Vote No! on Measure N on March 2
Save Los Vaqueros

Just four years after completing the $450 million, 100,000 acre foot Los Vaqueros reservoir at ratepayers' expense, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) wants to destroy it and build a massive replacement five times its size, at a cost of $1.5 billion. Some SMD members will receive this after the election (others will receive a special mailing prior to the election); the proposal to expand Los Vaqueros will continue for some time. Read more about the issue at www.NoonMeasureN.com

Here's what the district said about the reservoir completed in 1999: "Los Vaqueros will give CCWD customers enough high-quality water to meet their needs, even during a prolonged drought."

An expanded reservoir won't benefit Contra Costa - the existing one solved our needs. Tearing down Los Vaqueros represents flushing $100 million in public funds down the drain, endangering our water supply, and includes huge impacts.

Measure N enables the State-the most likely partner-and Southern California water districts to take more water from the Delta, harming water quality, parkland, and our pocketbooks. It endangers the health of the Bay and Delta, destroys up to 2,600 acres of natural habitat and recreational facilities within the Los Vaqueros watershed, and encourages increased development.

CCWD's ballot statement is deceptive, is advisory only, and doesn't bind the District to anything. The March 2 vote is premature and politically motivated since CCWD hasn't completed an Environmental Impact Report, nailed down partners or funding or defined their project. We do know that the $1.5 billion cost is proposed to come from environmental restoration funding, an inappropriate use.

The Los Vaqueros watershed is the second largest open space in the East Bay, at 19,000 acres almost equal to Mt. Diablo State Park, and home to many sensitive species. The first project was authorized with a similarly vague ballot item in 1988 and during the campaign CCWD made many specific promises (many organizations includ-

Looking Forward:
A "Landmark" Measure To Preserve Open Space

This spring, Contra Costa property owners will have an unprecedented opportunity to protect and preserve our most important remaining natural lands, parks, shorelines and trails.

A County-sponsored Open Space Measure mail ballot is anticipated to go before property owners in mid-May. If passed, the Measure would set aside $8 million per year for open space protection and preservation. It would also help fund the much-needed maintenance and enhancement of already existing parklands.

Mt. Diablo is one of the many key areas identified for significant funding, should the proposed Measure move forward and be approved. Much of the land surrounding the mountain, and even its very slopes, are privately owned and threatened by development. Acquisition of these areas would enable the protection of environmentally-sensitive areas, which provide habitat for several special status species.

The Measure would also fund the linking of greenbelts adjacent to Mount Diablo, including Kirker Hills to the North, the Tassajara Valley to the South, and to the dwindling agricultural lands to the East. Linking these areas would provide an essential buffer to encroaching development and urbanization.

The Measure would also provide funds to help restore and maintain existing regional and neighborhood parks and recreational areas, including Tilden and Briones, Black Diamond Mines, Contra Loma Regional Park, the Iron Horse Trail, the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail, the Martinez Regional Shoreline, Waterbird Regional Preserve and Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

The Open Space Measure was launched in 2000 by Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors John Gioia and Donna Gerber. Since then, it has been moved forward by an unprecedented coalition of business, environmental and local leaders through the Coalition for
Continued on page 10
Visit Los Vaqueros before it’s too late

Los Vaqueros (Until 3/1/04, 7 am - 5 pm)  
Map: www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros/directions.asp  
Notes: No bikes, horses, dogs. S.4-6 fee. Either entrance is 45 minutes from Walnut Creek

Los Vaqueros is a sublime, threatened area, as big as Mt. Diablo State Park, a large basin with a multitude of canyons and ridges. It’s little known because it’s new, and the Contra Costa Water District has added little to its ranch road trail system, 25% of the State Park’s in length. Long trails are ideal for cyclists and equestrians but CCWD doesn’t allow them above the reservoir dam (with one exception). The magnificent oak-studded valley bottom and sinuous Kellogg Creek were sacrificed to the 1500 acre reservoir, a major barrier to wildlife, especially small ones. Public management has aided some species. With Vasco Road relocated east, the valley is quiet and isolated.

The current reservoir was dedicated just four years ago; there’s no need for the incredible waste of an enlargement. CCWD’s plan is to tear down the dam, build one six times larger and 170’ higher, destroy 2600 more acres and probably close most of the watershed for years. Go now, and Vote NO on Measure N on March 2. It’s easy to get to the north side dam and to trails with wide views; the south includes flat trails leading into intimately beautiful Adobe Valley—which will be submerged. The expansion would double the wildlife and recreational barrier.

Adobe Valley & the Marina  
Directions: From Livermore On Hwy 580, take Vasco Road toward Brentwood for 4.5 miles. Look for the sign, turn left, follow past the marina to the end. From the north, take Vasco south.  
Trailhead: end of road trailhead, past the Marina  
Trail: Los Vaqueros Trail to Adobe Trail and back  
Distance: 2 hours round trip, flat and easy.

Go past the marina to the end of the road; after the rock causeway, the Los Vaqueros Trail follows the shallow reservoir edge. The dam is barely visible in the distance, past a long peninsula—which would be mostly submerged if the reservoir’s expanded—leading to Round Valley. Morgan Territory Ridge is above left. The proposal would raise the water level 160 feet into the woodland and chaparral, eliminating the west side grassland corridor—where meadowlarks call and herons hunt mice. You’ll pass miles of young oaks in tube tubs. A thousand acres of oak restoration would be submerged as well as the trail, and many huge old oaks housing an orchestra of birds. You’ll pass side canyons whose streams are now isolated. Seagulls, kites and osprey wheel overhead, a bald eagle is often seen.

