

2016 Annual Report

Scott Hein

45 YEARS
of collaboration


Save Mount Diablo
PRESERVE • DEFEND • RESTORE • ENJOY



Save Mount Diablo

Preserves natural lands through acquisition and cooperative efforts;

Defends Mount Diablo and its foothills from threats through land use planning and public education;

Restores habitat, wildlife, creeks and builds trails; So you and future generations can

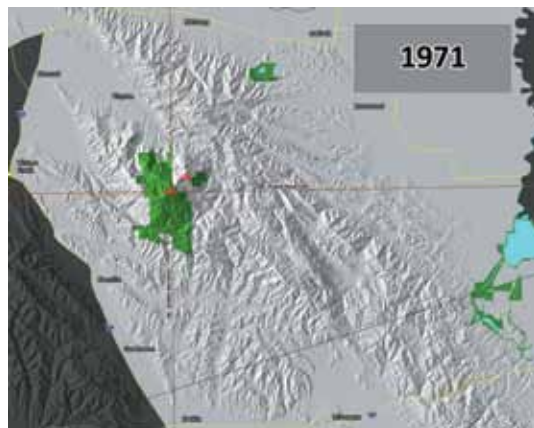
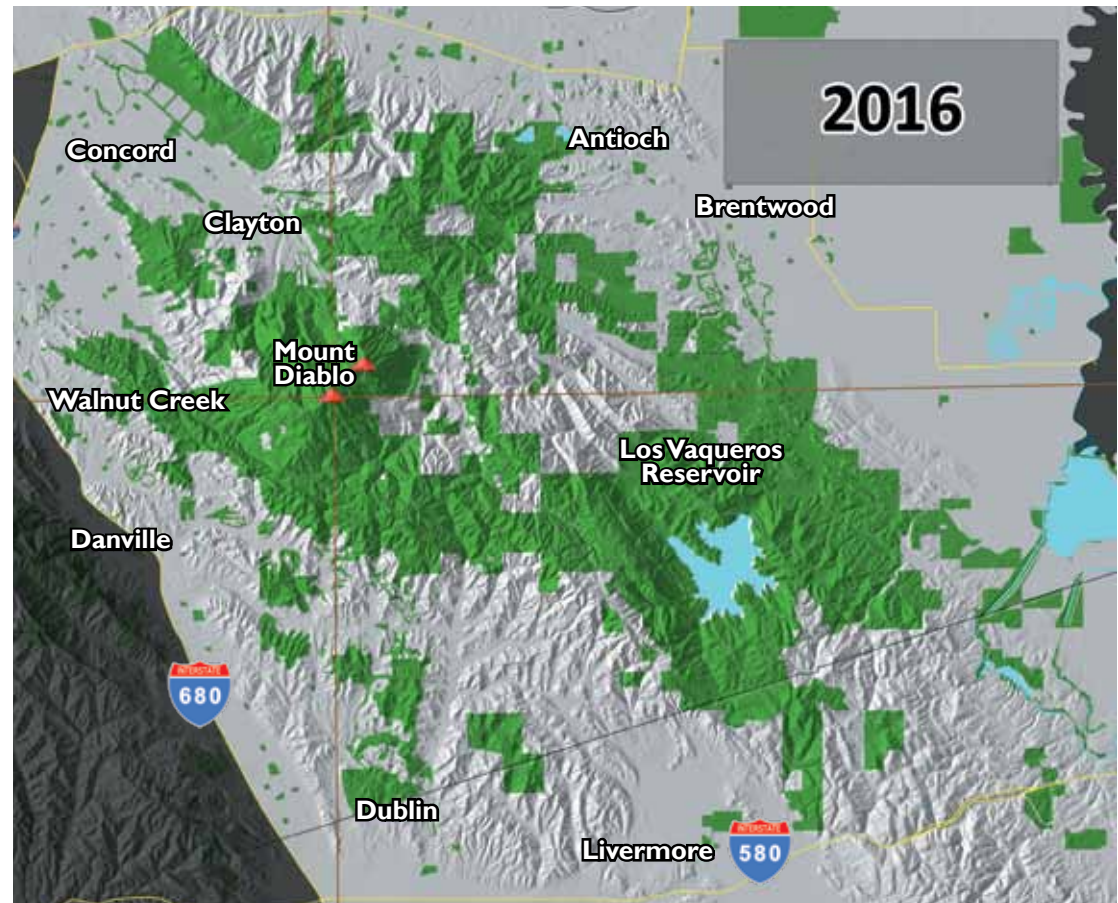
Enjoy Diablo's parks and its wildlife.

