-nine parks and preserves around Mt. Diablo, most of them connected to each other and totaling almost 90,000 acres. We've helped to expand the State Park down the mountain's slopes and there are more than seven hundred miles of trails, and over a hundred trail heads and staging areas the public can use to reach the mountain.

Such accomplishments take place step by step, a piece at a time.

In May, SMD protected the Young Canyon property, crossed by a band of serpentine on the mountain and home to five rare plant species.

The Humphrey Ranch project includes ten acres for Monte Vista High School, twenty-three acres of development and sixty-two acres that have been preserved. Humphrey also helped pay to preserve two other areas.

This month, after eight years of work, we will close escrow on the Mt. Diablo Gateway property conservation easement, at the Northgate entrance to Mt. Diablo State Park. Gateway includes plans for a new staging area, trails and an equestrian center. 150 acres of our Chaparral Spring property east of Clayton will be protected by a con-

servation easement at the same time and we have just completed construction there of a new trail to Keller Ridge.

Next month we will start a campaign to raise the last \$100,000 for the 208 acre Mangini Ranch, almost bridging the gap between Mt. Diablo State Park and Lime Ridge Open Space. We expect to complete the Mangini Ranch purchase before the end of the year.

We've just gotten the go-ahead to transfer our Morgan Red Corral property to the State Park too. Our allies, especially the East Bay Regional Park District, are working to protect several other parcels around Mt. Diablo. In total 473 acres have been protected this year including seven miles of new trail.

Despite the lands we have protected, construction projects threaten thousands of acres. This year SMD has responded to twenty-one different development proposals. Some of them will be improved to include large parcels of preserved land. Many developers are just as interested in preserving our quality of life as we are, and it is important to recognize that thousands of acres will be preserved to help balance what's built. SMD helps to define what's important and to achieve that balance.

Two weeks ago our efforts helped to convince the City of Pittsburg to back off from two hasty development projects in that city. We'll be closely involved in helping to assure the protection of sensitive areas at the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

A thousand cyclists are expected to climb the mountain during SMD's Mt. Diablo Challenge on Oct. 1st and hundreds of hikers and runners will participate in our Mt. Diablo Trail Adventure on November 5th. Some years ago we completed the 30 mile Diablo Trail across six Diablo parks. If just two more parcels can be acquired we can complete a northern loop from one end of the Diablo Trail back to its beginning; a sixty mile trail circling the mountain which we're calling the Diablo Grand Loop.

Before the end of 2006 we will publish the first comprehensive regional trail map of the Mt. Diablo region, including both of these trails.

Funding for those missing pieces and many others may come from Prop. 84 on the November ballot, the largest resource protection bond in the Nation's history. The same ballot includes an incredibly deceptive measure, Prop. 90 the so-called "Protect our Homes Initiative" which would reverse many of the growth management policies

California, its counties and cities have adopted. Please vote YES on Prop. 84 and NO on Prop. 90.

Last year's rediscovery of the Mt. Diablo buckwheat was made even better in 2006 by successful propagation of the plant, pulling the species several steps back from the brink of extinction. We've just received approval from the state to rename the summit's fire interpretive trail for our founder Mary Bowerman, who passed away a year ago August. We helped fund an aerial telemetry study of prairie falcons to better understand where additional preservation should be directed.

As part of this year's 35th anniversary we commissioned Speak of the Devil, a 16 page centerpiece to the current Bay Nature magazine and the best article ever written about Mt. Diablo-when you leave tonight you'll find a copy in your gift bag.

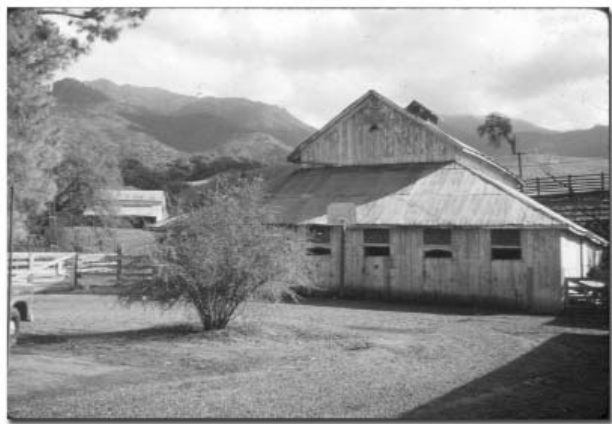
Ron Brown, our Executive Director, is also chairman of the Bay Area Open Space Council, which recently announced that the Bay Area has protected more than a million acres-nearly 10% of them around Mt. Diablo. The Council is coordinating efforts to protect another million acres and SMD's work will contribute to that next million-and to the preservation of our quality of life.

You might ask, how much land do we need to save? SMD is not just saving land for residents of California in the year 2006. The U.S. population is projected to grow 50% in the next half century, and in California to increase from 37 million today to 55 million in 2050.

Let me restate the question in the words of Wallace Stegner: "How much wilderness do the wilderness lovers want? The answer is easy: Enough so that there will be in the years ahead a little relief, a little quiet, a little relaxation, for any of our increasing millions who need and want it." We're saving land for its intrinsic value, for its beauty, for wildlife and recreation, and for you to enjoy. Most of all, we're saving it for our children, and our children's children.

On Wednesday, we will ask SMD's Board of Directors to authorize an offer on a new property. We could not accomplish all of these things without your help, that of our Board, staff, volunteers, sponsors and donors. We cannot accomplish them without your ongoing generosity.

Thank you very much for coming tonight to help Save Mount Diablo celebrate 35 years of helping to preserve the mountain, and to kick off our next 35 years.