In 20 minutes you’ll pass huge, partially submerged oak skeletons, and leave the reservoir behind. Incredible Adobe Valley opens up ahead, blue oak groves and chaparral become visible, band tailed pigeons feed among young oaks. Again imagine the water’s surface 160’ higher, stretching up into the side canyons on both sides, and up the creeks that reappear at the water’s end—you’d get the bends from this depth. When you rejoin the gravelled access road you’ll be at the Ordway Ranch, a perfect site for a group camp which CCWD has neglected. Stay right; soon the trail splits, follow the Adobe Trail left. Bigger valley oaks show up and on my day a coyote barked at me from above. Pass a pond dam and reach a big gate, straight onto the only trail above the dam where horses and bicycles are allowed, from Morgan Territory to Round Valley. Go a few hundred feet straight for a wonderful overlook of Round Valley.

Kellogg Valley, the Dam and Mariposa Canyon  
Directions: From Central Contra Costa County Hwy 4 East. Exit south on Lone Tree. Over the hill, right onto Highway 4 Bypass, left on Balfour, right on Walnut, to the dam. Or Marsh Creek Road east, straight onto Camino Diablo, right on Walnut. From the south, take Vasco north to Camino Diablo, left, left again on Walnut, to the dam.  
Trailhead: Visitor Center below dam  
Trail: Los Vaqueros Tr to Vista Grande to Mariposa Cyn to Kellogg Creek  
Distance: 4.5 miles, substantial climb then easy

When you drive into the watershed from the north you follow Kellogg Creek, which once curved across the Los Vaqueros valley. Vasco Road crossed the creek at the dam site, then the valley widened again to the north.

CCWD proposes an additional reservoir, “Kellogg Forebay” below the dam. On my drive in I passed two coyotes in less than a mile.

Imagine the dam 170’ higher, submerging most of the peninsula before you (Adobe Valley is beyond) and to the tops of the oak grove across the dam.

After a half mile Vista Grande goes right; soon you’ll level out with more great views of Morgan Territory Ridge. Once you reach the ridge top bathroom—views of Diablo, Round Valley and the Central Valley—it’s all gravy.

Take the Crest Trail down for a shorter loop, otherwise continue on Vista Grande. Another half hour and you’ll be winding down rolling hills and curve northeast into Mariposa’s oak woodland and back to Walnut Blvd. Cross it, follow the Kellogg Creek trail right and soon you’ll be back at the start.
Mt. Diablo Trail Adventure
2004 Race to be held November 7

On November 2, 2003 SMD held its annual Mount Diablo Trail Adventure - “Get Dirty on Diablo” - and community expo at Castle Rock Park. The event was sponsored by local business owners, Marty Breen (Forward Motion Sports - Danville and Walnut Creek) and Dave Husted (Outside Interests). It attracted nearly 150 runners and hikers from as far as New Mexico to participate in the half marathon and 10K run/hike.

Board member Scott Hein and wife Claudia lead an interpretive hike along the course route. Local residents, 43 year-old Adam Rhoads of San Ramon and 34 year-old Sarah Smith of Piedmont were the overall winners in the men and women categories of the half marathon. In the 10K race, 51 year-old Manuel Pino of Tempe, AZ took first place for the men with 28 year-old Oakland resident Jenny Wong leading the women.

Additional sponsors included New Balance (category prizes), Chipotle (lunch), Alhambra Water (water), and the Diablo Road Runner (financial support). Other community organizations and local bluegrass band, Grab Bag, participated in the community expo. Special thanks to over 40 volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make the day such a success.

First Annual Mount Diablo Trail Adventure Logo Contest

Do you enjoy drawing or graphic design? SMD is looking for artists of all ages to submit logo designs for our 2004 Mount Diablo Trail Adventure.

The winning logo will be revealed on race day and used to promote the Trail Adventure event throughout the year. Designs can use up to four colors and can be submitted as an actual image on paper, or via an email attachment.

Mail to: SMD, 1196 Boulevard Way, #10, Walnut Creek, 94595, or, email to <smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org>

Logos must be received by September 30. Include your name, address, and phone number.

Los Vaqueros continued from page 1

ing SMD were neutral as a result) which they then broke. Key among them were deceptions about rate increases, the promise to permanently preserve the watershed where they now propose to destroy four more square miles. Afterwards they were indicted by the Contra Costa Grand Jury.

SMD was part of a taskforce which examined the current proposal for 18 months. If there was an appropriate balance of new land preservation and commitments that could be relied upon, our position might be different. CCWD refused to make a single concrete commitment before placing the measure on the ballot. We've learned recently that they also intend to destroy the recreational facilities at Antioch's Contra Loma Regional Park, a proposal they're trying to keep quiet until after the election.

We oppose Measure N as part of a coalition of twenty-nine community organizations with a variety of interests, chaired by former Senator John Nejedly, who believes the proposal is the latest scheme to send money south. Key opponents are former Supervisor Donna Gerber and EBRPD Directors Ted Radke, Beverly Lane and Jean Siri. SMD signed ballot arguments against the measure and has committed substantial funding to the opposition.

If Los Vaqueros is torn down we'll still be paying bonds for the destroyed dam, but they haven't figured out who will pay for the new one or what the economic impacts will be. They don't want us to know about the problems, such as how the expanded dam could harm water quality, parkland, wildlife, and fish. One thing we do know: during construction of a new reservoir, we will lose Los Vaqueros’ water quality, drought and emergency supply benefits for 4-8 years.

We also know that trails, recreational facilities and four square miles of habitat would be destroyed or submerged for a reservoir for which there is no demonstrated need, including a significant wildlife corridor on the reservoir's west side. CCWD also continues to oppose multi-use trails above the dam (with a 1-mile Diablo Trail exception, which would be flooded); thus no horses or cyclists.

Visit Our Web Site: www.savemountdiablo.org

Beautiful images of the mountain . . . history of SMD and its acquisitions . . . information about our current land use planning efforts & acquisition projects . . . read articles from past newsletters.

Our web site was created by and is regularly updated by SMD co-founder Art Bonwell. Art changes the web site frequently and encourages site visitors to share their own Diablo images for posting.

