Help Preserve Irish Canyon
SMD Makes Bold Move to Protect 320 Acres

“Irish Canyon is a gateway, in a strategic position to help protect and preserve an important area and to connect it with three different parks,” said Malcolm Sproul, Save Mount Diablo’s President.

“In November 16th we signed a purchase agreement with two Modesto doctors, Sawtantra and Aruna Chopra, to acquire the heart of Irish Canyon,” said Ron Brown, SMD’s Executive Director. “We’re buying 320 acres for $1.344 million. It’s a great way to start the year.”

The half square mile property is located near Clayton’s Oakhurst Country Club. It drops from the crest of Keller Ridge north across Irish Creek before rising toward 1894 feet Kreiger Peak. The old stage road to Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is now a public trail which passes within a half mile of the property. Irish Canyon has great natural resources, an interesting history and was once part of the Bettencourt Ranch.

“There are literally houses on the ridges overlooking this parcel,” said Brown. “Preserving Irish Canyon will help maintain the balance between development, historic land uses and our own East Bay wilderness close to a large and growing population.”

The Mt. Diablo to Black Diamond Mines Corridor

“Thirteen years ago SMD bought its 333-acre Chaparral Spring property stretching north from Marsh Creek Road and Mt. Diablo State Park onto the face of Keller Ridge,” said Seth Adams, SMD’s Director of Land Programs. “It was our first step in creating a corridor between Mt. Diablo and the historic ‘Mt. Diablo Coal Field’ of Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.”

While the corridor focused on the narrowest open space gap, over to Black Diamond’s Oil Canyon, Chaparral Spring’s

Family & Land - The Mangini Ranch
By Anne Homan

Editor’s Note: After two years of work, and with the help of Contra Costa Times columnist Gary Bogue and his readers, on January 8, 2007 Save Mount Diablo closed escrow on the 208-acre Mangini Ranch. The final requirement of our purchase agreement with the Mangini family is that we put up a historic monument about the family and the property’s history. Text has been prepared by local historian Anne Homan, and the monument will be dedicated June 3rd.

Giuseppe (Joseph) Mangini immigrated to the United States from Genoa, Italy, in 1870. Five years later, he sent for Theresa Rozzi, and they married here in California. Giuseppe worked as a laborer while they lived in Pacheco and later in Somersville at the coal mines. In 1885 he bought his first property in the Concord hills—only 22 acres, but it was the beginning of their quest for land.

Giuseppe became a U.S. citizen in 1880, signing the document with his mark. For $2,200 he and Theresa bought 160 acres in October 1898 that became their home ranch, the SE ¼ of section 15 T1N/R1W. In 1900 Giuseppe is listed in the census as a farmer.

In Giuseppe and Theresa’s search for a better life, why did they choose the Concord area? Their descendants, who have visited the Genoa area, suggest that the two places have much in common: a landscape of rolling hills that turn brown in summer and green in the winter, a Mediterranean climate, and proximity to a large bay.

Giuseppe died of pneumonia in 1905 at age 59. The family had grown to seven children. Son Dominick moved to Oakland and opened the Mangini Grocery on Grove Street, but the others stayed to work the land. They also acquired more property. The oldest son, Andrew, bought 40 acres and a house from Henry Polley in 1908. Andrew’s brothers John and Joe bought the land in section 21
From the Executive Director . . .

A Colorful Spring for Diablo and Diablo Watch: It’s almost spring and Diablo’s hills are turning beautiful shades of green. The hills are not the only things to show color. For the first time, Diablo Watch is coming to you in color. We have long wanted to use color in order to more fully portray the magnificent landscapes that our work is about. This is now possible due to new technologies and equipment that allow us to print Diablo Watch in full color for the same price that we had been paying for black and white. In the coming issues we hope to be making a variety of changes in the format and layout of Diablo Watch in order to take full advantage of the ability to print in color.

A successful 35th year: 2006 proved to be one of the most successful years in SMD’s history. In December we completed the Mangini Ranch acquisition and signed a purchase agreement for our newest project, Irish Canyon. These are in addition to our successful acquisition of the Young property, completion of conservation easements at the Mt. Diablo Gateway and Chaparral Spring properties, development dedications at Claretcian Seminaries, Fox Ridge Manor and the Humphrey Ranch, and acquisitions by our East Bay Regional Park District allies at Brushy Peak. Our active participation in the November elections led to the approval of Prop 84 (a $5.4 billion bond measure for water and land conservation); the defeat of Prop 90 which would have been a devastating blow to environmental regulations, zoning and land use planning; and the passage of Measure L, a county urban limit line and a requirement for all cities to adopt voter approved growth boundaries.

Our new office has allowed us to be more productive and to provide work space for volunteers to assist with our land, administrative and fundraising projects. During 2006 volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours of work, leading hikes, managing our properties, helping at events and doing a variety of tasks at the office.

Our fundraising events (Four Days Diablo, Moonlight on the Mountain, Mt. Diablo Bike Challenge, and the Trail Adventure) all exceeded their goals for participation and funds raised. The success of these events made it possible to achieve significant progress in our land conservation efforts.

Another year…New challenges and exciting opportunities: Our Land Committee and Board of Directors are currently reviewing a number of new acquisition projects, including several that are very high on our priority list. Simultaneously, Seth Adams and our volunteer Land Associates are reviewing and responding to a significant number of development proposals—more than 30 of them—including major projects in Pittsburg and at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. Plans are well underway for this year’s fundraising efforts and Four Days Diablo is already sold out.

Save Mount Diablo believes that its success is linked to the overall health and vitality of our county. If the economy is strong, our work is easier. We work to ensure that there is an appropriate balance between development and land and resource conservation. We continue to work collaboratively with many homebuilders, unions, elected officials, environmental organizations and housing and transportation advocates to ensure that we achieve this balance. We are encouraged by the support we receive from an expanding and diverse list of business sponsors and by the continued and growing financial support we receive from our members.

We appreciate the encouragement and support that we receive from all of you. Thanks for your continued help.