Circle Y (Young) Ranch below North Peak in April 1960, with Young Canyon above in shadows. (courtesy of the Shaeffer family)

Young Canyon (Continued from page 1)

that the North Peak serpentine area on the mountain be protected. It was very important to her."

Young Canyon is sandwiched between Mt. Diablo State Park and the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Assoc.'s property on North Peak's slopes. It's small but very rich botanically and crossed by a heavily used horse trail. It drops from a high 1420' knoll near an area called Cardinet Oaks--with incredible views down the Clayton Valley to Suisun Bay--into a mossy, fern-filled stream canyon, then slopes back up to a rocky meadow of wildflowers. Breezes there never seem to stop. Hawks call and turkey vultures float by on thermals.

The meadow is just a few hundred feet wide, studded with strange green rocks that look like a snake's skin and as a result are called "serpentine." They're mildly toxic and often associated with rare plant species that have evolved to tolerate them. The Young property is crossed by the only band of serpentine on Mt. Diablo. That's why Bowerman started visiting the property in the 1930s and kept returning, decade after decade.

Most Beautiful Jewel Flower

For years Gilbert and Phyllis weren't interested in selling. They had ideas about building a house near a large outcropping of serpentine but never did. Every few years SMD would write them and inquire about their plans, with little response, until June last year.

Sarah Shaeffer called from Southern California, where she has lived since the mid-1970's with her husband Dave, who manages housing construction projects, and their two sons Zach and Adam. She had found us on the internet and wondered

whether we'd be interested in a parcel above Clayton. She, her brother, and two sisters had inherited it from their parents in 1999 but the siblings didn't get around to considering what to do with the Young Canyon property until September 2004. Sarah, her husband Dave, and her sister Pamela Young wanted to see the property preserved, but her other sister and brother wanted to sell it.

Botanists surveyed the property for SMD in July 2006 and, although it was late in the season when many plants have died or gone to seed, they identified 123 species including five rare ones, all five endemic (limited) to California. They are: Most Beautiful Jewel



Most Beautiful Jewel-Flower

flower (*Streptanthus albidus* subsp. *peramoenus*) not to be confused with the Mt. Diablo Jewel Flower; Brewer's Dwarf Flax (*Hesperolinon breweri*); and Contra Costa Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* subsp. *laevigata*), which is restricted to Mt. Diablo and Morgan Territory.

Not endangered but rare in the East Bay are Griffin's bellflower (*Campanula griffinii*) and California thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *californicum*). The property is habitat for the threatened Alameda whipsnake and the many rock outcroppings shelter Northern Pacific rattlesnakes. Trail Ride members frequently see coyote and bobcat, and have reported a mountain lion in recent months.

"Young Canyon is critical for many reasons," said Ron Brown SMD's Executive Director. "It includes unique geologic and botanical resources, it's in a prominent high elevation location on the slopes of North Peak that overlooks a valley that houses a significant population. Residents who live in sight of North Peak look up and appreci-

ate the views from their side of the mountain."

"Most people believe that all of the visible slopes are protected portions of the State Park. They're shocked to learn that what they believe is already protected is not and could be the target for future development. By protecting Young Canyon we have a chance to educate people of what's still at stake that, in fact, Mount Diablo is not saved. Rather, we must all work diligently and speedily if we really are going to save Mount Diablo.

A Little Piece of Heaven

"My parents owned 500 acres along Marsh Creek Road that extended up the mountain," said Sarah. "My dad was interested in farming the walnuts on the property. We had sheep, cattle and walnuts. We initially moved into a little ranch house that was many sheds that had been pushed together after the original farmhouse had burned down, near where Regency Drive is, along the creek with the eucalyptus trees. Previously there had been a winery on the property."

"We were in Clayton from when I was 4 and I think my dad sold the properties to the Seminary {the Claretian religious order had a school on a knoll above Clayton} when I was twelve, but kept four acres that they built a house on, and kept the eighteen acres {Young Canyon}. We probably lived in that house for six years then they sold that and moved into Concord. One story I have about my mom, we had a lot of tarantulas at that first farm, and I can remember her chasing them away with a broom, and once there was a rattler curled up on our front porch."

"I rode my horse all over the mountain and love the whole mountainside. I really disliked the idea of houses being built on



Pam Young and Sarah (Young) Shaeffer at Young Canyon on Sept. 3, 2006. (Seth Adams)



Young Canyon below North Peak & Mt. Diablo. (Scott Hein)

Young Canyon *(cont. from page 6)*

the mountain at all, especially on our property. I like that I can go up there and not hear the lawnmower next door, or helicopters, I can see nature as God created it. It was a little piece of heaven, beauty as God created without us intruding on it."

"I was up there in 1990 for my high school reunion and we drove out along Marsh Creek Road. It was the first time I'd ever seen the new housing developments there and when we left I said, 'I don't want to come back'."

Let's Do Something That Could Live on Forever

Gilbert and Phyllis started their own company, working together in oil distribution. They owned a couple of service stations, and would deliver gas first for Texaco, and Exxon. Then they moved into town and Gil sold real estate. When they retired from the oil business, they bought several Hallmark stores and moved to Santa Rosa. Phyllis passed away in 1996 and Gilbert in 1999, at ages 84 and 87, respectively.

According to Pam, who left for college the same year her parents bought the Clayton property and later moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she owns a costume shop, "I grew up in Pittsburg and lived in Mt. Diablo's shadow. We went up for picnics and I remember my dad taking us up to play in the snow. I remember trying to take a hike to the top and we never made it."

As a girl riding her horse all over the mountain, Sarah was independent and determined. "I had just graduated from high school," said Pam. "I was seventeen or eighteen when my family moved to Clayton. Sarah and I are very close--I used to call her 'my little cowgirl.' I left for college that fall and Sarah started kindergarten...she could see no reason to go to kindergarten, she wanted to go to college

with me." That determination and the close relationship between the two sisters would prove crucial.