The Wild Bird Center, in Newell Plaza in Walnut Creek, hosts SMD’s web site. Thanks to Joanie & Chris Smith. Chris also provides SMD with the technical support Art needs in maintaining the web site.

Ways to help
Save Mount Diablo

Bob and Heather Hopfner, owners of Just Rugs (5753 Pacheco Blvd. Martinez, 925-609-2151) had so much fun at SMD’s Moonlight event, they then sponsored an ad in Diablo Magazine about our work. We appreciate the support. Imagine how you can help. Call for info: 925 947-3535

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Oakland hills opened in 1903, and after the 1906 earthquake, Burgess and others began subdividing parts of Central County. The first automobile garage opened in Martinez in 1907, the County’s first electric train arrived in 1911, and stagecoach service ended two years later.

A succession of owners parcelled together then lost or passed on a large tract known as the Railroad Ranch, Cook Farms, and then the Oakwood Park Stock Farm, stretching from Danville toward the summit. At about the same time that Frick and Burgess bought Del Mar, Burgess bought Oakwood and other parcels totaling more than 15,000 acres—the west face of Mt. Diablo—and in 1913 announced grand plans for the Mt. Diablo Estates, a community of 10,000. His investors included State Senator Arthur H. Breed, Sr. and Harlow P. Bancroft (large real estate dealers in Oakland), and George Emmons, head of the Emmons Storage and Drayage Co. Each purchased a quarter share of the Mt. Diablo Park Company.

Burgess built Mt. Diablo Scenic Boulevard to the mountain’s peak and encouraged tourists as potential lot buyers. Diablo was made official with a post office in December 1916, and lots were sold for summer and weekend homes. Men would take the train to Oakland or the City on weekdays, leaving their families in Diablo. In 1917, World War I intervened, Burgess went bankrupt, and Diablo declined. The only parts of his project which were built were the homes clustered around the Mt. Diablo Park Country Club. Most of the Diablo lands defaulted to investors, or to their original owners.

Burgess is often incorrectly credited for Mt. Diablo State Park’s creation—and he did play a part—but starting in 1919 Walter Frick reasssembled many of the parcels Burgess had controlled into the 10,000 acre Diablo Ranch. By 1920 the county’s population had climbed to 54,000 in a Bay area of 1.2 million, and Diablo began a resurgence.

“Park”

During the 1920s and 30s, Walter Frick’s name was front page news. By the time of his death in 1937, he had made his way into San Francisco Society, amassed and nearly lost a fortune, and owned tens of thousands of acres of land in a dozen California counties. He knew governors and presidents.

What distinguishes Frick’s rise through the ’20s and fall during the Great Depression were the Diablo and Del Mar purchases. Although Diablo Ranch was closer to population centers, Frick’s actions led directly to creation of Mt. Diablo State Park.

In 1921, soon after Frick’s Diablo purchases began, Mt. Diablo State Park was dedicated, a “State Park and Game Refuge” on 630 acres at the summit. What’s rarely mentioned is that it was a designation, not ownership. In 1931 the Park was re-dedicated after the purchase of two areas stretching up Southgate Road to include Rock City. By 1937 seven purchases had been made—including the “State Park” summit. All but nineteen acres of the 2,022 acre park, including three quarters of the summit, were purchased from Walter Frick.

Despite broad coverage of Diablo and the State Park’s creation during his last years, Frick’s role has largely been forgotten—a one liner mentioning his ownership of part of the mountain. Instead Burgess is remembered, as founder of Diablo and the Mt. Diablo Park Club and because of his tourist brochures and 1964 Memoirs. It might have been the single word, “Park.” Burgess’s real estate development holding company was the “Mt. Diablo Park Company.” After Burgess’s bankruptcy, Frick gathered the Diablo lands into the “Mt. Diablo Company.” Perhaps local historians and reporters simply confused the two, failed to review dozens of complicated land transactions, and thereby deprived Frick of recognition. Burgess doesn’t mention Frick in his Memoirs.

Maybe it was a broken heart. Frick may have been distracted or media shy because of financial difficulties and a high profile divorce from his second wife, the beaut-
Frick  Continued from page 5

ful Helen Fay. In any case, an Oakland businessman gave Save Mount Diablo founder Mary Bowerman permission to study his land, when she began her botanical research on Mt. Diablo in 1930, and with the Marvelous Mount Diablo brochure, including Frick’s name and Oakland address, my interest was piqued.

Walter Paul Frick, 1875-1937

Frick’s tale is of a middle class Indiana boy who made good in California, during the San Francisco Bay Area’s maturation from the mining era following the Gold Rush to its emergence as the western United States’ financial center. He was a product of his times, conservative yet visionary, hard-driving in business, socially ambitious. His life is marked by sharp deals over thousands of acres. In pictures of Frick he is often the smiling center of attention but by his 40s in the mid 1920s he has aged into a grave demeanor.

He was born in 1875 in Evansville, Indiana the youngest son of Peter Frick and Susan Emrich Frick, middle class Swiss-German immigrants. They married during the Civil War, lived with Peter’s brother, well known architect Joseph K. Frick, and had six children. There was no connection with the wealthy Pennsylvania Fricks but the merchant family was prosperous enough that, the year before Walter was born, his sister Hattie and their father Peter traveled first class to Germany on the S.S. Hohenzollern. The family was educated and musical. Hattie became an opera singer and at one point Walter managed his brother Romeo’s opera company.

“He had a marvelous voice. He had a good singing voice, the whole family was trained in music… He loved to play the guitar, but not very often. He had a harmonica harness and would call square dancing in the forest with the loggers… He had some favorite songs, like “Marquita” and “Shanty Town.”... Great voice, great voice...He was a good speaker.” Frick’s 87-year old son Robert and his wife Ada live in Tiburon. Robert Frick grew up on Nob Hill but he and his brother worked at both the Del Mar and Diablo Ranches. When his parents separated in 1932, Robert moved with his father to their house in Diablo. Except where attributed, the italicized quotes are his.

