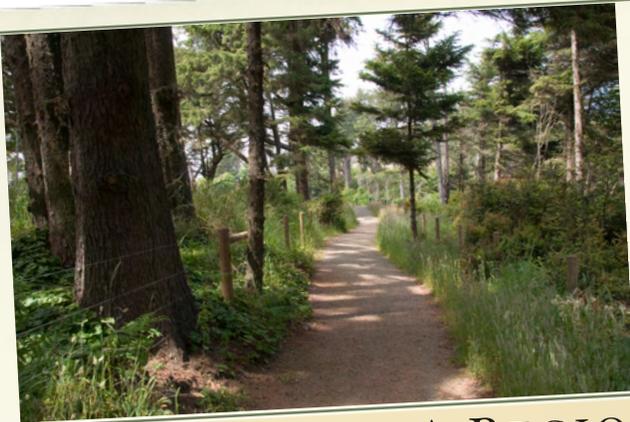


THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST



Caltrans 2008



Photo:

THINKING LIKE A REGION: THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF LAND TRUST'S NORTHERN REGIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Nancy Correll reports on the Northern
Regional Training Conference.

BY NANCY CORRELL

Thinking Like A Region is the provocative title of the annual Northern Regional Training Conference; and this year's conference was a resoundingly successful 2-day event at the River Lodge in Fortuna June 12 and 13. Land trust members up and down the coast from Lake to Shasta counties, met to discuss issues and get an earful of current information on what's going on with land conservation.

Not the least of the benefits was a chance to rub shoulders with people who are doing almost unbelievable projects with open space districts, forest rehabilitation, mapping, and easements protecting thousands of acres of open space.

A key person is Darla Guenzler, director of the California Council of Land Trusts, (CCLT), who opened the conference with a blistering summary of current legislation and issues. CCLT tracks state and federal legislation and acts as an advocate for land trusts. Notable this year is, finally, the 2-year extension of the "new" tax credits, retroactive to January 2008. Another opportunity is the considerable funding available for open space, especially forests. Among other issues Darla discussed: problems with appraisals; using condemnation of protected land for development projects; and state standards for land trusts.

A thrilling panel described Open Space districts, which are voter-approved tax measures to protect and

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Notices

MLT Seeks Meeting Space

The MLT Board would like to extend a special thanks to Spencer Engineering for providing office space to the MLT for the past year. We greatly appreciate your generous donation of office space to house our files and computer, as well as the use of your conference room. This year, with the retirement of senior staff, and Spencer Engineering's merger with Laco Associates, the McKinleyville office was closed, and the MLT is on the lookout for a new place to call home.

Do you have extra office space at your business? The McKinleyville Land Trust is looking for a new home to house our computer and files, and to gather for our meetings. Our monthly meetings are scheduled on Sunday evenings between 7-9 p.m.

Please contact the Land Trust at 839-LAND if you are interested in donating space.

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manage open space areas. Bob Doyle is from the East Bay Regional Park district, over 75,000 acres of protected and acquired land in two counties that has become a tremendous recreational and open space resource for the San Francisco Bay area. He describes the long process of partnering with local LTs and landowners to acquire connecting lands, the use of an Environment Roundtable to plan and prioritize projects, a Trails Council and an Advanced Planning Department.

Maria Cipriani, of Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space District, described Measure A, which created this district, and has resulted in protection of over 72,400 acres with easements and acquisitions from willing sellers. This project has been so successful that recently Measure F passed, providing funds for 20 more years. The district has developed a public plan for transparency.

Amy Chestnut, of Sonoma LT, works closely with the county Open Space District, and is considered an essential partner. She is working on the acquisition of the Jenner Headlands, 5,630 acres of coastal forest.

Mark Andre, of the Arcata Community Forest, is exploring an Open Space District for Humboldt County, or alternatively for Arcata. In the planning stage, this project will require detailed polling information to

decide what could be feasible for this area.

The 24,000 acre Garcia Forest was described by Chris Kelly, director of The Conservation Fund, which owns and manages this working forest. Mostly cutover redwood and fir, this forest has an Integrated Resource Management Plan which will 1. Cut less than growth, 2. Thin and 3. Restore streams. Using this plan, (which was required by funding organizations), the forest should be able to use sales of carbon credits to help pay off the loan used to acquire the forest.

Darla's hour-long workshop, "Pre-Crash Course on Accreditation," was of intense interest to land trust board members. (The "Crash Course" is a 6-hour affair.) The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) has had "Standards and Practices" for land trusts for 20 years; however an audit of The Nature Conservancy prompted them to develop a formal accreditation process. A formidable task, LTA will expect land trusts to have good policies and also to provide evidence that those policies are being followed. There is no great rush right now to begin accreditation (no land trust has completed the process yet), and the LTA expects it will take 10 years to get everybody through the process. It will take large amounts of staff and board time, but land trusts who have begun say that it's a "transformative"

experience that has improved the organization.