Reassembling the Diablo Wild Lands

These maps show the expansion of protected lands on Mount Diablo from **6,788** acres in 1971—when Save Mount Diablo was founded—to over **110,000** acres in 2016.

Save Mount Diablo's area of interest is bounded by I-680 to the west, I-580 to the south, the Carquinez Strait and Suisun Bay to the north and the Delta to the east.

Save Mount Diablo continues to monitor development projects proposed in the area, focusing on connecting and expanding new and existing parks and preserves while working with our allies to preserve, protect, restore and promote enjoyment of these natural lands.



Current Board of Directors

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President

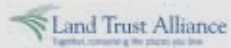
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Dear Friend of the Mountain,

While 2016 was a year of immense transition and angst at the national level, it also marked Save Mount Diablo's **45th Anniversary** as an organization. It was a year of outstanding accomplishments in furtherance of protecting our natural, nourishing foundation, the Mount Diablo area, thanks to you, our supporters.

Your support enabled us to deliver a number of significant achievements in 2016:

- We announced the signing of a 10-year Option Agreement to protect critical wildlife habitat at North Peak Ranch on the north slope of Mount Diablo. With a \$1 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and generous gifts from individual donors, we have almost completed raising all the funds necessary to purchase the 88-acre North Peak Ranch from the landowners for a total project cost of about \$1.2 million;
- We earned National Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission—something only a little over 20% of the country's approximate 1,700 land trusts have achieved;
- We successfully designed and implemented a strategy to pay off an approximate \$1.8 million debt with a deadline of June 1, 2016. This debt had been incurred so that we could purchase Curry Canyon Ranch in 2013;
- We transferred our strategic 76-acre Hanson Hills property, along Marsh Creek, to the East Bay Regional Park District in cooperation with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. The parcel will become part of the future Deer Valley Regional Park;
- October 12, 2016 was a historic day for us as we successfully sold our 5-acre Rideau property on Curry Canyon Road to private buyers as part of our newly

expanded Conservation Buyer Program. With this transaction, we acquired our first perpetual conservation easement on the same land. The parcel's permanent protection expands preservation of Curry Canyon and beautiful Curry Creek to almost 85%;

- We won the 2016 California Nonprofit of the Year Award for Assembly District 16;
- We completed restoring 3 stock ponds on our Curry Canyon Ranch and Mangini Ranch properties. This is the largest pond restoration project we've done to date and we're thrilled to have been able to enhance habitat for breeding California red-legged frogs and tiger salamanders;
- On April 22, 2016, Earth Day, we signed a creative Conservation Collaboration Agreement with Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School – as part of our new program to further educate and connect school children with us and nature; and
- Many other significant accomplishments such as the creation and adoption of a new Strategic Plan system, hiring of a number of talented staff members, and significant positive financial growth against budget.

In these uncertain times, we are so grateful for you, our supporters. You understand that all human systems ultimately rest and rely upon the land, that nature heals and refreshes us, and you demonstrate your leadership, long-term vision and generosity by continuing to make important investments in Save Mount Diablo.

As John Muir observed long ago, "In God's wildness lies the hope of the world..."