Kathryn Lescure, one of Save Mount Diablo’s members, made this beautiful quilt, showing two sides of Mt. Diablo. Kathryn is a descendant of two of Contra Costa County’s pioneer families, the Trembaths, settling in 1853, and the Heidorns in 1868. Her family enjoyed Mt. Diablo, riding with George Cardinet’s Trail Ride Association, and enjoying the mountain’s many faces. She created the quilt as a tribute to her grandmother, Kate Heidorn Trembath. As Kathryn tells us:

“When I was young and stayed with my grandparents at the ranch, I looked forward to the special afternoons on the screened front porch. This is when grandma would peel apples for us and tell us stories of old Antioch and Contra Costa County history. We would listen while rocking in the rocking chairs, staring out across the vineyard at beautiful Mt. Diablo in the distance. These wonderful hours would always be concluded with our favorite teasing game, ‘My side of the mountain.’ Grandma would begin by saying: ‘My side of the mountain is much more majestic than yours with its craggy top and steep sides.’ As I lived in Lafayette at that time, I countered with: ‘No, my side is more beautiful with its rolling hills.’ We would keep this good-natured banter going, changing adjectives and getting more creative as the game went along.’”

From one of our Members . . .
Mary Bowerman Trail

Directions: From Walnut Creek or Danville enter Mt. Diablo State Park and drive to the summit. The trailhead and parking are just before the last steep 1/8 mile climb to the Summit Museum.

Distance: 0.7 miles, 1/3 paved, disabled accessible, almost flat, 30-60 minutes.

Attractions: Spectacular views, outstanding botany.

Notes: The Mt. Diablo Interpretive Assoc. has published a guide to the trail coordinated with numbered posts, heading north and clockwise around the peak. Soon after the fire, the Contra Costa Times led a public fundraising drive to revegetate the mountain, collecting more than $17,000. Led by Save Mount Diablo, cooler heads advised that the mountain would recover on its own. The funds were used to construct a Fire Interpretive Trail around the summit. Part of the trail was paved and, to avoid blasting and sensitive plant species, trestles were cantilevered around cliffs on wooden decks. Dr. Mary Bowerman, a botanist and SMD’s founder, opposed the trail but it was nonetheless dedicated in her honor May 22, 1982.

You can see burned manzanita and other tree trunks thirty years later but as vegetation has recovered the trail’s fire interpretive elements have faded. The trail has been renamed for Bowerman, who passed away on Aug. 21, 2005. On Jan. 27, 2007 there was a “soft opening” for the trail; when interpretive panels are in place there will be a small dedication.

Stop 1: Begin at the picnic table through a shaded tunnel of oaks bonsaied by the peak’s harsh conditions. There are interior live oaks with flat oblong leaves, and canyon or maul oak, with leaves whose undersides are light blue-green or golden.

Stop 2: In fall the ground may be covered in the fallen red leaves of poison oak, in winter the chubby bare stems, which were used by Indians in basket making, may include remaining clusters of white berries which birds love. In spring the shiny, oily foliage is more visible but either way, “leaves of three, let them be.” You can also see ceanothus, gray pine and the endemic Mt. Diablo sunflower.

Stop 3: The rock along this part of the trail is crumbly greenstone, altered 100 million year old submarine volcanic sea floor rocks which weather to gray or brown. As views open up you can see Mitchell and Back Canyons with Eagle Peak between and Black Point and quarrried Mt. Zion beyond, Lime Ridge descending toward downtown Concord, with more distant views all the way to Suisun Bay and Carquinez Strait.

Stop 4: Greywacke, a sandstone sedimentary rock, is located on the right side of the trail, smoothly fractured versus the crumbly greenstone. Look for spiny gooseberry with its fuschia like flowers. A chapparral covered ridge below has a ridge top fire road-it’s Meridian Ridge-between Back and Donner Canyons, misnamed because the Mt. Diablo meridian is located on the east side of Donner, directing your view across Donker Bay to Solano’s Montezuma Hills.

Stop 5: The distinctive red-brown rock uphill of the trail is chert, made up of siliceous skeletons of marine microorganisms. A chapparral covered ridge below has a ridge top fire road-its Meridian Ridge-between Back and Donner Canyons, misnamed because the Mt. Diablo meridian is located on the east side of Donner, directing your view across Donker Bay to Solano’s Montezuma Hills.

Stop 6: A good rest stop with views north-west to the Lone Star quarry and its 165 million year old diabase, mined as road base and foundation rock. On the cliff behind you is more shale, splitting into thin chips, and miniature bay laurel.

Stop 7: We turn the corner into views of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and North Peak. On clear days you can see volcanic Mt. Lassen far to the north, and snow-covered stretches of the Sierra. As we leave the north facing slope, the sun’s influence increases and the vegetation begins changing. The outlying hills dip away from Mt. Diablo which pushed them back on their sides as it was thrust through the overlying sedimentary layers.

Stop 8: The pavement ends and we enter drier chapparral community. Bush daisy, yarrow and elderberry become more common and more rock is exposed. The chapparral plants often have waxy leaves to cut water loss, but are more flammable. They have evolved to depend on fire.

Stop 9: Just before the large tower-Devil’s pulpit-are talus slopes of chert. Please don’t climb on them, they’re habitat for rare plants including the cactus-flower like blossoms of the bitterroot. If you’re lucky you may hit the few weeks in May-June when it blooms. In Latin, Levisia rediviva refers to its namesake Meriwether Lewis of Lewis and Clark. Most of the year it lives as roots in rock cracks, then small leaves appear followed by the flowers. Devil’s Pulpit is a good place to pause and feel the breezes.

Stop 10: Past Devil’s Pulpit you circle onto more dry southern exposures and grassland with juniper, and views past Livermore. The gray pines have strange jaundiced pine mistletoe. This is the only place on the mountain where you see sagebrush lizard.

Stop 11: The views southeast are incredible, across Curry and Riggs Canyons to Morgan Territory; closer at hand lichens brighten the rock outcroppings with oranges and yellows. The parallel ridges of Highland Ridge and Morgan Territory Ridge direct your view southeast to the black oak-capped Brushy Peak Regional Preserve-protected lands stretch all the way to Highway 580 east of Livermore.

Stop 12: As you pass more and more juniper, you’ll notice lots of scarlet zauchneria blooming in the rocks. It’s often called “hummingbird flower.” Large solitary and native cobweb thistles appear too, with pink flowers as opposed to the purple of the many non-native ones.

Stop 13: The dark green varnished leaved plant is Yerba Santa; its undersides are golden brown in good summers. Spanish priests impressed with usefulness in treating coughs and colds gave it the name “holy weed,” and used it in herbal cough syrups.

Stop 14: Chamise, the most common shrub on Mt. Diablo, dominates as the exposure and temperatures rise on this south exposure.
Tracking Prairie Falcons for Conservation
by Douglas A. Bell, Ph.D.,
Wildlife Program Manager
East Bay Regional Park District

The prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus), a cousin to the celebrated peregrine falcon which was reintroduced at Mt. Diablo, has declined in the East Bay. Efforts are underway to halt the decline so that both species can survive, as well as many others that use the same habitats.