"We inherited the property in 1999," said Sarah. "There was other real estate that my brother was busy selling, he didn't pursue this one until the last. When my brother started talking about selling, I said we better go up there and see if I feel the same way, and I did. When he first

called, he said 'you don't have enough money to buy this, this is an expensive piece of property, people are going to pay big money to build houses on it,' and I thought, I think not. That's when I determined to try to do something. I went online and started researching, just googling Mt. Diablo and Save Mount Diablo popped up."



Gil, Pam & Phyl Young, 1941. (c. Pam Young)

"I was thinking that we should protect the property," said Pam, "but probably Sarah said it first. I thought that could be the greatest gift that I could give, something that could be free and wild forever. I hope it will. I thought what am I going to do with the money, I don't need the money? I'm happy to live in a little old house. I don't have to build a mansion. I didn't see any reason to be greedy about it. We had enough, let's do something that could live on forever."

SMD Had My Same Interests At Heart

"From the first time I called," said Sarah, "I just felt very comfortable with the organization. I spoke to Seth {Seth Adams, SMD's Director of Land Programs} and that feeling was doubled, that SMD had the philosophy that I was interested in, it had my same interests at heart. I was just really impressed with how they all went to bat for us, gave us support, recommended people

to talk with, they were all helpful. Save Mount Diablo was very understanding about our situation."

In late August 2005 the Shaeffers hiked the property with SMD. Water and electric services are adjacent to the site but Young Canyon's value is limited by a lack of access. Options included dividing the property between the siblings so that part could be donated, and part sold for development, but neither the Shaeffers nor SMD were thrilled with that option. "Probably just a few houses could be built," said Adams, "but that was our nightmare--big houses halfway up the mountain, right on top of the serpentine meadow and the rare plants."

Feelings were sometimes strained between the siblings. Numerous conference calls took place, and an appraisal was jointly funded by the Shaeffers, Pam Young and SMD. "Dave was my biggest supporter," said Sarah, "...and it's a little ironic in that he's in construction, it's his business to build houses, but he understood exactly how I felt about it and he went to bat for me. There were a lot of times I couldn't talk to my brother about it and I had to put the phone down. Dave would take over and tell them how I felt. He was a lot more reasonable and less emotional. It couldn't have been done without him."

The Mary Bowerman Bequest

Eventually a deal was made. Using \$300,000 in Save Mount Diablo funding--part of a bequest Mary Bowerman left to SMD when she passed away last year and \$50,000 in unrestricted funds that had been devoted to the Mangini Ranch purchase (see related article, page 1)--Sarah and her husband Dave, and her sister Pam, acquired the two quarters owned by two other siblings and passed them onto SMD.

Young Canyon (cont. on page 8)



"Mystery, Rocket and I" Sarah Young Shaeffer, age 7 in 1960. According to Pam Young, "Our grandma would just have fits 'that little girl out there with those big horses.'" (c. Pam Young)



Serpentine meadow at Young Canyon, June 2005 (Scott Hein)

Young Canyon (Cont. from page 7)

Simultaneously they donated their own two quarters. The deal represents not only a donation of Sarah's and Dave's & Pam's half of the property, but also a decrease in the tax benefit they would otherwise gain.

"We always feel good when we meet landowners such as Sarah, Dave and Pam," said Brown. "They're people who grew up on the mountain and appreciate the natural beauty and resources of their land. Together we were able to save a small piece of the world and, in the process, to be role models for other landowners about our collective responsibilities for protecting Mt. Diablo for future generations."

"We really appreciate the family for making this donation and allowing this property to

be preserved," said Sproul. "It's their generosity that made this all come about. The fact that they believed that Young Canyon should be protected and that they wanted to find a way to do it."

"It makes so much more sense for the property to be public," said Dave Shaeffer, "not end up with a development that's an eyesore. I was always a bit flabbergasted that everybody didn't

feel that way. I was impressed with how intent Sarah was on trying to preserve it yet still maintain good relationships with her siblings. That certainly was tested sometimes by the exercise of trying to finally get it done. It was fortunate that Pam was interested in preserving it too, because Sarah could never have done it by herself. With two siblings on either side there was a chance of reaching a middle ground. I'm thrilled."

"I feel wonderful, I feel like there's a big weight off my shoulders," said Sarah. "We don't have a warm cozy feeling among the siblings but things will come around eventually. I never thought we could solve this amicably, I thought we would lose our



Gil & Phyl Young at his 80th Birthday party, December 1, 1991. (courtesy of Pam Young)

relationship or I would have to give up the mountain. I really, really appreciate Save Mount Diablo's help."

Take a Hike at Young Canyon

Young Canyon is not normally accessible to the public until Save Mount Diablo can transfer the property to Mt. Diablo State Park, however we will lead a hike on the property this fall on November 19th. See the Autumn on the Mountain events schedule for more information.



Estate Planning . . . Remember SMD

A bequest to Save Mount Diablo can be accomplished with a simple statement in your will, or in a codicil to an existing will, or a revocable/living trust.

For example, you may make a specific bequest:

"I give and bequeath to Save Mount Diablo, Walnut Creek, California, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the general purposes of the organization."

OR a residual bequest:

"I give and bequeath to Save Mount Diablo, Walnut Creek, California, ____% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate for the general purposes of the organization."

If you wish, you may designate that your gift be used specifically for land programs and acquisition, advocacy, education, or endowment for operating expenses.

It May Sound Too Good to be True . . . But it Really is True

The Charitable Gift Annuity program is a way to support Save Mount Diablo and at the same time receive a generous, fixed income - guaranteed for life.