With Gratitude,



Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.
Executive Director

Land Acquisition

Save Mount Diablo Expanded Our Conservation Buyer Program

To accomplish our conservation vision, we use two main land preservation tools as part of our newly expanded Conservation Buyer Program. First, as we have done for many years, we sell highly strategic land to governmental partners to become part of a public park system and utilize the revenue to protect more property. Much of the land Save Mount Diablo has purchased over the years is now incorporated into Mount Diablo State Park or the East Bay Regional Park District. Second, we began to sell some properties to private buyers subject to permanent conservation easements, which we hold, and utilize the revenue to acquire more property or conservation easements. This method allows us to protect properties with important habitat that may not be well-suited additions to a park or preserve. A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified organization, such as a land trust, to protect the natural or cultural resources on that land forever. The conservation easements will protect the resources we purchased the property to save, by having the landowner help steward the land while also allowing them to live on the land they love. The agreement limits some of the landowners' rights on the property in order to protect habitat and wildlife.

Save Mount Diablo protected nearly 90 prime acres of critical wildlife habitat on the north slope of Mount Diablo in 2016.

Hanson Hills Transferred to East Bay Regional Park District to Become Future Addition to Deer Valley Regional Preserve

Size: 76 acres | Save Mount Diablo sold Hanson Hills to the East Bay Regional Park District, with funding and cooperation from the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy. A 76-acre former ranch along Marsh Creek, the parcel will become part of the future Deer Valley Regional Park. The property encompasses canyons and ridges covered with blue-oak forests and native grasslands, as well as a seasonal stream that drains to Marsh Creek. The ridgetops provide panoramic views of Mount Diablo, the Marsh Creek corridor, and Morgan Territory Regional Preserve. It's home to eagles, hawks, coyotes, bobcats, deer, foxes and other species. The acquisition secures important habitat for a number of special status species. Save Mount Diablo acquired the property from the Hanson family in April 2014. The Hanson children, now all in their 80's, remember fishing for steelhead with their grandfather in Marsh Creek and camping out on warm nights atop the tallest hill. It was important to the family that the land they love so dearly be protected forever.

In a Historic Acquisition, Save Mount Diablo Acquires First Conservation Easement & Protects Fourth Curry Canyon Property.

Size: 5 acres | In a historic acquisition, Save Mount Diablo successfully sold our 5-acre Rideau property on Curry Canyon Road in Clayton to private buyers as part of our newly expanded Conservation Buyer Program—and with this transaction, we acquired our first perpetual conservation easement on the same land. The Rideau property's oak woodland and riparian habitat along Curry Creek will be protected and strategic trail connections to other Save Mount Diablo Curry Canyon properties will be retained. Curry Canyon is the largest remaining unprotected canyon on Diablo's main peaks, nestled between the Diablo summit and the Blackhills—4.3 miles from Curry Point within Mount Diablo State Park, spanning northeast down to Morgan Territory Road. **Nearly 85% of the 4.3 mile canyon has now been protected.** The top of the canyon was among the first state park acquisitions in the 1930's. Upper Curry Canyon was acquired in 1965 and 1987. Save Mount Diablo has now protected approximately 1,200 acres in lower Curry Canyon starting with the Wright property in 2001.



Land Use Planning

Save Mount Diablo regularly monitors agendas of **50** different planning committees and public agencies. This work can take time as we research, write letters, testify and collaborate on solutions. We responded to **28** land use projects in 2016.

Updates—We responded to updates of the Antioch General Plan and the Black Diamond Land Use Plan.

Concord Naval Weapons Station Reuse Plan—We influenced the Master Developer Selection process and supported planning work for the new **2,500**-acre regional park at the former CNWS.

Coalitions—We continued coalition work in response to ongoing efforts at the Concord Naval Weapons Station and began a new loose coalition in Antioch.

Urban Limit Lines—We continued to watch for threats to the Urban Limit Line (ULL), and tried to strengthen the ULL county-wide through our transportation measure work.