In 2004, a check of 19 historical nest cliffs in Contra Costa and Alameda counties revealed that fewer than half were still occupied by breeding pairs of prairie falcons, though many of these cliffs are on protected lands. Although many factors may be responsible for the decline of the falcon, a primary cause appears to be the loss of grassland habitat.

Studies on diet and foraging habits support the hypothesis that prairie falcons require healthy grasslands with a sufficient prey base, such as ground squirrels. Precisely such range lands are being lost to development in the East Bay. We need to identify the ecologically most valuable areas for preservation. Radio-tracking will help determine that.

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), with financial support from Save Mount Diablo and other backers such as the Contra Costa County Fish & Wildlife Commission, has embarked on a radiotelemetry study of several pairs of prairie falcons that nest in the East Bay.

Most of the pairs nest on Mt. Diablo State Park or EBRPD lands. A primary goal of this effort is to identify where the falcons forage. Telemetry studies on prairie falcons nesting at Pinnacles National Monument have shown that the falcons require much larger home ranges and travel greater distances while foraging than previously thought. Lands far from a nest site may be just as vital to the success of a falcon nest as the cliff itself.

Being a wide-ranging species that seeks out the grassland ecosystems it needs for foraging, the prairie falcon represents an “indicator species.” It can serve as a gauge for the health and condition of habitat at the larger landscape level and help answer the question, “Does the grassland habitat in the East Bay support sufficient biodiversity?” Their ground squirrel prey represents a “keystone species,” because a host of species are dependent upon it for food, (falcons, kit foxes and golden eagles), or its burrow systems, (burrowing owls, California red-legged frogs and California tiger salamanders).

By identifying and working to preserve key foraging habitats for an indicator species such as the prairie falcon, we will ensure not only its long-term persistence in the East Bay but also lend umbrella protection to the entire assemblage of grassland and range-dependent species. In addition, the information gained will assist land managers in determining vegetation management strategies on public lands.

Radiotelemetry studies require trapping the falcon, attaching a transmitter and then tracking it. For the first steps we rely on the skill and patience of Brian Latta of the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group. Brian’s method of capturing a falcon involves setting up nets near a falcon nest cliff, placing a live (non-releasable) great-horned owl in front of the nets, and then waiting for the resident falcon to return. The owl is a mortal enemy to falcons and they respond to its presence by trying to drive it away, becoming caught in the nets.

Once caught, the falcon is quickly hooded to calm it. A small backpack transmitter is harnessed to the falcon and the harness straps are sewn together with biodegradable thread. It weighs 9-12 grams, about the size of half a finger, and is less than 3% of the bird’s weight-the equivalent of a 200 lb man wearing a six pound backpack.

Upon release, the falcon quickly preens the harness below its feathers such that only the short antenna remains visible. Tracking is accomplished via airplane during weekly flights. The backpacks fall off in 2-3 years, leaving the falcons unscathed. Some falcons are deft at removing the harness.

Falcon locations from the first season’s tracking have been mapped via GIS by EBRPD staff. The maps are kept confidential to protect both the falcons and land owner property rights. Preliminary results show some interesting trends. Prairie falcons in the East Bay are wide-ranging and several birds overlap in their use of foraging areas away from their nest locations.

The falcons use both public and private lands. Public lands which are grazed appear to be very important for prairie falcon foraging. For example, one falcon that nested at Mt. Diablo State Park frequented Cowell Ranch State Park, a park that is currently grazed, to take advantage of its abundant ground squirrels. It seems clear that prairie falcons avoid developed areas.

If funding is raised, we will continue to collect data on the falcons through the winter, and hope to track more birds next year. (Note: SMD has pledged another $10,000 in 2007 for the study.) The data will be analyzed in greater detail once we have completed two or more seasons of tracking.

The timing of our work is extremely important, as the region faces many challenges in land use planning and management as development proceeds. We believe the information will assist in realizing the goals of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan, a blueprint for regional habitat planning and development.

There is also a greater meaning to our work. The prairie falcon has persisted in the drier areas of the East Bay Area for millennia. Indeed, the Plains Miwok recognized the prairie falcon as “wek-wek” and believe that “wek-wek” helped create their people and “everything, everywhere, so they can live.” It would be a loss to us all if there came a time when “wek- wek” could no longer persist on the Mountain.

Falcons are small, fast fliers but easy to see at Mt. Diablo with binoculars. Nesting takes place Jan-July on rock cliffs. It’s illegal to disturb peregrines: to avoid doing so please don’t climb on rocks during that period-better views are afforded from across canyons or below. You have a good chance to see falcons below Castle Rock in Pine Canyon, or along the Oyster Point.

Save Mount Diablo would like to especially thank Bruce Smith, Rick Olson and Dave Osorio at Peregrine Lending, and Elizabeth and Ken Pelletier for their support of the project. Bruce and Randy Smith largely funded SMD’s reintroduction of peregrines at Mt. Diablo from 1989-1991.
The Mangini Ranch

Family & Land -

The Mangini Ranch (cont. from page 1)

that includes the 208 acres recently pur-

chased by Save Mount Diablo. John, Joe,

and younger brother Matthew bought

another 160 acres in section 16 in October

1919.

They planted a vineyard and Andrew was

their winemaker. Their stately old

Victorian farmhouse at 5484 Pine Hollow

Road still has a large wine cellar. When

Prohibition came in 1919, they tore up the

vines and planted walnut and almond trees.

Five years ago the family replanted a vine-

yard on the home ranch.

When Theresa Mangini died in 1915 at age

65, the Martinez Daily Gazette described

the funeral procession of more than 70 car-

riages that transported friends and family

from her home to St. Catherine’s church in

Martinez. Son Andrew had married Annie

Lavezzola in 1904, and after Theresa’s

depth, Andrew and Annie became the cen-

tral figures of the family.

The 1918-1919 influenza pandemic hit the

family hard. Dominick Mangini’s wife and

infant daughter died. So did his sister, Jennie, who had married John Lavezzola.

Five-foot three-inch Annie Lavezzola

Mangini served as a mother not only to her

own three children, but also to her single

brothers-in-law, John, Joe, and Matthew

“Gip” Mangini, her brother John, and five

nieces and nephews, the motherless

children of Dominick and Jennie.