Here's how a Charitable Gift Annuity works:

You make an irrevocable donation of cash or appreciated securities. Through a trustee bank (arranged by SMD) the annuity guarantees payment of a fixed amount for life to you or other beneficiaries. After the death of the donor or beneficiaries, 75% of the remainder of the gift goes to SMD.

The benefits to you are:

- An immediate tax deduction from current income for a portion of the gift
- Fixed income, guaranteed for life (which is partially tax free), and is usually greater than can be received from money markets, CDs or stock dividends

- Avoidance of capital gain taxes if donating appreciated assets
- Reduction of potential estate taxes

And, best of all, a Charitable Gift Annuity is extremely simple to set up.

Annuity Payment Amount: The amount of the yearly annuity payment depends on the size of the gift (\$10,000 minimum), the donor's age, and current annuity rates.

To learn more, please contact SMD Board member, Burt Bassler at 925.820.5816 or <lbassler@yahoo.com> .

Do you have a used car that you want to donate? If so, call Car Donation Services at 925-229-5444 and tell them that you want to donate your vehicle - **for the benefit of Save Mount Diablo**. All paperwork and vehicle pick-up will be taken care of quickly and professionally. After liquidation of the vehicle, SMD will receive a cash donation that will represent your charitable contribution.



Save Mount Diablo needs just \$100,000 to protect the Mangini Ranch (Scott Hein)

Mangini Ranch (cont. from page 1)

Any funds raised beyond the \$100,000 will be used for SMD's next land purchase.

The Mangini family has had offers from numerous developers over the years and it's miraculous that the property has survived. This is our chance to protect this amazing and spectacular place.

Leveraging Funds

If you've followed the story, however, you might remember from our last newsletter - we reported that we were just \$50,000 from completing the deal. What happened?

The answer is in the article about the Young Canyon property (page 1). SMD was presented with a brief opportunity to protect Young Canyon on the slopes of North Peak, and we reallocated a final \$50,000 in unrestricted funds from Mangini to that property's protection. As we

frequently do, we leveraged our funds to protect more than one property at a time.

Spectacular Property

Mangini is the headwaters of Galindo Creek, rising to Lime Ridge and toward Mt. Zion. Its habitat--grassland, stream canyons, a pond, three springs, blue oak woodland, chaparral, oak savannah--shelters a lot of wildlife. Its huge oaks are centuries old.

The Ranch includes many rare species: the northernmost stand of desert olive, rare Hospital Canyon larkspur, Jepsons coyote thistle, threatened Alameda whipsnake and

rare horned lizards. It's a historic location for the Mt. Diablo buckwheat which was thought extinct until it was rediscovered last year.

Mangini has high ridgeline views of most of central county and to Marin, Sonoma and Solano. Its fire roads would provide beautiful loop trails.

A short walk through Crystyl Ranch's open space along Galindo Creek and up the California Riding and Hiking Trail, and cars and radios fade into birdsong. Climbing to the ridgeline you're transported a hundred years back into the area's cattle ranching history.

This is your chance to ensure that the pastoral landscape of the Mangini Ranch, its spectacular views, recreational trails and amazing wildlife habitat will be protected forever.

We owe a great debt of thanks to Gary Bogue and the Contra Costa Times, who have helped SMD and other non-profits countless times over the years. We'll pass your notes and letters on to Gary. Please thank him for us.

Hike Mangini

In the spring, SMD will lead public hikes on Mangini to thank donors. You'll receive more info in the next issue of *DiabloWatch*. Thanks in advance for your support.



Harry Silcocks @ td_harry@earthlink.net

An old pickup truck removed from a stream bank at the Morgan Red Corral property.

100 Miles of Barbed Wire Mt. Diablo Trash Removal Project

Last year Save Mount Diablo honored Rich McDrew and Burt Bogardus of the Mt. Diablo Trash Removal Project, sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, with Mountain Star Stewardship Awards.

The project has frequently aided Mt. Diablo State Park, and SMD with clean up of properties before we pass them on to public agencies. They've removed old fences, cleaned up old lumber at Wright Canyon, demolished old cattle corrals and

picked up trash at Mangini Ranch, even cut up and removed an old pickup truck buried in a stream bank at the Morgan Red Corral.

Thanks to Rich McDrew and Burt Bogardus for compiling the following statistics on the TRP's accomplishments to date:

Materials removed: 520,305 ft. (98.54 miles) of single strand wire (most fences are 5-strand--but they may be 3--7 strands); 7,350 fence posts (both wood and metal); 59,450 lbs. of scrap metal (nearly 30 tons); and 23,070 board feet of scrap lumber.

Volunteer hours total, from 2001 to present: 6,721. Primary groups involved: Boy Scouts of America, East Bay Trail Dogs, De La Salle and Athenian School students. Twelve young men have satisfied the requirement for Eagle Scout by completing barbed wire removal projects.

Help Clean Up Mt. Diablo

If you love open space, helping the Trash Project is a way to help restore it. Contact Burt Bogardus 925 820-2347, burt.bogardus@sbcglobal.net for info.

Trail Work

You can volunteer to work on trail construction and maintenance projects in parks around the East Bay, including Save Mount Diablo properties and Diablo's parks.

Each trail project is coordinated by the East Bay Trail Dogs. If you love trails, here's a way to give a little back. Check <www.traildogs.org> for project dates. For more info, including exact locations and meeting time, contact Harry Silcocks - 925-443-3925, td_harry@earthlink.net.



Harry Silcocks @ td_harry@earthlink.net

A pickup truck in a pickup truck & Burt Bogardus - After being cut up with torches, the old pickup is loaded into a pickup to be taken to the San Ramon recycling center.