Legal Review—We sponsored legal review of a potentially precedent-setting subdivision threat near Marsh Creek State Park.

Local Agency Formation Commission—We closely monitored LAFCO appointments and influenced the new LAFCO Agriculture and Open Space Policy.

East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy Plan—We participated in the Public Advisory Committee of the HCP and encouraged creation of an HCP in Antioch.



Scott Hein

"The Ranch" located south of Antioch and east of Black Diamond Mines, where the city is considering 4,000 new houses in the Sand Creek Focus Area. Save Mount Diablo is monitoring this situation.



Ted Clement

Students and faculty of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JMS) worked hard to help steward the land at Save Mount Diablo's Curry Canyon Ranch property—Save Mount Diablo's first conservation collaboration agreement in action.

Stewardship

Save Mount Diablo currently owns and/or manages **20** properties—totaling **2,036** acres.

Volunteers—Increased numbers of volunteers helped us expand our stewardship activities. More than **650** volunteers (including **15** hike leaders and **35** property monitors) completed **5,150** hours of restoration and **75** work projects restoring and cleaning up properties.

BioBlitz—Another BioBlitz was conducted with volunteer experts, scientists and naturalists documenting **384** species in a 24-hour period at Perkins Canyon (Mount Diablo State Park).

Planting—**20** riparian trees were planted in the west flood plain on Marsh Creek 8 ("Big Bend"). This planting was supported by the Conco Companies as a mitigation measure for environmental impacts. Native bunchgrass and scrub species were expanded on Marsh Creek 6. A new bunchgrass patch was seeded out on Mangini Ranch.

Non-native Removal—Dozens of workdays were organized to eradicate non-native weeds.

Pond Restoration Projects—In partnership with Contra Costa/Alameda Resource Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, we restored ponds on Curry Canyon Ranch and Mangini Ranch for threatened and endangered species.

Debris Removal—Cleanup efforts continued at Curry Canyon Ranch, Big Bend and Hanson Hills. Volunteers removed old ranch debris and cleaned up concrete and creosote poles from the banks of Marsh Creek.

Maps and Trails—We participated in the development of the Mount Diablo State Park Road and Trail Master Plan. We also provided guidance on the creation of General Plans for future Concord Hills and Clayton Ranch Regional Preserves.

Education & Outreach Efforts - **22** tabling and presentation opportunities were taken advantage of across **10** cities in Contra Costa County.



George Phillips

A view of the beautiful rural Tassajara Valley, which Save Mount Diablo has helped to defend for decades.

(Right background) Illustration by Rachel Diaz-Bastin, the Livermore tarplant, protected in 2016 with help from SMD board member, Heath Bartosh, is the first plant added to the endangered species list in 10 years.

Recreation

We hosted numerous events on the mountain to share the area's wildlife and cultural history with our supporters and to encourage recreation consistent with the protection of natural resources.



Diablo Trails Challenge—Save Mount Diablo and Brazen Racing partnered again to host a 50K, half marathon, 10K and 5K. More than 1,100 people braved the rain and mud to enjoy the trails in our beautiful parks.

Four Days Diablo—18 participants enjoyed learning more about Mount Diablo's treasures while hiking and camping along the Diablo Trail. Dedicated volunteers set up the campsites and restaurants—including Postino, Forbes Mill Steakhouse and Sunrise Bistro & Catering—prepared delicious meals for the adventurers. Beyond Chiropractic of Walnut Creek journeyed to campsites to relieve hikers' weary muscles with massages.

Mount Diablo Challenge—For the 35th year, nearly 450 cyclists rode 11.2 miles, climbing 3,249 feet in elevation, to the summit of Diablo—83 reached the top in under an hour!

Hikes—More than 650 people joined us out on the trails for hikes in 2016.

Volunteers

From stewardship projects to recreational & community events, 860 volunteers completed over 6,150 hours of service in 2016.