“At the age of eighteen he left Evansville Indiana, came to California and milked cows in Placerville...he had ten dollars in his pocket.” Frick moved to California in 1893, and lived in Grizzly Flat and Placerville. He became a mining engineer, then a timber broker for the Medford, Oregon Wheeler Lumber company, and joined numerous business and social clubs. “I saw a picture once with his mining partner Seymour Hill, carrying an eighty ounce chunk of gold they’d gotten out of a mine... They owned together then sold the Starlight Mining Company, eleven gold mines in El Dorado... He had a knack for making money. He truly enjoyed the process of making deals. What he did, he’d buy up these small parcels and put them together, he’d stay one step ahead of the big lumber companies and sell to them and make a profit.”

“Dad was a wonderful horseman in the transition from horses to automobiles.” “He was a man of the earth. He carried a lot of his camp equipment in the car with him.” [when he was considering land] “He’d get a cursory glance with a mule then go back. He liked to be outdoors but he rarely was; he was at the office, or at home, or traveling.”

Between 1900 and 1906, when he started making dozens of timber deals in Sonoma County, Frick moved to the Bay Area and began his climb up the social ladder. “Dad lived in the old Stanford home at the time of the earthquake. He was able to get on a ferry and across the bay to Oakland. He liked Oakland because it was more informal; he called it a shirt sleeve city.” His business ventures included speculation in the stock market, timber, mining, oil, and agriculture. By age 34 in 1909 he was wealthy enough to donate the land for an Oakland school, but stipulated that it must forever bear his name or land and improvements would revert back to him.

Around 1910 he partnered with R.N. Burgess and in 1912 they bought 4,819 acre Del Mar, which had already been logged. Frick planned to subdivide the Ranch for large estates, made many improvements and ran thousands of sheep. He planted Monterey cypress hedgerows in double parallels that still mark the subdivision lines, to shelter the sheep from the wind.

That same year he was admitted to the Bohemian Club, (he was a member until his death and a parking lot at the grove is evidently named “Frick Flat”) in addition to his memberships in the Athenian, Claremont Country and Commercial Clubs, the Masons, etc. By 1913 he was in the Society pages when he married society favorite Georgina Crawford Sneathen. They moved to Piedmont and had a daughter, Shirley Frances Frick, but Sneathen divorced Frick two years later. In 1916 he married Helen Fay, a beautiful Oakland kindergarten teacher from Nebraska. Walter and Helen had two sons and a second daughter from 1917 to 1919, Robert Peter, Walter Paul Jr., and Helen Jane.

“He came out of the roaring 20’s, a whole bunch of people who got rich quick. My mother spent a great deal of time shopping for clothes, expensive clothes, keeping up with the wealthy people of San Francisco...We were brought up by gov continued on page 7
Frick continued from page 6

ernesses and Chinese cooks. While dad was trying to make money, mother was trying to climb up in Society."

"He always wore a hat. No one went hatless back in those days. He never swore. He was always well-dressed. I don’t remember dad ever being sloppy. He used to dress very expensively, flashy clothes, diamond stick pin—a big diamond... He had no vices, he wasn’t religious. He was politically conservative, Republican. Businessmen, especially wealthy businessmen, tend to be status quo. He entertained President Hoover at the house at Diablo when Hoover was running for re-election in 1932. I remember meeting President Hoover in the living room at dinner, Hoover, father, my brother and I."

The children spent summers at Del Mar. Frick built clay tennis courts there and a playhouse for Helen Jane, the boys rowed and fished on the Gualala River and on the sea. As the boys grew older they were expected to work with the ranch hands.

"The Del Mar ranch was twelve miles along the coast and averaged about a mile and a half deep back from the coast...The ranches were always a drag financially. He used to worry about the rains not coming during the lambing."

The Diablo Ranch

In 1917 Walter Frick joined the Mt Diablo Park Country Club which Burgess had founded (now known as the Diablo Country Club.) Two years later he began acquiring many of the parcels at Diablo that Burgess had previously controlled—at about the same time that public discussions began about preserving the mountain as a public park.

"I worked on the Diablo ranch for years as a boy. Dad had a sheep ranch there... Diablo was his favorite ranch. My brother and I favored Del Mar, but he didn’t like the cold there. He liked the heat."

A sheepherder’s camp was located near the present day site of the Athenian School and between ten and thirty hands would manage the sheep and cattle, and harvest walnuts. "We would handle sheep, circumcise the lambs in the wintertime when they were just a few weeks old. You ever hear of ‘mountain oysters’? We’d throw them in a bucket and have them for one of our meals. Dad was always in his office or off on some business trip. We plowed the walnut orchard. It was a mile long. It took me one hour long to go down that orchard, one hour down, one hour back. It was the only level land on the early rains."

On Dec. 27, 1919 the Contra Costa Gazette reports: "Visitor Here Urges That Steps Be Taken To Preserve Mount Diablo As Public Park" "During a visit in Martinez the past week Edward P.E. Troy, public utility, municipal and tax expert of San Francisco, discussed in some detail a plan which has been proposed for the establishment of a public park on Mt. Diablo. Troy expresses the belief that now is the opportune time to take steps to secure large tracts of land on Mt. Diablo under an act of the legislature which will secure it permanently for future generations as a place of beauty and an attraction to this section of California."

Why did Frick buy Diablo? His motivations have been described as altruistic. It is equally likely that he envisioned a good deal doing what he had always done—putting smaller pieces together and then reselling them as a whole for a greater price.

Perhaps he intended to sell most of the acreage to the state but a park at the mountain’s peak would make his remaining acreage more valuable too. In any case, he drove a hard bargain as a variety of interests statewide began pushing for funding for several different state parks. He probably never expected to own the Diablo Ranch for eighteen years—from Robert’s 2nd birthday until he was attending Cal Berkeley—or to lose his wife and his health.