Joe and Gip served in World War I

and then returned to the ranch in

Concord.

Days at the ranch were long; everyone

rose about five o’clock to begin their

chores. The children went to school in a

buggy with a grain pack for the

horse. In the summer the children

slept in beds on a screened-in porch;

in the winter, they slept in the house.

Annie would heat bricks in the wood

stove in the evening, wrap them in

newspaper, and put them in the beds.

The only sources of heat in the house

were the fireplace and the wood burn-

ing stove until the house was renovat-


After lunch, Annie and the men all

took about an hour nap before starting

back to the day’s tasks. Her brother,

John, worked as a punch press opera-

tor at the shipyards in Bay Point, but

the rest labored on the ranch.

Granddaughter Karen said of the

Depression years, “I think it’s a good

thing they had this land because I think they

lived off the land.”

The men hunted deer, and with the help of

German short-hair retrievers they brought

back quail, pheasants, duck, and doves.

Annie raised chickens and squab and main-

tained a large vegetable garden. They bred

palomino horses for the army during World

War I and II.

Andrew died during surgery in 1935. Soon

after, his son “Toby” took a lien on the

house to buy a 1936 tractor for $1,500.

This made the work of growing hay much

easier.

“They all had these goofy names,” said

Karen. “My grandmother’s name was

Annie, but Toby called her ‘Liz.’ My father

was ‘Cookie,’ but his given name was

Raymond-when Uncle Dominic came to

the ranch on weekends to see his boys, he

brought cookies in his pockets for the kids.

My dad was always the one who picked his

pocket for the cookies. Thus the nickname

Cookie. Toby’s given name was Leslie, but

when he was little he had this little dog

named Toby. They said at meal times you’d

call the dog and they’d both come running.

Somehow, Toby became the name of the

boy as well.”

Annie taught her granddaughter Karen the

secrets of Italian cooking. She learned to

make ravioli by hand and watched Annie

make gnocchi. “She could just roll them off

her fingers. I can’t do that.” Karen learned

that the secret to good polenta is never to

leave the cast iron pot, but to “stir, stir, stir,”

even when some of the boiling ingre-

dients pop out occasionally and burn the

cook. Annie made wonderful bread every

Saturday in the wood stove. She churned

her own butter, wrapping it in waxed paper.

Some of her instructions were difficult to

follow because she cooked with measure-

ments like a “handful” or “two pinches” or

“just a little bit.”

Karen and her brother Joe recalled the won-

derful family get-togethers. “There were

always lots of people and lots of noise. I

think that is very Italian.” The children

played Annie’s player piano and family

members sang along-the treasured heirloom

piano still plays. Everyone gathered in the

big kitchen for an Italian meal and then

played cards-pinochle or pedro.

At Christmas time, Karen said, the family

celebrated with “lots of love, loads of laug-

ter, many blessings. It was not a materialis-

tic time, but a special time for family to

gather.” Karen admired the generous nature

of her grandmother, who often welcomed

friends and neighbors to her table. “On a

Saturday night you couldn’t believe how

many people were here.”

In 1953 easier times came for Annie and the

family when Kaiser signed a long-term

lease to mine gravel on the Mangini parcel

in section 16 up on Mt. Zion. “It changed

their lives dramatically because all my

grandmother had was Andrew’s meager

social security benefits,” said Karen. Annie

died in 1969; her brothers-in-law had died

earlier in the 1960s.

Unfortunately, as family members passed

on, the heirs had to sell land to pay the

inheritance taxes. When Joe died, the fami-

ly had to sell the Myrick Ranch (500+

acres) to Newhall Land Development

Company for $250,000. Newhall later sold

that land for the Crystyl Ranch develop-

ment. Another property that the family

called the Winter Ranch had to be sold in

1966 when Gip died.

Now the surviving heirs have sold some of

their land to Save Mount Diablo rather than

(continued on page 11)
Alameda whipsnake and California tiger frog; it’s almost certain that it also has ‘We know the property has red-legged water is an unusual feature in an arid, inte-
out the year originates at a permanent pond Irish Canyon and Peacock Creek through-
peninsula, and to Carquinez Strait.”

A perennial stream that provides water to
is surrounded by 2,000 acres of private
land but within one or two parcels of three
different preserves.” We’re just beginning
biological investigations but we know that
the property has significant wetlands, one
listed species and potentially a dozen rare
ones, and a wide range of habitats.

“Although Irish Canyon is located a stone’s
throw from the City of Clayton, it has an
isolated turn-of-the-century feel,” said Scott Hein, Chairman of SMD’s Land
Committee, “The parcel is sublimely beau-
tiful and affords dramatic panoramic views
across Keller Ridge to the mountain, to the
peninsula, and to Carquinez Strait.”

“A perennial stream that provides water to
Irish Canyon and Peacock Creek through-
out the year originates at a permanent pond
high on the property’s slopes. Abundant
water is an unusual feature in an arid, inte-
rior location,” said Sproul.

“We know the property has red-legged frog; it’s almost certain that it also has Alameda whipsnake and California tiger salamander. There is suitable habitat and
they’re confirmed nearby. It’s great foraging habitat for golden eagle, red-tailed
hawk, Great horned owl, American kestrel. The prop-
erty will provide habitat for larger wide ranging species
that are found on neighboring properties. ‘It’s part of
the territory they occupy.”

Given that SMD acquired its 208 acre Mangini property for $7,000/acre, Irish
Canyon’s $4,200/acre repre-
sents a very good deal. We
recently ended investigations of the proper-
ty and released a $450,000 down payment.
Three additional $175,000 payments are
due every six months, with a final payment
of $369,000 due on November 27, 2008.
Needless to say we’ll need your support to
raise these funds over the next 21 months.

“Atkins” home site is less obvious, just a
second home site near a pond and an
incredibly beautiful oak grove. This
property was part of their General Plans,
which takes even more time. SMD has
more flexibility and we can move quickly.”

Irish Canyon

When you hike to Irish Canyon you can
start at the downtown Clayton library, up
past the Oakhurst fountain and onto the
stage road. The trail passes between the
country club and golf course following
Peacock Creek, which was fenced and
restored as a condition of Oakhurst, thick
with riparian vegetation. The eastern most
part of Oakhurst, named for the creek and a
historic mine, is almost out of site above,
through a steep blue oak woodland.