Our volunteers are the heroes and heroines of land preservation.

Volunteers make our events possible, whether it be by becoming a hike leader, assisting with event registration, staffing aid stations, taking photos or setting up equipment. Their hard work and generosity are what make this organization's efforts so successful.

Coastal Cleanup Day—Last fall, Save Mount Diablo celebrated California's largest annual volunteer effort—*Coastal Cleanup Day*. SMD stewards and volunteers hosted a group of students from Pittsburg High School along a portion of Kirker Creek for the cleanup effort. REI staff also pitched in during the workday and presented a check to Save Mount Diablo to support our stewardship program. The crew cleaned up a section of Kirker Creek, which drains to the Delta, and the surrounding 10 acres of Thomas Home Ranch that Save Mount Diablo still owns. The group disposed of over 100 pounds of trash. Thanks to all who participated in the cleanup!

Conservation Collaboration Agreement—In June, Save Mount Diablo hosted a workday for the sixth grade EARTH class and ECO club from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School as a component of our inaugural Conservation Collaboration Agreement. Forty-five students met at Curry Canyon Ranch to help create a single track trail on a section of decommissioned ranch road. After a morning of scraping gravel and seeding native bunchgrasses, students participated in a contemplative journaling exercise along Curry Creek, reflecting on the idea of nature and their respective roles in it. The future is bright for these young conservationists!

To all of those who shared their enthusiasm for the Diablo wild lands and volunteered in 2016, you help make our recreational opportunities possible. Thank you for your dedication!

PRESERVE

Curry Canyon Ranch.



DEFEND

Antioch residents spoke out against development projects.



RESTORE

Habitat was improved by non-native plant removal.



ENJOY

Cyclists took the Mount Diablo Challenge.



These pie charts include financial information for Save Mount Diablo's annual operating results (revenue and expenses) as well as land transactions.

Save Mount Diablo's total revenue for 2016 was just over \$3.5 million which includes a \$1 million multi-year grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation towards the purchase of the North Peak Ranch property.

Expenditures for 2016 totaled approximately \$2.5 million, which includes a purchase installment of \$65,000 towards the acquisition of North Peak Ranch. Program expenses other than land acquisition include stewardship projects, community education and outreach, and advocacy for land conservation.

2016 fundraising expenses represent increased investment in Save Mount Diablo's overall fundraising program and the continuation of Forever Wild, the \$15 million capital campaign that started in 2013.

(Numbers are based on unaudited 2016 financials.)

Total Revenue Received for 2016

(Approx. \$3.5 million)

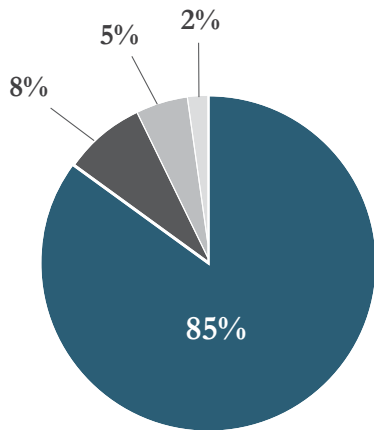


Fig. 1 - 2016 Revenue

- Individual Contributions (85%)
- Corporate Support (8%)
- Foundations & Grants (5%)
- Interest, fees & other (2%)

Total Expenditures for 2016

(Approx. \$2.5 million)

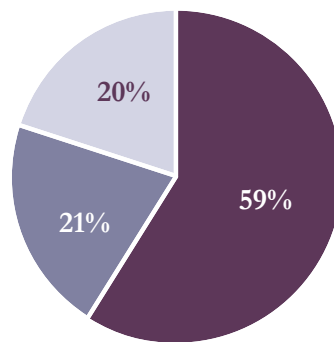


Fig. 2 - 2016 Expenditures

- Programs (59%)
- Fundraising (21%)
- Administration & Management (20%)



Scott Heim

BETTS SANDERSON

Save Mount Diablo lost a faithful and generous friend in 2016—Betts Sanderson. Betts was an active volunteer for Save Mount Diablo, working in the office and on Moonlight on the Mountain, bringing warmth and encouragement to everyone around her. She attended most of our events and many of our hikes. Being outside gave her great joy and she communicated her delight and gratitude with her famous smile and giving nature. She will be deeply missed.