Special thanks to Betty Maffei and the Contra Costa History Center, Sea Ranch historian Susan Clark, Patricia Davis, Robert and Ada Frick, and Suzanne Lamble.

Part 2 of Who Was Walter P. Frick? The Creation of Mt. Diablo State Park will be published in the Fall 2004 Diablo Watch. Info for this article was gathered from many places.
Amazingly, the breezes that were sweeping across the plain at the China Wall earlier in the day disappeared as over 300 guests began arriving at Macedo Ranch. In its second year, the sold out event attracted more than three times the number of attendees. Cindy Gershen and her Sunrise Catering staff served an elegant meal as guests enjoyed Michele Latimer and her jazz quartet. The event and its silent and live auctions raised over $75,000 to support the programs of Save Mount Diablo.

Moonlight On The Mountain
Saturday, September 13, 2003

An elegant evening under the light of the full moon, at the China Wall on Mt Diablo. Celebrate SMD’s 33nd anniversary and acknowledge recipients of Mountain Star Awards.

• Sign up as an event sponsor
• Join the planning committee.

Be a table host
Donate silent or live auction items
Call 925-947-3535
**Diablo Celebrated**

**Dressage for Diablo**

*October 4, 2003*

Over 500 children and adults enjoyed the spectacular performance held at the Equestrian Center at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. The event was sponsored by the Mount Diablo Gateway Alliance group that is attempting to protect 36 acres of rolling land adjacent to the North Gate entrance to Mount Diablo State Park. Thanks to sponsors: Wild Ride Freestyles, Concord Feed, Purina Mills, Trader Joe’s, Rocco’s Pizza, and dozens of volunteers.

**Mary Bowerman**

**Book Signing**

*December 11, 2003*

In 1944 SMD Founder Mary Bowerman (left) published *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Mt. Diablo*. With the help of Jepson Herbarium’s Barbara Ertter (right), the book was republished last year. SMD large donors attended a special signing at the Museum of San Ramon Valley. Beverly Lane (center).

**Large Donor Mining**

**Museum Tour**

*November 23, 2003*

It was a spectacular day at Black Diamond Mines, when SMD large donors headed underground. Miners John Waters and Rick Yarborough made a presentation then led a special guided tour of areas of the mines seldom seen, followed by a short hike to the Rose Hill cemetery, led by Park Supervisor Roger Epperson.

*Photos by Scott Hein, David Ogden, Liede Marie Haitma*
boards. He began with SMD several years ago, first by donating his photographs and then by joining the Development Committee. His contributions are, “Heart, photography, money, time, and writing if needed” He got involved with SMD because, “Its mission is the noblest. Its people are dedicated and passionate.”

“I’m a quiet guy, not a schmoozer. . . a follower rather than a leader. An East Bay native who never moved away, so “Mt. Diablo has always been in my life. It is a spiritual anchor, a presence that is more enduring than Broadway Plaza, more worthy than George Bush, strong and fragile at the same time. A source of awe and inspiration to me, my kids, and to their descendants.” David lives in Walnut Creek with wife Sandy Biagi and children, Casey and Cooper.

**Shaping continued from page 1**

Dozens of elected officials and hundreds of community activists are discussing each of the projects. Each is being closely watched and influenced by numerous special interests (developers, land owners, business leaders, unions, environmentalists, social justice advocates, taxpayer organizations, politicians, cities, the county; the list goes on and on...). Each of the interests is working diligently to achieve its own objectives, which often creates conflict. And that’s as it should be. But by working collaboratively we have the opportunity to make progress and achieve balance. We all have a part to play. But, the final product will be enhanced if we recognize that the best way to achieve our own objectives is to create alliances with various interest groups – including developers, unions, business interests, cities and the county. By working together, these diverse interest groups can identify common objectives, and then develop strategies for helping to achieve each other’s objectives while creating a sensitively balanced long-range plan for our community. Save Mount Diablo realizes that its ability to preserve the last wild places in Contra Costa is absolutely linked to the rest of the community’s success in providing housing, jobs and adequate transportation and transit options for our growing population. Together, we truly can Shape Our Future.

You can help “shape” these decisions by speaking out—at public hearings, in letters to the editor, and to our elected officials.

**Open Space Measure continued from page 1**

Open Space. The Coalition is co-chaired by SMD Executive Director Ron Brown and Tina Batt, Executive Director of the Muir Heritage Land Trust. “We have worked together for four years to create a plan that will preserve and protect our most important environmental and natural resources for current and future generations,” said Tina Batt.

**How You Can Help Support the Measure:**
Volunteer to help the Coalition for Open Space with mailings, phone banks, sign posting and other essential tasks related to increasing awareness about this landmark opportunity to preserve open space. Donations to the Coalition for Open Space will help the campaign move forward. (Campaign donations are not tax-deductible.) Call 381-4187 to volunteer, or e-mail imorrison@contracostaopenspace.org.

To Find Out More: Visit the Coalition for Open Space Website at: contracostaopenspace.org., or call (925) 381-4187.
**Blackhawk-Nunn “Mountain Star” Awards**

Mountain Star Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions have been significant in helping Save Mount Diablo to achieve its mission. The 2003 “Mountain Star” Awards were generously sponsored by Blackhawk-Nunn, developers of the Summerset adult community and the Vineyards at Marsh Creek.

They were presented at “Moonlight On The Mountain” on September 28. Our thanks to Ron and Bob Nunn and to Steve Beinke for their generous support of Save Mount Diablo.

**AT&T Restoration Award**

For resource protection & enhancement at Mt Diablo

**Bob & Shirley Nootbaar Leadership Award**

For difficult & visionary contributions

Shirley is an accomplished artist in love with the view from the Mount Diablo Gateway property, at the entrance to the State Park. Bob, a member of the Lindsay Museum’s Board, helped Shirley create the Mt. Diablo Gateway Alliance, a community based coalition that has worked for the property’s preservation. Bob and Shirley’s persistence in pursuing complex negotiations led to an agreement with the Contra Costa Flood Control District (owners of the property) to purchase a conservation easement on the property.