In winter the lower canyon is in shadow and
the puddles might stay frozen until midday.
After a half mile, Irish Canyon and a second
fire road branch to the east as the stage road
continues up Peacock Creek. In summer
it’s obvious that sinuous Irish Creek is pro-
viding most of the water. The oak wood-
land continues on the northern face of
Keller Ridge but the view opens up to
grassland rising north, rumpled with land-
slides.

The Irish Canyon fire road continues along
the creek for another half mile, past a side
road up to the old Bettencourt Ranch house
and the canyon slopes narrow again as you
enter the new property, the creek banks sud-
denly solid with wild rose. The site of the
old Evans home, known more recently as
“the Jones House” is very obvious in the
short distance before the main canyon road
crosses onto another private parcel.
There are old bridge foundations across
the creek, some retaining walls and an old
well, a few gnarled old fruit and nut trees.
What’s less obvious is that previous own-
ers cut a significant area of blue oak
woodland above the homestead for fire-
wood and family livestock. Poison oak
acts as a nurse plant for young oaks, start-
ing the progression back toward wood-
land. It’s an ideal site for oak restoration.

Another road veers across the middle fork
of Irish Creek and climbs around the toe
of a smaller central spine of a ridge out of
the canyon and into expansive views. It
rises past one wetland seep after another,
through a strange abandoned fence line
halfway across the property’s width to a
second home site near a pond and an
incredibly beautiful oak grove. This
“This home site is less obvious, just a
clearing and a stone walled well. The
grassland slopes rise off the property to
the steep cliffs of 1894” Kreiger Peak.

Two home sites on one property? Why?
It turns out that the property was once two
parcels of 160 acres each--the NE quarter
of Section 18 and the NW quarter of
Section 17, and wasn’t combined until
early in the 20th century, before it became
part of the Bettencourt Ranch.

“Life Should Be Simple”
Speculation was rampant throughout
Contra Costa from World War II until
1990. In Clayton, the 1300 acre Keller
Ranch was sold in 1972 to the Pacific
Coast Construction Co. and the little town
struggled with growth. Finally Oakhurst
was approved, doubling the city’s size.

In the late 1980s it seemed like the adja-
cent Bettencourt Ranch might follow the
same course. It was passed to heirs, then
“I’m proud to lose money to Save Mount Diablo,” said Sawtantra Chopra. “I bought the property in 1988, before the Oakhurst Country Club was built. The realtor who sold it said Clayton would be growing in that direction in the next ten to fifteen years but that didn’t bear out.”

In 1990 Contra Costa County voters approved Measure C and the County’s first Urban Limit Line. The old Bettencourt Ranch, including the two properties, was outside of the line. The Chopras continued to hold the parcel for the next decade as speculation quieted. Finally in 2005 they decided to sell to use the proceeds on other properties they own. “Aruna has a lot of arthritis and aches and pain, and she says ‘The second half of life should be simple. Life is not all growth, life is fun as well.’”

**The Mitigation Market**

The Chopras could have sold the property for a small number of large houses. In the meantime a new market had begun to develop: the sale of sensitive properties to developers needing endangered species mitigation to balance impacts of their projects inside of the Urban Limit Line, along with realtors familiar with this new approach.

The Chopras hired Lesli Fellman, an expert in mitigation realty at Colliers International as their broker, conducted biological studies, documented rare species, and marketed the property for endangered species preservation. “My son Sanjiv did a lot of research with Lesli to explore what we could do with the property. After discussions with many others we thought mitigation might be a venture worth pursuing.”

Despite their good intent, the housing market declined and the new mitigation market slowed. “That’s where Lesli helped, bringing SMD to the table and opening up discussions.”

SMD staff and Fellman were colleagues and the organization began investigating the property in August. SMD made an offer in September, negotiations ensued, and three months later the parties reached agreement.

Sawtantra said, “It’s a wonderful piece of property. great views, great natural value. Selling to SMD means our goals in keeping other projects going. SMD is a charitable organization; it feels good that they will make better use of the property than I would in my lifetime. It’s a good feeling to know that we can do something for the community.”

**Next Steps**

The purchase price for Irish Canyon is $1.344 million, with $450,000 as down payment. Luckily, the generosity of SMD donors meant that SMD’s Land Fund was adequate to cover this first installment. By the New Year, SMD completed its due diligence and investigations of the property (discovering the two homestead sites, for example) and released the down payment.

Over the next 21 months, SMD must raise $894,000. Three additional $175,000 payments are due on May 27, Nov. 27, and on May 27, 2008, with a final payment of $369,000 due on November 27, 2008.

“This is a priority mitigation area in the East County Habitat Conservation Plan, to protect habitat for rare species, and if the creation of the HCP is approved, it might provide funds” said Sproul. “If you look along Irish Creek, there’s a lot of valley oak reclamation, lots of seedlings and young oaks. With a little judicious fencing you could rapidly establish a valley oak riparian woodland along that stream.”

SMD will be competing for a variety of grants over the coming months and we’re hopeful that funds from Proposition 84 may be available for part of the remainder needed. Your financial assistance and that from other members of our community, showing broad based support helps us in acquiring large foundation grants and bond funds.

**Visit Irish Canyon**

Irish Canyon is closed to the public until SMD completes its purchase. However, we will be leading a variety of hikes, including one on Saturday March 31. Call 947-3535 for information.
Diablo Celebrated

Artists for Action paint Mangini Ranch
October 21, 2006

Shirley Nootbaar a long time supporter of SMD is also an organizer of “Artists for Action” a group of painters who use their talent to help bring attention to landscapes in need of preservation. The group got together at the Mangini Ranch to paint their support; paintings were auctioned off on Dec. 1 to support the project.

Bay Nature Hike at Mangini Ranch
September 24, 2006

Bay Nature Magazine collaborated with Save Mount Diablo on an insert about the mountain in its July issue. In concert with the insert, Seth Adams, SMD Director of Land Programs, led a hike for magazine subscribers. Over fifty attended, enjoying the Ranch’s beauty as they looped up to Lime Ridge and back.

Artists for Action paint Mangini Ranch
October 21, 2006

Runners at the start including Luther Pugh, Jake Cunningham, Shahed Locatelli (youngest participant at 12) and his dad Ernest, Shahed finished in 1:19:19 beating his dad by 16 minutes; Volunteers registering participants; Terry Fontes; Domonique Kiernan, Kelly Stelday, Sara Lim, Erin Sieber crossing the finish line in the 10K Speed Hike; Runners starting the various races; 10K Run winner Kevin Jensen, finished in 47:19 (to the right of the Jamba Juice pop-up); Marcus Wong; Laura Eriksson and Mandi Semple on the trail in the 10K Run.