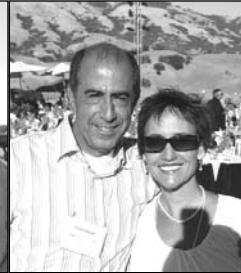


Diablo Celebrated

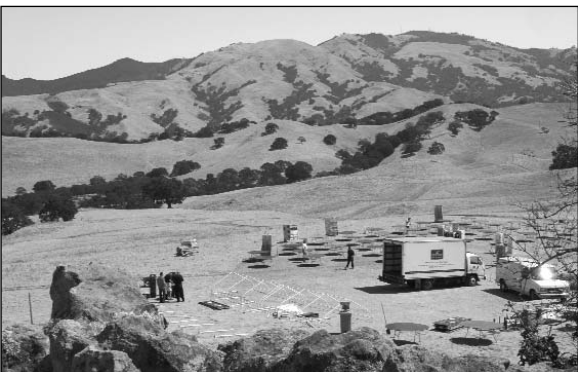
Moonlight on the Mountain

September 2, 2006

450 guests attended this year's *Moonlight* event, honored Mountain Star award winners the California Coastal Conservancy; Sarah & Dave Shaeffer, and Pam Young, and participated in live and silent auctions. The anniversary and fundraiser is held at Mt. Diablo State Park's China Wall above Alamo's Macedo Ranch. The Event's named sponsor was the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 302; the co-event sponsor was Chevron, and the the Mountain Star Awards' sponsor was Blackhawk-Nunn. SMD netted more \$175,000 for its land conservation programs.



(down & then left-right) The Moon rises over Mt. Diablo State Park's China Wall; The Sun Kings, a Beatles cover band, provided entertainment for the evening; Dining under the lights and stars; Mike Yarbrough from IBEW, the named Event Sponsor, and Ron Brown; Fred and Susan Safipour, Susan is the Editor of *Diablo* magazine, one of SMD's Media Sponsors; Caron and Larry Kavanaugh and Dana Dornsife, SMD's Moonlight Event Chair; Concord Mayor and new County Supervisor Susan Bonilla and Lech Naumovich of CNPS; Hallie Hart and Andrea Stephens; Allyson Husted, Melissa Backshall and Lisa Evans; Paige D'Angelo, Chief of Staff for County Supervisor Mary Piepho, San Ramon Mayor H. Abram Wilson, Matt Lonner of Chevron, the Co-Event Sponsor, Carol Rawley; Kenneth and Elizabeth Pelletier; Karina Jostal, Cliff Walker, Denise and Scott Banachowski. (Below) Set up at the site; guests take a look at Silent Auction items.



Photos

(pages 10-12)

**Scott Hein
David Ogden**

and
**Seth Adams
Greg Francisco
Julie Seelen**



Diablo Celebrated

Mount Diablo Challenge

October 1, 2006

The 25th Mt. Diablo Challenge (a 10.8 mile ride starting in Danville & climbing 3,249 feet to the summit) netted \$57,000. 1,104 cyclists participated & enjoyed food & beverages at the summit courtesy of sponsors including Jamba Juice. Robert Anderson, 51, Mill Valley, was overall winner, 47:28; Jenny Slawta, 42, Medford, OR, first woman, 54:43; #1 unicycle was Beau Hoover, Los Gatos, 1:22:30; #1 tandem Harold & Merry Reimer, 1:02:02; youngest finisher was Trey Holterman, 6, Hillsborough, 2:03:03. Oldest rider Morris Fraser, 80, Walnut Creek, 2:11:41. Fastest team was the Pegasus team. Special thanks to volunteers, the Valley Spokesmen, SRVFPD Communications truck & Amateur Radio volunteers, CCC Sheriff's Search & Rescue & MDSP Rangers.



David Brink & John Gallagher, tandem team w/ Julie Seelen, SMD's event coordinator; SMD's Exec. Dir. Ron Brown & Jamba Juice's CEO Paul Clayton; Christopher Randall at the Summit; 6-year old Trey Holterman with MC Dave Zorich & Dylan Drummond, 10; Kevin Chang; unicyclists Steve Nash, Beau Hoover, Irene Genelin & Nathan Hoover; riders; cyclist making the push for the summit; crowd at lower summit; North Peak; summit crowd watching the finish line; cyclists climbing.

Four Days Diablo

May 3-6, 2006

A spectacular event with perfect weather. Guests hiked the Diablo Trail and enjoyed sparkling skies, coyotes mousing and howling under the stars and moon, and gourmet meals prepared by Prima Ristorante in Walnut Creek, Cafe Esin in San Ramon, Tanya Pierce and Culinary Indulgence, and Sunrise Bistro in Walnut Creek. The 2007 trip is nearly sold out. Call 925 947-3535 for info.





Dan Brereton & Giantkiller

Book Signing at Flying Color Comics - March 11, 2006



Dan Brereton signed his Giantkiller trade paperback in Concord at Flying Color Comics, a benefit for SMD. SMD's Seth Adams, Rep. George Miller, Brereton, Flying Color's Joe Field.

Special Donor Event - "John Muir, Botanist"

Stephen Joseph & Bonnie Gisel - March 26, 2006



SMD had a special event at the John Muir House to introduce members to Stephen Joseph's exquisite photos of Muir's botanical collections, for a new book with text by Bonnie Gisel.

Special Donor Event - the John Marsh House

Tour with Craig Mattson, State Park Superintendent - May 13, 2006



SMD donors attended a special tour at new Cowell Ranch State Park to hear about restoration plans for the John Marsh House; Marsh was Contra Costa's first American settler.

Stargazing at Chaparral Spring

June 3, 2006



After hot dogs, a hike and some tree climbing at Chaparral Spring, St. Mary's professor Ron Olowin wowed the crowd--92 participants--with his knowledge of the heavens.