Their personal support and leadership in fundraising efforts has resulted in a wide range of community and governmental support. Funds have nearly been raised and, a few months after Bob’s untimely passing, we are on the verge of permanently protecting the visually dramatic gateway to Mt Diablo State Park.

**Mountain Star Awards, Call for Nominations**

Save Mount Diablo will be awarding Mountain Star Awards at its 33rd anniversary celebration, “Moonlight on the Mountain”, on August 28. We are seeking nominations of individuals (volunteers or professional), organizations or agencies, whose one-time, or ongoing contributions have been significant in helping Save Mount Diablo to accomplish its mission.

The awards recognize individuals and organizations that work for the preservation of Mount Diablo and the quality of life in our community. Nominees may NOT be current SMD Board Members or staff, but they can be associated with SMD (previously or currently), another organization, or no organization. Nominees can be acknowledged for their efforts in any of the categories from the list on the right (note prior awardees).

Submit written nominations by June 18. Include your name and contact information; the name of your nominee(s), their contact information and several sentences about why you are making the nominations. Mail nominations to SMD, 1196 Boulevard Way, Suite 10, Walnut Creek, 94595 or email <smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org>

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**Prior Mountain Star Award Recipients**

**Leadership Awards**

For difficult and visionary contributions:
- Arthur Bonwell; Joann Hanna; Manfred Lindner; Shirley & Bob Nootbaar; Susan Watson

**Alliance Awards**

Agencies and organizations that work in concert with SMD:
- California Department of Parks & Recreation; Contra Costa Building & Construction Trades Council; East Bay Regional Park District; Greenbelt Alliance

**Legislative Awards**

For elected representatives:
- Retired Senator John Nejedly; Retired Senator Dan Boatwright; Senator Tom Torlakson; Assemblyman Joe Canciamilla; Supervisor Donna Gerber

**Interpretive Awards**

For public education:
- Judy Adler; Mt Diablo Interpretive Assoc.

**Cornerstone Awards**

Large & precedent-setting contributions:
- Ken Behring; Charles Gresham; City of Walnut Creek

**Public Service Awards**

Land preservation by government employees:
- Jim Cutler; Hulet Hornbeck; Warren Westrup

**Media Awards**

For increasing community awareness of Mount Diablo:
- Contra Costa Times; Gary Bogue

**Trail Blazer Awards**

For public recreation and enjoyment of the mountain:
- George Cardinet, Don de Fremery

**Restoration Awards**

For resource protection and enhancement at Mount Diablo:
- AT&T; Ralph Kraetsch; Gary Beeman; Steve Slavin; Charli Danielsen

**Stewardship Awards**

For the mountain’s ongoing ecological health:
- Roger Epperson; The Ginochio Family; The Thomas Family

**Mountain Saver Award**

For lifetime achievement benefitting Mount Diablo:
- Seth Adams; Bob Doyle
Heritage Trees and Groves
Honor Your Loved Ones At
Chaparral Spring

Huge valley oaks stand like sentinels in the grassland of Chaparral Spring, branches dipping to the ground. Blue oak groves are everywhere, on ridges, slopes and dropping down canyons to mix with live oak. In late winter the new buds are a reddish haze above naked branches. The buckeyes, surrounding big meadows through which trails pass, are white branched in late fall. Their winter buds look like green tulips in mid-winter, they’re the first to lose their leaves in summer, but in late May large candles of hundreds of small white-pink flowers completely cover the trees and the fragrance drifts on the breeze.

In 1994 Save Mount Diablo acquired 333-acre Chaparral Spring, a sensually beautiful property of canyons and ridges east of Clayton and north of Marsh Creek Road, the first link in the Mt. Diablo to Black Diamond Mines corridor. The property had three times been threatened with development. Given the urgency, SMD went out on a limb in securing a loan to purchase the property.

We came up with an innovative program to pay off the loan and to benefit our land programs, adoption of heritage trees and groves. Trees near fire roads are mapped and numbered with small metal dog tags. Groves a few hundred feet from roads and along narrow trails are mapped as they’re adopted. When the program is complete a monument naming all the grove donors and those memorialized will be placed low on the property. You can ask us to pick out a tree, or visit Chaparral Spring and pick out your own.

The program has captured people’s imagination. We assumed most Heritage Tree program adoptions would be in memory of loved ones who had passed away. Instead the first adoption, a five acre grove including a huge blue oak, was by Jamil and Karen Abu-Hamdeh as a Mother’s Day gift for Karen’s mother.

The trips to pick out a tree or grove serve several purposes. They’re an emotional time of closure and they’re fun, bringing together families from across the country to honor someone or something they love. A valley oak was chosen by a mother whose daughter had died seven years earlier, “Her birthday is coming up in June, and I always try to think of something to keep her memory alive.” A young couple wanted a place to bring their 2 1/2-year-old daughter and chose an oak with a branch that dips low to the ground, so she can sit on the limb. A large grove was adopted in honor of the work of the Boy Scouts. Subsequently an Eagle Scout candidate built a large information sign.

A wife chose a ridgeline grove with a great view of Diablo because her husband loved the mountain, another because she and her husband had met at nearby Marsh Creek Springs. The Concord Police Dept. donated funds for a grove for the wife of one of their fellow police officers after he was lost in a motorcycle accident.

Sometimes a tree or grove is chosen as a great place to picnic. Others are chosen for the view or because they’re visible from the road, making each trip down Marsh Creek Road a simple memorial. A grove above Chaparral Spring’s interior pond and the largest tree on the property were adopted in honor of Contra Costa Times columnist Gary Bogue and his readers, the self-proclaimed “Diablo Nuts,” after he asked them to donate toward the property’s preservation.

The trips also allow Save Mount Diablo to build relationships with donors, and to educate them about our work saving land. Dana and Dave Dornsife participated in every tree adoption, and they’ve become strong supporters. In December, Dana adopted a five acre grove as a birthday present for Dave.