Trail Adventure & Summit Run
November 5, 2006

The 6th annual Trail Adventure included a Run to the Summit for the first time: Kevin Sawchuck finished in 1:31:46, Patty Campbell was the 1st female 2:02:43.
Diablo Celebrated

Capturing Mt. Diablo - 35th Anniversary
December 1, 2006


On a chilly, foggy January day, Susan D’Alcamo led more than forty people on a walk around Diablo’s summit on the newly renamed Mary Bowerman Trail. The trail is always interesting even when its spectacular views are obscured. If you’d like to hike the trail, please refer to the description on Page 3.

Scott Hein, Chairman of SMD’s Land Committee, led a hike for special donors to Young Canyon just as winter rains were beginning. They viewed the serpentine outcrops and meadows. Hein will lead another hike to Young and the Mt. Diablo waterfalls on March 24 when the property’s spring wildflowers should be spectacular.

Malcom Sproul, Art Bonwell, Peg Kovar, Walnut Creek Mayor Kathy Hicks presenting the proclamation, Ron Brown; SMD board member Dana Dornsife & Dave Dornsife; Tom Morrish and friend in front of the sponsor sign; Bob Larson, Scott Hein & Stephen Joseph, the photographers providing the beautiful images for the three slide shows; Flora Baumann, Sally Jasperson & Teresa Onoda; Jerry Hicks & Rolf Kvalvik; Kathy Hicks, Seth Adams, Amy Worth; Carol Mason, Nancy Hanna, Brenda de la Ossa, Jo Ann Hanna, Shirley Nootbaar.

Special Donor Hike at Young Canyon
November 19, 2006

Mary Bowerman Trail Hike & “Soft Opening”
January 27, 2007

On a chilly, foggy January day, Susan D’Alcamo led more than forty people on a walk around Diablo’s summit on the newly renamed Mary Bowerman Trail. The trail is always interesting even when its spectacular views are obscured. If you’d like to hike the trail, please refer to the description on Page 3.
Who lived in Irish Canyon
And why is it called that?

It’s not clear how Irish Canyon got its name. Nor is it entirely a canyon; the federal government rates the drainage as a valley. The 7.2 mile Irish Canyon fire road was once a short cut to Brentwood. It passed the houses of miners and farmers then dropped over the hill into Long Valley and Briones Valley, cutting two to three miles—a substantial difference on horseback—off the Marsh Creek route over the “Divide” into Dark Canyon and Cañada de los Poblanos.

Imagine it’s the mid 1860s and you’re newly arrived in Contra Costa, probably a young man alone, maybe with your family. In Central County most residents are farmers but chances are that you’re an immigrant, illiterate, Welsh, Irish or English, maybe Italian, Mexican or Portuguese, on your way to the Mt. Diablo Coal Field mines. Nortonville and Somersville, the towns there, will soon be the largest in the County.

The land around Mt. Diablo will be subdivided and deeded to railroad interests, granted to homesteaders, bought with military script by veterans, among them immigrants who first arrived at the mines.

Mt. Diablo Coal Field
In 1848 gold is discovered and California becomes an American state two years later, its population grown from 10,000 to 93,000. By the mid to late 1850s more than 300,000 “Forty-niners” have arrived at the gold mines. Many of them later move on to the Comstock Lode in Nevada, or disperse, mostly to Northern California.

Locally, coal is reported for the first time near Antioch and by the late 1850s mining is well established in the hills south of New York of the Pacific (founded in 1839, later known as “Black Diamond” then in 1911 as Pittsburg) and Antioch (founded in 1851). In 1857 Joel Clayton, intent on profiting from the mines, founded his own town just to the south, a hamlet previously known as “Deadfall.” Charles Rhine and Clayton tossed a coin and Deadfall was named “Clayton.”

The Transcontinental Railroad won’t be completed until 1869, so you’ve come overland on foot or horseback. Or by boat, across Panama through steaming jungles or around South America in a grueling 5-8 month voyage. Each route involved great danger—Indians, typhoid or cholera, shipwreck. From San Francisco you’ve taken a ferry to Martinez where you start your walk or in later years take a stagecoach, stopping at Concord, at Clayton, then rising up Peacock Creek past Irish Canyon. You climb past the San Francisco Mine west of the road, and the Peacock Mine east of it—neither of them ever turned a profit—before crossing the ridge into Nortonville.

The mines were an industrial wasteland, all the trees cut, cascades of coal tailings everywhere, streams black and acid with runoff. The dangerous grueling work there, and the mining towns with clashing cultures and regular epidemics, were often just a stop. Soon they were exporting homesteaders, farmers and ranchers who could make a more comfortable living nearby even if they continued mining. Like Lancelot Evans, William Atkins, and John and Ben Jones.

Charles McLaughlin
The 320 acre Irish Canyon property is made up of one quarter each of two square mile sections, Sections 18 and 17, the latter formerly owned by Charles McLaughlin.

A stagecoach operator during the Gold Rush then a railroad contractor and agent for the Central Pacific, McLaughlin was murdered for sharp business dealings. He and his heirs were absentee landowners in Irish Canyon from c. 1871 till about 1938. In 1870 odd-numbered square mile “sections” surveyed from the top of Mt. Diablo were deeded to McLaughlin—including on the mountain and within Irish Canyon—as part of federal compensation he received for constructing the Western Pacific Railroad. McLaughlin is a common Irish name, but the family owned far more land outside of the canyon. By the time of the first official Contra Costa survey parcel map in 1871, McLaughlin’s holdings hadn’t yet shown up; the only place name in the canyon was the Peacock Mine near the ridgeline.

By the time of the 1880 census Section 18 had been quartered and its NE quarter, including the canyon bottom and slope up Keller Ridge, was owned by Lancelot Evans, bought with a Military Scrip Warrant, probably from Civil War service. Evans, a 45 year old miner who first showed up in Nortonville in November 1868, and his wife Hannah, 42, were from Glamorgan, Wales; their family included five boys and two girls aged 3-14. Lance had been unemployed three months of that year and he couldn’t read or write—the census taker misspelled his name “Lanclot”—but he clearly valued education, since all of his older children were in school down in Clayton.