Other Events

Seth Adams Leads "Close To Home"

Hike in Morgan Territory, April 8, 2006

Ron Brown's Summit Dinner for Dana & Dave

Dornsife & friends, August 12, 2006

**Monte Vista High School Run Raises \$2510
for SMD - September 23, 2006**





Ron Nunn of Blackhawk-Nunn, sponsors of SMD's Mountain Star Awards; winners Sarah & Dave Shaeffer & Pamela Young. (Scott Hein)

Sarah & David Shaeffer and Pamela Young Landowner Award

Landowners who demonstrate great generosity in preserving their land.

Over the years, Save Mount Diablo has awarded Mountain Stars in eleven categories. We created a new one this year for Sarah and David Shaeffer, and Pamela Young. The philanthropic tradition is young in Contra Costa County and landowners around Mt. Diablo who donate their land are a new, and hopefully growing, occurrence. Sarah and Pamela grew up riding their horses on Mt. Diablo including on property their parents owned on the slopes of North Peak. When they and two other siblings inherited Young Canyon half-way up North Peak, Sarah, her husband Dave, and Pam had lived for decades in Southern California and Alaska. Nonetheless, they had fond memories of the mountain and worked hard to arrive at agreement with the other two siblings

2006 Mountain Star Awards



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

(who had pushed for sale and the revenue from several houses). They even sacrificed part of the tax benefits they could have hoped for to the other siblings. The result: for the first time on Mt. Diablo several landowners donated their entire interests in a property. Young Canyon, its incredible views and its exceedingly rare resources, has now been protected for public benefit.

California Coastal Conservancy Alliance Award

Agencies and organizations that work in concert with Save Mount Diablo.

The California Coastal Conservancy is Save Mount Diablo's most significant new partner in many years. Established in 1976 the Conservancy uses entrepreneurial techniques to protect and enhance coastal resources, so far totaling more than 100,000 acres. At SMD's request, in 1997 Senator Richard Rainey and Assemblywoman Lynne Leach provided the swing votes to create the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy to expand the agency's mission to help preserve open space throughout the nine Bay Area counties. A key reason



Nadine Hitchcock, Manager of the Conservancy's San Francisco Bay program, & Sam Schuchat, the Conservancy's Executive Officer. (Scott Hein)

was to insure that the Bay Area received similar funding in state resources bonds as other areas. The new program restores fish and wildlife habitat, promotes the use of habitat restoration projects for environmental education, provides public access to open space areas, and restores urban waterfronts. The Bay Area Conservancy received its first \$10 million in state funding in 1999 and has completed more than 200 projects in its first six years, investing \$137 million, matched by \$352 million in other funding, in Bay Area conservation, restoration and recreation. In Contra Costa, the Conservancy has invested more than \$16 million matched by more than \$58 million. Around Mt. Diablo these projects have been located at the East Bay Regional Park District's Black Diamond Mines and Brushy Peak Regional Preserves, and the Clayton Ranch land bank; Brentwood; Cowell Ranch State Park; Marsh Creek; and SMD's Wright Canyon, Silva Ranch, Gateway Conservation Easement, and Mangini Ranch acquisitions.



HELP SAVE MOUNT DIABLO!

Effective Nov 1st, 2006,
purchase your tickets to the



(March 29th-April 1st, 2007)

via **ticketmaster.com** and
**50% of the proceeds will go
towards saving Mount Diablo!**

Type in the promo code **DIABLO** when placing your order and

**Save Mount Diablo will receive
\$15 of every ticket you purchase!**

www.winecountrychampionship.com

THERE'S NO TOUR EVENT QUITE LIKE IT.

Spotlight on Staff

Monica Oei
was just promoted to become SMD's new Administration & Finance Manager. She joined the organization in early 2006, originally as our Administrative Assistant.



Monica Oei

Although her parents are natives of Colombia and she is bilingual in English and Spanish, Monica was born in Chicago and moved to California when she was nine.

She is an alumna of U.C. Santa Barbara and Pierce College. Monica and her husband Kendall live in Concord, with their Havanese dog Raggie, a

turtle, a gecko, a cockatiel, and enjoy camping, fishing and gardening.

"I like that SMD is a small office and more personable; what's different are all the volunteers and that everyone

has such enthusiasm and energy."

"My family always camped and took big outdoor vacations, so I like the cause, trying to protect the environment and natural lands. I'm really into camping, fishing, kayaking and being in the outdoors. Kendall and I go fishing in the Sierra most weekends during the season."

Save Mount Diablo Thanks Its Generous Sponsors

Moonlight on the Mountain

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MAGAZINE

Livermore Valley Cellars - World Yoga - Cliff Bar

Stephen Joseph Open Studio



Saturday, November 11th - 9 am to 4pm
3089 Vessing Road, Pleasant Hill
Mt. Diablo Views 925-934-2128



Scott Hein, www.heinphoto.com



Mt. Diablo Buckwheat propagated ***Unique Ornament Available***

The Mt. Diablo buckwheat, which was rediscovered in 2005 after being thought extinct, was propagated this year at the Botanical Garden at U.C. Berkeley (John Domzalski & Holly Forbes pictured). Reintroductions may follow. SMD has commissioned a unique hand painted glass Christmas ornament to celebrate. Donors of \$500 or more in Nov. and December will receive the ornament, limited to the first 100 donors.



Save Mount Diablo Thanks Its 2006

"Moonlight on the Mountain" Auction Item Donors

Please patronize these businesses and let them know that you appreciate their support of Save Mount Diablo. Thanks.