Scott and Claudia Hein had been significant supporters of SMD for some time when they and Scott’s sister Kristen and her husband Phil each adopted a one-acre buckeye grove. Clustered around a hidden meadow, the 1999 grove adoptions honor Scott and Kristen’s mother who had died two years earlier. Scott and Claudia were so impressed with our work, they got more involved. They became volunteers and Scott began donating his photography and joined the Land Committee. Later he joined the Board of Directors and Claudia became Assistant Secretary.

Adoption trips are often a simulated real estate search as one grove is picked out then a “better” one is found. It’s very personal, like picking out a Christmas tree. Except, of course, it really symbolizes connecting a loved one with preservation of a special place forever. After we get an idea what the donors are looking for, we take a walk or a drive on the property. We try to encourage donors to feel like they’re adopting the entire 333-acre property.

Because of liability, Chaparral Spring won’t be open to the public until it’s transferred to the public but we often schedule special days and hikes—on Mother’s Day and Memorial Day, for example—so that donors can picnic or visit their adoptions and we try to be flexible in allowing visits on special occasions.

The program will end in the next several years. From 1999 to 2001 we (together with the Regional Park District) also acquired neighboring Clayton Ranch, 1,030 acres extending open space to within a half mile of Black Diamond Regional Preserve. Tree adoptions donations range from $250 to $1000. Commemorative groves range from $2,500 for a one-acre grove to $20,000 for a 10-acre grove. If you would like to participate in the program, please call 925 947-3535 for more information.
Save Mount Diablo’s annual operating expenses are underwritten by the financial support we receive from membership revenue. In addition to providing financial support, the number of members we have is a statement to legislators and others about the level of community support for our projects.

We would like to thank the following individuals who have become members in the past year. We invite you to join them in supporting Save Mount Diablo’s efforts to preserve open space.

**Founder’s Circle**
Dave & Dana Donsmife
Virginia Ives & Paul Orsay

**Summit Club**
($1,000 or more)
Joseph Raphael, Braddock & Logan Services Inc
Jim & Carolyn Butler
Julie Grisham & Kenneth Winters
Douglas Lacey & Cindy Silvani-Lacy
Paul Liu & Cheryl Young
Richard & Belinda McNeely
Donald & Georgia Palmer
Marty & Amy Reed
Doug Richardson
James & Patricia Scofield
Greg & Cathy Tibbles
George & Sarah Zimmerman

**Peak Guardian**
($500 or more)
Eugene Barth Foundation
Dina Colman & David Lyczynski
Raymond & Laura De Pole
Kaye Decker
Leslie & Syd Dent
Susan Flautt
Lee Glassow
Peter & Judy Hagen
Bob & Becky Hazleton
Scott & Claudia Hein
Dick Heron & Sue Pitsenbarger
John McCorduck
Carolyn & Bob Mills, Gordon & Donna Monroe
Fred & Katie Morehouse
David Ogden & Sandi Biagi
Ted & Marjorie Plant
Dana & Marti Sketchley
Henry Stauffer
David & Deborah Trotter
Earl & Marlys Worden

**Mountain Saver**
($250 or more)
Mary Baldwin
Dave & Rena Brantley
Dorothy Brown
Ron & Sharon Brown

**Diablo Donor**
($100 or more)
AAUW
Bozena Adam
Thomas & Annette Alborg
Roger Alperin
H. Ward Alter
Michael Anciaux
James Bartlett & Mimi Foord
Virginia Bary

**Wild Rose**
Robert & Gail Burnett
James Day
David Devine
Fred & Susan Donecker
Tom Fannin
Ron & Ann Hendel
Harlan & Gayl Hirschfeld
John & Linda Judd
Dave & Lois Kail
Joyce Kelly
Gerald & Rosette Koch
Jesse & Sharon Krider
Bunny Martin & David Kurtzman
Steve & Carla Matthews
Tom & Maria Monica
Michael O'Donahue
Nigel Olgivie
Albert & Pam Palitz
Joyce Payne
Stephane Pelchat
Jeff & Joyce Radigan
Paul & Bea Stunz
Greg & Maria Thurman
Jacob Van Akkeren & Leslie Bartholic
Frank & Barb Varenchik
Tom Wagner
Milton & Margaret Watchers
Hobie & Ann Woods