Betts was a generous and frequent donor to Save Mount Diablo. When she passed away in 2016, her generosity and commitment continued: we received over \$400,000 in bequests that allowed us to secure beautiful and strategic properties—especially in paying off the loan for our 1,080-acre Curry Canyon Ranch property. She also created the Elizabeth Vinton Sanderson Foundation and arranged for continuing support to causes important to her, including Save Mount Diablo. The Foundation's first grants included \$75,000 toward Save Mount Diablo's land acquisition and preservation efforts and \$60,000 for an Option fund, a land campaign, audible guides for hikes, and small grants for research through our Dr. Mary Bowerman Research Program.

Betts' love and appreciation for the natural world uplifted the lives of those around her and will grace the future for many generations to come.

Save Mount Diablo extends its gratitude to all donors—thank you for your support. Your generosity preserves, defends, and restores Mount Diablo and its foothills for all of us to enjoy!

Donations made between January 1-December 31, 2016. Asterisks denotes a donor who has given for 10+(*), 20+ (**), or 30+ (***) consecutive years.

INDIVIDUALS

\$100,000 & Above

Sandor & Faye Straus

\$50,000-\$99,999

Larry & Joan Porter

\$20,000-\$49,999

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Joseph & Lisa Downes
Charla Gabert & David Franc*
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Shirley Nootbaar**
Carolyn H. Payne
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\$10,000-\$19,999

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We give special thanks to those who have included Save Mount Diablo in their estate planning. Their generosity ensures Mount Diablo, its foothills and wildlife will be preserved for generations to come.

- | | |
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A tilde (~) indicates members who passed away in 2016.

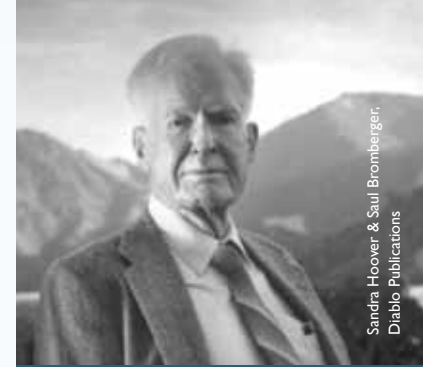
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—Art Bonwell,
Save Mount Diablo Co-founder
April 28, 1927 - July 14, 2012

Art co-founded Save Mount Diablo with Mary Bowerman in 1971 and was involved until his passing. His skills advanced Save Mount Diablo as an organization and aided in our growth to more than 8,000 supporters today. He served in many roles over the years including President, member of the Executive and Land Committees, and was the first webmaster. During his tenure, well-known areas of Mount Diablo such as Mitchell Canyon, North Peak, Pine Ridge and the Blackhills were preserved.

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"We were very happy to be able to support Save Mount Diablo's acquisition of North Peak Ranch with a \$1 million grant. We know its sensitive habitat and highly visible location have had it on the top of Save Mount Diablo's wish list for years and applaud their determination and creativity in closing the acquisition."

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“When you plant an acorn, you always hope it will prosper and become a gentle giant of the woodland. SMD has planted these majestic natives—valley oaks, coast live oaks, blue oaks—at several of our properties, including Mangini Ranch, Irish Canyon, and Marsh Creek IV. Why do we plant them? An article in Bay Nature Magazine quoted a UC study showing that “oak woodlands harbor more biodiversity than any other major habitat type in the state.” The study found that oaks are home to 4,000 kinds of insects, 2,000 kinds of plants, 170 different birds, 60 amphibians and reptiles, and 100 different mammals. Whew. All this in addition to the breathtaking beauty of a mature oak tree. I won’t be around to watch them grow old. But my kids will. And your kids. And their kids.