Artists: Art by Archuleta, Natalie Avery, Sarah Anne Bettelheim Photography, Jim Christie, Mary Lou Correia, Rachel Deist, Pam Della, Ralph Dias, John Finger, Christopher Foster, Janet Frane, JoAnn Hanna, Scott & Claudia Hein, Robert Houston, T & K Images, Stephen Joseph, Jeanne Kapp, Bob Larson, Lee McCaffree, Shirley Nootbaar, Charles Overton, Don Porcella, Cermaic Arts, Robin Purcell, Richard Rollins, Susana Scarborough, Mary Spain, Peg Steunenber, Yulan Chang Tong, Henry White, Sachio Yamashita

Generous donors: Seth Adams, Burt Bassler, Steve & Karen Beck, Sandy Biagi, Mark Cunningham, Dave & Dana Dornsife, Joel Eisenberg, Debbie & Eric Hinz, Brian Hirahara, Lynn & Cindy Jansen, Sharon Juhnke, Kathy Gleason & Kathy Barnett, Caron & Larry Kavanaugh, John & Pam Koeberer - Pitts, Steve Leshner, Richard Louv, John Mercurio, Ken Noonan, Malcolm Sproul, David & Debbie Trotter, Frank & Barbara Varenchik, Sharon & Bill Walters

Businesses listed by city:

Alamo: Ciao Bella, Media Environments, New Skin Solutions, Round Hill Country Club, Sage, Yellow Wood Coffee
Albany: Vara Healing Arts

Benicia: Nourrot Glass Studio
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Campbell: Heritage Electric
Clovis: Tri-Sport
Concord: Flying Colors Comics & Other Cool Stuff, Teak Gardens, Trader Joe's, Willows Theater, Wine Thieves
Danville: Blackhawk Country Club, Bridges Restaurant, Danville Cigars, Forbes Mill Steakhouse, Lazarex Cancer Foundation, Leku Eder, Inc., Museum of San Ramon Valley, Patrick David's Restaurant, Piatti Locali, Sandi and Stevie, The Body Adventure, Tootsies of Danville
Dublin: Heartwood Communities, Pilates Body by Valentin, **Emeryville:** IKEA
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Livermore: Cedar Mountain Winery, Concannon Vineyard, The Steven Kent Winery, Wente Vineyards
Monterey: Monterey Whale Watching Baywatch Cruises
Moraga: Don Jose's Restaurant, Pride Mountain Vineyards, Royal Siam
Napa: The Hess Collection
Oakland: Chabot Space & Science Center, East Bay Regional Park District, Keren Creations, Oakland Athletics
Petaluma: Studio Replica

Pleasant Hill: Back Forty
Pleasanton: Christesen's Tack Room, Herrick Corporation, Studio 7, Fine Arts & Custom Framing
Rutherford: Cakebread Cellars
San Francisco: Hyatt Union Square, Living Green, Meru Design, Roy's Restaurant, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco Zoo, Sifinnova Venture Inc., Tansu Design, Yosemite Fund
San Ramon: 24 Hour Fitness, Advanced Laser & Skin Care, Dryers, Pasta Pomodoro- Bishop Ranch, The Yoga Company, Vonnie's Cleaners
Sonoma: Cline Cellars
Sunol: Sunol Valley Golf Club
Vallejo: Susan Sappington-Carlisle Collection
Walnut Creek: Art-Scape, Belinda M Designs, Bonne Nuit Lingerie & Lounge Wear, Bowles & Verna LLP, Caffè Delle Stelle, California Pizza Kitchen, California Symphony, Curves, Delicouz, Dudum Sports & Entertainment and McCovey's Restaurant, East Bay Nature, Fast Frame, Florali, Footcandy, Healthwise Fitness - Greg Francisco, hush, jeu.de.jupe, Jory's Flowers, Kitchen Table, Pacific-10 Conference, Peet's Coffee and Tea, Prima's Ristorante, Pyramid Alehouse, Regional Parking, Renaissance Club Sport, Rossmoor Golf Shop, Spitz Jewelers, Sunflower, Tiffany & Co., VQ Fit Pros - Heather Sumulong

Spotlight on Board Members & Sponsors



Dave Husted, Charla Gabert & Claudia Hein

Charla Gabert, Claudia Hein, Dave Husted & Amara Morrison Join The SMD Board

David Husted is a member of the Development Committee. He received his BS in Business Administration from San Diego State and is a business intermediary helping people buy and sell businesses. He lives in Danville with his wife Allyson and their two children, Max, 5, and Sawyer, 1. "I'm a life-long resident of the Mt. Diablo area. For over 50 years my family has spent time on Diablo and I'm an outdoor enthusiast who runs the trails of Mt. Diablo regularly. SMD takes a realistic and cooperative approach to preserving the land. I hope to contribute my business and recreational experience in efforts to preserve and promote the area's unique outdoor character."

Charla Gabert is a member of the Development Committee. She received her BA from Brown University, her MA from Johns Hopkins University and an MS from Simon College. Charla is a principal at

Castle Hill Communications, a marketing and communications firm. She lives in Alamo with her husband, David Frane. "Mt. Diablo is a fabulous natural feature that dominates the East Bay. When I see it, I know I'm home. I'm sure I'm not alone in considering it my 'personal' mountain."

Having such a wild, dramatic place in our own backyard is very special. Even if you never drive up to the summit or hike Diablo's trails, you can appreciate its unspoiled beauty. For 35 years, SMD has been leading efforts to preserve the mountain and remains the major organization leading the effort. I'm always amazed at how much SMD accomplishes. I'm proud to be associated with it. The next 5, 10, 15 years are critical to conservation here in the East Bay. I want to help save as many acres as possible so they'll be here for future generations to enjoy just as we do today."