Meanwhile, McLaughlin sold the NW quarter of Section 17, the part of Irish Canyon adjacent on the east to Evans and including the property’s highest elevations, and it ended up in the hands of a 42 year old German farmer, Bruno Alvensloben, and his 19 year old wife Rosa. In addition to their daughter Annie, the household included William Atkins, a 44 year old miner from England. Atkins had himself arrived in Nortonville in July 1871, but by 1885 he had

(cont. on pg 11)
Beverly Jones Hansen, Ben's granddaughter, lived in the small Evans house, Irish Canyon. All twelve members of the family were born there and the four youngest in the mines at Nortonville; three more kids were born in San Francisco. John and Ben both worked in the mines including the Clayton Bettencourts. By 1914 the Bettencourt family, normally a large group to care for and appreciate. It was entrusted to us as a gift to us. We inherited the land as did the Oakhurst subdivision, clearly visible from the end of Peacock Creek Drive. The neighbor remembers “The Bettencourts were a big family that were raised on the property, about three generations of them, they grew up there. When they split it, that was an estate, it wasn’t so many years ago, the Bettencourt girls got that and sold it...then they moved to Oregon, up by Burns, Oregon. They’re a ranching family, they bought a bunch of acres up there.” Beverly Hansen remembers that around 1965, “My husband and I were driving back down from the Nortonville cemetery past Irish Canyon and we saw a rancher at the gate. I asked him where the Jones property was and if we could visit the old cabin. I think it had to be Frank Bettencourt. He said ‘I’m sorry but the cabin’s been torn down, the cows were getting in it.’ I was so sad. I’m just thrilled that the site will now be protected.”

Much of this summary of Irish Canyon history was developed from U.S. Census records. Special thanks to Janet Easton, Envy Gomez, Beverly Hansen, Anne Homan, and East Bay Regional Park District’s Traci Parent and John Waters.

Family & Land - The Mangini Ranch

(Cont. from page 8)

Family & Land - The Mangini Ranch

(Cont. from page 8)

to a developer. This hilly section, which they called the Railroad Ranch, includes the headwaters of Galindo Creek and rises from about 500’ elevation to heights of 1000’ at Lime Ridge and over toward Mt. Zion. Views extend over most of central Contra Costa County and beyond. It contains rare species such as the Alameda whipsnake, horned lizard, and was a historic location of the recently rediscovered Mount Diablo buckwheat.

Cliff and Bill Matthews, two reclusive brothers, owned a neighboring property but lived in an old house on the Mangini parcel. The family used the Railroad Ranch for cattle and hay. They used to hunt up there. Their brand, LL (from the Lavezzola family), was registered in 1915; they still own the brand and use it now on the few cattle that they raise. Grandson Joe commented that they have one of the old 250-pound, 5-wire hay bales from the Railroad Ranch, in the barn.

Karen explained the family’s decision: “I think I am speaking for the entire family when I say that respect for the land and our temporary use and care of it has been passed down to us from past generations. It was that sense of respect for ‘mother earth’ that motivated us to work with Save Mount Diablo. The land that we are releasing was a gift to us. We inherited the land as did the generation before us. It was entrusted to us to care for and now we are entrusting it to a larger group to care for and appreciate.”
This past fall, Artists For Action - a local group of plein air painters who help with landscape conservation - depicted Save Mount Diablo’s Mangini Ranch, to help raise the last funds needed to purchase the property. The beautiful paintings created by the 25 participating artists were displayed at the Valley Art Gallery in November and then sold at SMD’s 35th anniversary celebration on Dec. 1.

As a result, SMD and the Gallery decided to collaborate on the 4th exhibition of Slopes of Diablo, a juried competition of two dimensional art works (no photo or computer generated work) to be exhibited in May 2007. Carrie Brewster, curator of the Hearst Gallery at St. Mary’s College in Moraga will select the awards. According to JoEllen Bean, curator for the Valley Art Gallery’s second Slopes of Diablo show in 1990, “Although group exhibitions are more often organized around style or medium, this exhibition is organized around place - the landscape in which Diablo stands as a visible center of our daily lives. From 40 miles away, on all sides, we know we are home when we see the mountain rising before us. Steadily through the vivid seasonal and atmospheric changes, the mountain serves as a beacon when we return home. It is a focus, a background, a varying but steadfast element for us all. Here, then, with diverse approaches - we celebrate this landscape, this mountain, this place, and the artists who so eloquently record it for us.”

The show opens May 20 and will be displayed until June 30. The deadline for artists who wish to participate is April 7; for details, check the Gallery website or call Betty Wells at 925 284-9179.

Save Mount Diablo is co-sponsoring the exhibition’s opening reception on Sunday May 20 from 3 pm - 5 pm. RSVP requested, please email your name(s) and phone number to smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org.

Valley Art Gallery
1661 Botelho Dr., Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Tues - Sat from 11am - 5pm

2004 award winning painting by Paul Krutter

Veronica Potts joins SMD

Veronica joined the staff at Save Mount Diablo as our new Administrative Assistant in November of 2006. She grew up in Lafayette and went to high school in San Francisco, where she later earned a BS in Business Management from San Francisco State University.

Veronica lives with her fiancé Tony and her 4 year-old daughter Anaya in Walnut Creek. Growing up, her family often went on camping trips to Lake Tahoe and the Sierra. She still enjoys traveling to the Tahoe area as well as gardening, knitting with her daughter, spending time with her mom, sister and nieces, watching movies, and riding her bike with Anaya to local parks.

After working in the city for several years, Veronica wanted to work closer to home. “I wanted to work in the non-profit field that is working with the local community.”

“My daughter, Anaya, is in the 2nd grade and is very involved with our community. I want to look back in ten years and be proud of what I have done, having made a difference.”

Seth Adams, SMD’s Director of Land Programs, accepts a check for $4,950 from REI Concord’s store manager Doug Tracey. The grant will help pay for fencing on the Mangini Ranch.
We deeply appreciate and thank all our members. Your generous support makes it possible for our small organization to meet the many demands that come with increasing population and development pressures in the area. As one of our members writes: “Every time I drive around the area and catch glimpses of Mt. Diablo, I vow to do whatever I can to prevent any more encroaching development. That’s why I’m already a member of Save Mount Diablo.” We hope we can count on your continued support and help in recruiting new members to support our cause.

Blue-eyed grass (Bill Sattler)
**Remarkable Opportunities Available in 2007 to Help Save Mount Diablo**

The federal Pension Protection Act of 2006 offers numerous incentives for landowners and for Save Mount Diablo donors.

**Donate IRA Distributions - Tax Free**

If you are at least 70 and a half years of age and are required to take mandatory distributions from your IRA, you can have the distribution directed to Save Mount Diablo and the distribution will not be taxable to you (i.e., it is excluded from your gross income). There is a limit of $100,000 per taxpayer per year.