—David Ogden,

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Young Friends

Our thanks to 2016's Young Friends of the Mountain. We're so grateful for these young people (ages 21 & under) who care about our mountain and want to be part of protecting it for future generations.

Isabelle Bennette Justin Chan Olivia Curtis Kyle Dietderich Zachary Dietderich Grace Doane Connor Fritch Elissa Goldman Maddie House Olivia House	Samantha Huebner Samantha Kolin Erin Koziel Alyssa Lewis-Smith Andrew Logue Nauder Maghsoodnia Caitlin Murphy Morgan Phipps Abby Rogers Evy Rogers	Kipling Schnurr Ava Sparacio Sarah Tallarico Chelsea Tatem Sophia Taylor Sheila Teker Brian Thomas Alexandra Yokomizo Natalie Zinman
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2016

Achieved National Accreditation from Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

Expanded Conservation Buyer Program, including use of conservation easements.

Optioned 88-acre North Peak Ranch.

Mount Diablo Buckwheat rediscovered by botanist Heath Bartosh (SMD Board member) and his colleague, Brian Peterson of Nomad Ecology.

45th Anniversary. Protected Land has expanded from 6,788 acres in 1971 to 110,000 acres in 2016.

2017

Marsh Creek Trail proposed.

& BEYOND...

Created and adopted new Rolling Three-Year Strategic Plan.

Implemented new Conservation Collaboration Agreement Program.

Designed and successfully implemented strategy to pay off loan for historic acquisition of Curry Canyon Ranch.

Won 11 out of the last 11 ballot measures since 2005.

Won California Non-Profit of the Year Award, Assembly District 16.

Protected 76-acre Hanson Hills property with EBRPD & HCP.

SMD acquired our first perpetual Conservation Easement!

45 YEARS of collaboration

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 Steven Raymond
 Margaret Ready
 Virginia & Blake Reames
 Hubert & Joan Reber*
 Judy Reens
 Paul & Kay Regan*
 Jennifer & Darin Reinwald
 Joan Remmert
 David & Frances Reneau
 Joan Renken
 John Rettig
 Pamela Reuling
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 Apple, Inc.
 Arch MI
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 Chevron
 The Clorox Company
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(Background Image) Location of Moonlight on the Mountain gala at China Wall. Stephen Joseph.

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Dewayne & Jen Long
Robert & Erica Lozano
Seth Lueders
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Nelson Macy
Mariëka Maesen
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Kristen Noe
Development Associate

George Phillips
Land Conservation Manager


We have made every effort to spell names accurately. If your name or donation has not been recorded correctly or was mistakenly omitted, we offer our apologies and ask that you please contact us so that we can amend our records. Please email Kristen Noe at knoe@savemountdiablo.org with any requests to update your records.





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Walnut Creek, California, 94596
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www.SaveMountDiablo.org

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Our Mission

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

What We Do

PRESERVE natural lands through acquisition and cooperative efforts.

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

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

ENJOY Diablo's parks through events and recreational opportunities.

Why We Care

This is our home. More than half of Mount Diablo has been preserved. However, over 70,000 acres are privately owned and still threatened by development. That means risking the loss of wildlife corridors, ecosystems and recreational opportunities. Preserving natural land forever means safeguarding our quality of life, including our air, water, and views.



A new location of the rare Mount Diablo Buckwheat was discovered in 2016. The species was long thought to be extinct until 2005, when a small population was identified. In May of 2016, SMD board member and botanist, Heath Bartosh, along with colleague Brian Patterson, both of Nomad Ecology, discovered another significant population of the elusive buckwheat in Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.