Claudia Hein is SMD's Recording Secretary. Claudia received her BS in Chemistry from Muhlenberg College and her MS in Science Education from Oregon State University. She is a Chemistry Instructor at Diablo Valley College and lives in Concord with her husband Scott, who is also an SMD board member. "As an educator, I'm a strong believer in the Baba Dioum quotation 'We will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.' Supporting SMD's mission to protect open space and ensure wildlife corridors is paramount to helping people under-

stand nature's importance in our lives. I wasn't sure how I could help but I started by volunteering in the office. There is a need for involvement at all levels of any organization. The key is to find where you can be most inspired and inspiring."

Amara Morrison was a Board member from 1993 through 2002; after a sabbatical she rejoined the Board this past December. She holds a BS from the University of

Michigan, and a JD and Masters in Environmental Law from the Vermont Law School. Amara is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Livermore and donates many of her talents to SMD. She lives in Martinez with her husband, Clark, and their daughter Islay Grace. "Mt. Diablo has been the spiritual icon and heart of central county for me, a place of tremendous beauty, comfort . . . especially as I ride my horse. I love the variety of topography, geology and habitats. We should all feel fortunate. The mountain means a tremendous amount to me and I really appreciate what SMD does; it's come a long way in terms of its outlook and in reaching a wider variety of supporters. It's important that we extend our focus so that we can create and enhance corridors to other parks. As development pressure continues Mt. Diablo will be even more important."



Amara Morrison



Esin prepares dessert at Four Days Diablo.

Café Esin

2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon, CA 94583; 925 314-0974

Café Esin is a new donor for the annual *Four Days Diablo* gourmet trip along the 30 mile Diablo Trail. Cafe Esin is a jewel box of a neighborhood restaurant. Husband and wife chef team Curtis and Esin de Carion create a simple yet sophisticated atmosphere and very satisfying American food with a Mediterranean flare. Esin is especially celebrated for her amazing desserts. It is a

warm lovely gathering place with food garnering rave reviews, great service and an award winning wine list. According to Esin, "I love the outdoors, when I'm not at the restaurant-which is most of the time-I'm always in the hills, doing trail runs. I thought the trip sounded great, that I could help raise money to protect nature."

Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce

1777 Botelho Drive, Suite 103, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; 925 934-2007

The purpose of the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce is to advocate the business interests of its membership, to promote a healthy, competitive business climate, and to enhance the area's quality of life. There's a natural overlap with the work that SMD does and Ron Brown, SMD's Executive Director, is a member of the Chamber Board of Directors. The Chamber is one of SMD's 35th Anniversary sponsors, supporting all of our events this year. According to Jay



Jay Hoyer, CEO, Walnut Creek Chamber

Hoyer, President and CEO, "We have a special relationship with SMD because Ron is on our Board, and we know more about the organization. The Chamber always supports community activities and events. We were having a good year and wanted to share that. Mt. Diablo is the single most unique feature of our area and central to the quality of life of Walnut Creek. To the Chamber that's very important, so we're happy to support SMD's work in preserving that quality of life."

Membership Matters



Swallowtail

We deeply appreciate and thank all our members. This year has seen a dramatic increase in the growth of our membership. Many of our donors have made significant increases in their annual contributions, thereby qualifying for a higher membership level. This kind of support allows us to continue to meet the many demands that are required of our small organization. In this past year we have responded to a record number of development proposals and urban limit line challenges in addition to maintaining our land acquisition program. We hope we can count on your continued help in recruiting new members to support our cause.

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(\$1,000 or more)

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Trail Dogs, Chaparral Spring

Membership Matters (Continued from pg 17)



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the first Buckwheat seedling

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Foal at Cowell (Scott Hein)



Attend our 35th Anniversary to see other Bob Larson images.

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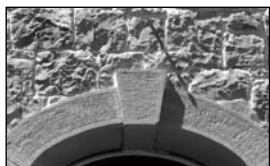
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detail, John Marsh home

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The last *Diablo Watch* inad-
vertently omitted the names
of the following donors.
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All contributions were made from January 1, through July 30, 2006

Membership Matters (Continued from pg 18)

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409 donors have con-
tributed in this category
Friends (\$35 or more)
330 donors have con-
tributed in this category



1971 - SAVE MOUNT DIABLO - 2006

CAPTURING MOUNT DIABLO - 35TH ANNIVERSARY & SLIDESHOWS
Friday, December 1, 2006, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm, Acalanes High School, Lafayette

Slideshow Photographers : Bob Larson, 2006 *Capturing Mt. Diablo* series, Contra Costa Times; Stephen Joseph - *Images of Vasco Caves*; Scott Hein - *Saving Mount Diablo*; **Music:** Steve Sturman -

The Mount Diablo Suite; **Master of Ceremonies:** Gary Bogue, Contra Costa Times

RSVP by November 27, 2006 - \$35 per person, in honor of SMD's 35th Anniversary

Name held at door. Acalanes H.S. Theater 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. Call 925 947-3535 for info.

SAVE MOUNT DIABLO'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS



Anniversary sponsors receive acknowledgement, signage, and complimentary admissions at all SMD events for one year. For information about specific benefits and how to become a sponsor, contact Ron or Julie at 925-947-3535.

John Finger, www.fingerart.com



Save the Date "Moonlight on the Mountain" Saturday, August 25, 2007

An elegant evening
under the light of the moon,
at the China Wall on Mt Diablo.

Celebrate SMD's 36th anniversary.
Acknowledge recipients of
Mountain Star Awards.

*Reception, sumptuous dinner,
entertainment, auctions.*

- Sign up as an event sponsor •
- Donate silent or live auction items •
- Be a table host •
- Join the planning committee •

To become a sponsor, to donate an
auction item or to become part of the
planning committee, call Julie at
925-947-3535.

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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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Walnut Creek, CA 94596

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