**Indian paintbrush**
Hunt Bascom
Burt Bassler
Claude & Carol Benedit
Edward & Mildred Bennett
Bennett Berke
Anne Blandin
Marcheta Bowdle
Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce
Don & Jeanne Boyd
Kate Boyle
Butch & Lynn Brear
Peter & Wally Breidbach
Brent Briggs
Diane Brown
Richard & Alice Brown
Walter & Joann Brown
Jim & Barbara Brunell
John Butera
Dennis Butkowski
Melinda Campi
Kristine Chase
Ciao Bella Salon
Teri Costello
Brenda de la Ossa
John Deeming
Frank & Janice Delfino
Ernest & Florence Dickson
Barbara Drew
John Edwards
Donald & Jeanie Egan
Robert Evangelisti
Carol Evans
David & Julie Farabee
Toni Fauver
Ruth Foster
Greg & Cindy Francisco
WJ Frank
Charles Fraser
Edward Fraser
Alex & Deborah Friedman
John & Julia Fuller Family
Bruce Garner
Bingham & Larry Gibbs
David Gray
Donald & Melinda Groom
Phil & Susan Grover
Veronica Gunnersen
Liede-Marie Haitsma
Jean Halford
Sydney & Helen Hammill
Katherine Hart & Donna King
Roz Hirsch
Michael & Nadine Hitchcock
Patricia Holman & Peter Murphy
Carolyn Hunt
Noel Hurd
Kimberly Johnson
Roger & Donna Johnson
Lew Jones
Jim & Janis Judd
Fonda Karelitz & Mark Rosen
Richard Kawin
Ray & Lynne Keck
Philip Lathrap
Jeffrey & Deborah Leighton
Ellen Lerner
James Lingel
David Lingren
Linda Locklin
David Loeb
Eleanor Loynd
Michael Magnani
Martha Martin
Steve & Marcia Matthisen
Stuart & Barbara McCullough
Winton & Margaret McKibben
Mark McLaren & Nancy Norland
Edgar Mendelsohn
Richard & Shannon Merrill
Glenn & Lisa Miller
Patrick & Nancy Miller
Barbara Monsler
James R Moore
Ivy Morrison
David Moss
Maynard Munger
Theron & Elizabeth Nelson
David & Margaret Nicholas
Aileen Nichols
Richard & Carol Northing
Charles & Ann Olsen
Orinda Garden Club
Orinda Hiking Club
John Ormond
Carly Owens
Dale Perkins
Aida Peterson
Dale Peterson
Paul Popenoe
James & Patricia Pray
Bill Ralph
David & Mary Ramos
Connie Regalia
Jennifer Rice
John Richardson
Clara Richert
Carol Riddell
Tod Rubin
Linda Sanford & Richard Moore
Sheryl Sankey
Dave Sargent
Dorothy Satter
Dylan Savidge
Earl & Kathryn Sawyer
Jean Saylor
Paul & Nancy Schorr
Earle & Judy Schrempe
David & Eileen Short
Sierra Club Bay - Mt. Diablo Group
Sharon Singer
Bob & Geraldine Smith
Ron & Judy Smith
Beth Snortum
Leonard & Barbara Songster
Malcolm & Casey Sproul
Richard & Mary Sproul
Andrew & Karen Stein
Patricia Thomas
Rebecca Thomas
Patricia Thunen
Alvira Valladao
John & Linda Van Heeurnt
David & Laura Waal
Michael & Joyce Wahlig
Clifford Walker
Bill & Stacy Walter
Carl & Lynne Walter
Barbara Walters
Douglas & Ruth Waterman
David & Elaine Wegenga
Tom & Carolyn Westhoff
Rick & Christine Wise
Judy Wolleski

**Friends**
($35 or more) over 350 families support SMD in this category

**United Way Donor Option**
You can designate Save Mount Diablo as the recipient of your United Way Pledge. When you are asked to make your annual workplace donation, please consider designating it to us. Our tax ID number is 94-2681735.

**Business Contributions**
Many companies will match your charitable contributions to Save Mount Diablo. Ask your employer if they have a matching gift program. Also let us know if your employer has a foundation or corporate donation program to which we can apply.
**In Honor of**
- Seth Adams
- Close To Home
- Paul & Elizabeth Baxter
- Carol Baxter
- Dina Colman
- Ann Culver
- Jessica Dresser’s Bat
- Mitzvah
  - The Dresser Family
  - Bruce & Jill Dresser
  - and Family
- Charla Gabert
- Marcy & Bill Buck
- David Lingren & Ilana Schatz
- Lawrence Grossman
- Jim Meyer & Dana Claire’s wedding
  - Nigel Ogilvie

**In Memory of**
- Margaret Anderson
- Allan Anderson
- Francesca Bogardus
- Harvey & Donna Brosler
- Rich & Gloria McDrew
- Mount Diablo
- Interpretive Assn.
- Anne Dyer Brinkerhoff
- Anna Marie & Richard Lininger
- Elizabeth Buck
- June Wall
- Don Christensen
- Leslie & Gayle Servin
- Henry Colarich
- Ruth Eseltine
- Robert Dutton
- June Wall
- Frances Dyer
- Don & Gladys Laston
- Nancy McKinnon Elsherry
- Janice & Ted McKinnon
- Anna Ferri
- Larry Ferri
- Phil Flores
- Michael & Joyce Wahlig
- Abbott Garcia
- The Biology & Health Sciences Dept, DVC
- Betty Goldstein
- Paul Popeneo
- Arbor Hall
- Jeannie Harmon
- Jenny Bell Harmon
- Emily Rued
- Bob Hart
- Mary & Dick Bowers
- Jean Hauser
- Barbara Hauser
- Neil Henoch
- John & Thelma Dana
- Mary Dubow Howard
- Philip & Henrietta Dubow
- Bruce McLeod
- Leslie Servin
- Malcolm Nielsen
- Don & Gladys Laston
- Bob Nootbaar
- Jim & Sharon Moore, Jr.
- Giles Brown
- John Deeming
- Rick & Elaine Williams
- Sandra Paul
- Annie Leslie
- Pete Peterson
- Eleanor Peterson
- Ray Sawyer
- Hazel Sawyer
- Rob Schonholz
- Jane Hicks
- Andrew Weingarten
- Dan & Chris Weingarten

**Heritage Trees**
- In honor of his birthday
  - Dave Dornsife – 3 acre grove
  - Dana Dornsife
- In memory of
  - Bruce B. Smith – 5 acre grove
  - Kathleen Smith

**In-Kind Gifts**
- Julie Grisham & Kenneth Winters
  - Donation towards
    - Power Point projector
    - Scott & Claudia Hein clipboards
    - Andrew & Linda Schen later file cabinet
    - Jeanne Thomas
      - file cabinet; ink cartridges

**Foundations**
- BT Rocca, Jr. Foundation
- Boucher Family Foundation
- Louise & Clark Johnson
- Charitable Foundation
- James & Gloria Redmond Foundation
- Maisel Foundation
- Monkey flower

*All contributions were made from August 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004*
Save Mount Diablo's Mission...

To preserve Mount Diablo's peaks and surrounding foothills through land acquisition and preservation strategies to:
- Protect open space 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 open space
- Work in partnership with Mt. Diablo State Park, East Bay Regional Park District, and other public and private entities to increase and manage open space 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 open space
- 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 parklands consistent with the protection of their natural resources

“Moonlight On The Mountain” Auction Donors