**Donate Conservation Easements**

The Pension Protection Act also changed the tax incentive for voluntary conservation donations – donations by private landowners that relinquish development rights to protect significant wildlife, scenic, and historic resources.

That change enables family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners to get a significant tax benefit for the donation of these conservation easements, which simply wasn’t possible under prior law.

The 2006 Tax law:
- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%.
- Allows qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI.
- Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 5 years to 15 years.

Under prior law, an agricultural landowner earning $50,000 a year who donated a conservation easement worth $1 million could take a total of no more than $90,000 in tax deductions! Under the new law, landowner can take as much as $800,000 in tax deductions – still less than the full value of their donation, but a significant increase.

**Only Valid in 2007**

These tax benefits are only available through the end of 2007 unless they are extended. A bill to extend the act is being prepared for submission to Congress.

Individuals interested in making donations should contact their personal tax advisor or financial planner. Or, contact us at SMD if you would like more information about conservation easements or donating the mandatory disbursement from your IRA.

**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 general purposes of the organization.”

**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.
In Memory of

Jay Abrash
Anne-Lise Peachee
Erwin Anthofer
Keith & Susi Farmer
Shirley Axelson
Jean Saylor
Marlene & Bob Baker
Betty Lou Bates
Philip Bartlett
Rhonda Bartlett
Albert Raymond Belanger
James & Marian Pfohl
Mary Bowerman
Susan Steinberg
Robert F. Brown
Virginia Heiderick
Riley James Brunson
Samuel & Suzanne Abbott
James P. Butler, Jr.
Carolyn Butler
Dorothy Buzzini
Jon Bergstrom
Dorothy Foster
Leopold Dvorak

In Honor of

Martin & Mary Jansen’s
50th anniversary
Martin & Mary Jansen
Seth Adams
Shari Lee Loret
Peggy Ayers
Mary Jo Bates
The Capital Group
Companies Charitable
Foundation
Paul & Elizabeth Baxter
Carol Baxter
Evelyn & Bill Benson
Bob and Sue Benson
Gary Bogue
Richard & Gayle Buxton
Shari Lee Loret
Karen & John Pontrelli
Art Bonwell
Neil & Lind Higgins
Lt. Mark Bregem, USAF
Susan & Bruce Kaufman
My Father
Mary Ambrosino
Mary Ann
James & Carol Frane
Peekaboo
Charles Orr
Rhoda Simon
John & Isabel Welmlney
Bruce B. Smith
Kay Smith
Elibel Doris Smits
An Mari Ericsson
Fred Stergner
Susan & Sam Abbott
Dr. Hooshang Tajbki
Richard & Mary Bowers
Wayne D. Wetst
Fred & Susan Donecker
Terry Erle Wilson
June Wall
Lowery & Helen Young
Virginia Young
DAR Mt Diablo Chapter
Annabelle
Charles & Lee McCaffree
Esperance
John Anderson
John
Patricia Nargang
Joseph Grossman’s Mother
Susan & Bruce Kaufman
Martha & Charlie
Barbara

Heritage Trees

California Poppies (Bill Satter)

In Memory of Jack,
Matt Hall’s Dog
Max, Garrison, Lauren,
Melissa, David, Hannah,
Stacey & Billy.
In Honor of Jim & Terri Truel’s
wedding
Connie Melani
Grove: In loving memory of
Dr. John A. Pianfetti
Nancy Evans
Grove: In loving memory of
Dr. Miriam E. Rogin
Nancy Guard Evans
Grove: Fremont Bank
Foundation

Heritage Trees

California Poppies (Bill Satter)

Foundations

B.T. Rocca, Jr. Foundation
Cinlecxco Foundation
Coit Family Foundation
Johnson & Louise Clark
Charitable Foundation
Maisel Foundation
Schwab Fund for Charitable
Giving
Strong Foundation
Barth Foundation
Tri-Valley Community
Foundation
Walnut Creek Open Space
Foundation

Corporate Match

AIG Matching Grants Program
Bank of America Matching Gifts Program
Bank of the West
Clorox Gift Campaign
Del Monte Foods
IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program
Microsoft Matching Gifts Program
Nike Employees Charitable Giving Program
Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts Program
SBC Foundation
The Charles Schwab Corporation Foundation
TFC Foundation
Valero Refining Company
WeinPoint Associate Giving Campaign

If we have inadvertently omit- or misspelled your name, please call us at (925) 947-3535 and we will be sure to correct our records.

All contributions were made from August 1 - December 31, 2006

Baby Blue Eyes (Bill Satter)

15
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.

Nia Dance Fundraiser for Save Mount Diablo
April 22, Sun, 2pm - 4pm

Leader:  Charla Gabert & Shelly Ross  
Charla: 925-256-0968, Shelly: 510-6538995  
Charlagabert@yahoo.com  
Renaissance Club Sport, 2805 Jones Rd., Walnut Creek

Celebrate Earth Day by learning about Save Mount Diablo and enjoying a fun afternoon of Nia, a “fusion” fitness class based on dance and martial arts. Ron Brown, Executive Director of SMD, and Charla Gabert, SMD Board Member, will make short presentation about SMD. Seven new Nia instructors from the Bay Area will then lead routines that showcase the variety and joy of this mind-body-spirit fitness practice. Light drinks and snacks will follow. (Nia is a barefoot workout; however, if you want to keep your shoes on, please wear soft soled non-marking shoes.) Come prepared to have fun while moving to great music. Read more about Nia at: www.nianow.com  
Suggested donation: $20

Irish Canyon Bioblitz - Saturday April 21, 2007

BioBlitz is a race against time to see how many wildlife species we can find and count in a 24-hour period. BioBlitz brings together scientists, naturalists and volunteers to document biodiversity present in our community. BioBlitz is a unique opportunity to explore, discover, educate and investigate the tremendous amount of biodiversity that surrounds us in our local environment, in this case at SMD’s newest acquisition project Irish Canyon.

Public Invited 10 am - 4 pm, park at Clayton Library, 6125 Clayton Road  
To find out more about Bioblitz or to register visit www.savemountdiablo.org

Moonlight on the Mountain  Sat. August 25, 2007
Save Mount Diablo 36th anniversary celebration and presentation of the Mountain Star Awards.  
Dinner, silent and live auction, and live music by aja vu.  
Tickets $200 per person  
To RSVP or request sponsorship information call (925) 947-3535  
Suggested donation: $20