Other workshops included Membership Development, Landowner Relationships with LT's, a description of Water Forbearance Agreements from Sanctuary Forest, and a Google Earth presentation which offered help with mapping projects. There was clearly too much at this event for any one person to absorb. But the presence of so much experience and expertise in the people walking around the conference rooms was an inspiration. This annual conference is of interest to landowners, including owners and managers of timberlands and ranch lands, land trust members and board members, and anyone who would like to be active in the stewardship of our vanishing open spaces.

Mission Statement

The McKinleyville Land Trust is a non-profit, public benefit corporation. The McKinleyville Land Trust promotes voluntary conservation of land for nature, timber, agriculture, education, recreation, history, and scenery. The Trust is a way for people to donate land or conservation easements in perpetuity as a means of accomplishing their personal conservation goals. Often these donations have a tax saving advantage as well.

McKinleyville Land Trust Board of Directors 2008

Allen Bird - President.

Kristin Schmidt - Vice President.

Dorothy Klein - Secretary

Wayne Sutherland - Treasurer

Darci Short.

Nancy Correll

Lindsay Walker

Have your coffee and help the MLT too! Coffee mugs designed by Board Member Dorothy Klein are available for \$8 (tax included). The mugs can be purchased at Blake's Books on Central Avenue, by calling 839-LAND, or at all of the McKinleyville Land Trust fundraising events.



Annual Dinner a Success Once Again!

April heralded the 2008 McKinleyville Land Trust Annual Dinner. Once again, the dinner was a success, both in terms of fundraising and a lovely evening shared amongst friends over delicious food. Talented photographer and biologist Ron LeVallee shared an educational and entertaining slideshow of local birds in their habitat, while Land Trust supporters and volunteers dined on Gina's world-class Chicken Cacciatore and Eggplant Parmesan.



Board members always enjoy this opportunity to visit with supporters and volunteers of the Land Trust. This was the second year that the Land Trust

incorporated a raffle/auction of locally-created art and other items, and the feedback has been so positive, that we will certainly be holding these in the future.

Overall, nearly \$1000 were raised to help fund the



McKinleyville Land Trust. These funds will help pay for management of Chah-Gah-Cho, the Mad River Bluffs, and the newly acquired property at Dow's Prairie. The board would like to thank all the people that helped make this event possible.

Look out for the Annual Pancake Breakfast!

Chah-Gah-Cho

Chah-Gah-Cho, the first property acquired by the Land Trust, is located adjacent to HealthSport and K-Mart in McKinleyville.

Many McKinleyville residents are unaware of that this property has one of the best views in the area of the Mad River as it winds through the Arcata Bottom. The Board is interested in improving access to this property both for educational and recreational purposes.

On April 18th, members of the Humboldt State University Natural Resources Club helped to make this possible with a hard working day of trash removal and blackberry vine busting. We'd like to thank the club for all of their hard work.

If you are interested in being a part of improved access at Chah-Gah-Cho, please give us a call at 839-LAND.

THANK YOU JEFF DUNK

Jeff Dunk has been part of the McKinleyville Land Trust for more than a decade, volunteering his time and expertise as Board President for several years. Jeff recently stepped down from the McKinleyville Land Trust Board, and we would like to express our sincerest thanks to Jeff for all of the work that he and his family have contributed to the Land Trust for all this time.

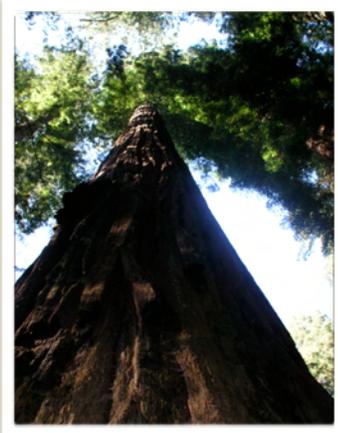
Whether helping to coordinate activities on Land Trust properties with the Humboldt State University's Natural Resources Club, assisting landowners with the ins and outs of conservation easements, or acting as Executive Pancake Flipper at the Land Trust's Annual Pancake Breakfast, Jeff has been a joy to work with and a constant source of inspiration.

While juggling a day job as a lecturer at Humboldt State University and serving as board member on the McKinleyville Community Services District, Jeff always managed to find the time to outreach to community members and other regional land trusts, assist the Board with his insightful problem-solving, and keep us laughing with his great sense of humor. The Board wishes Jeff well in all of his future endeavors.

Thank you, Jeff!

The McKinleyville Land Trust Board





CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS - BOARD MEMBERS

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who consistently volunteer their time and energy to the McKinleyville Land Trust. As an all volunteer organization, the commitment of our volunteers is essential in achieving our conservation goals.

The McKinleyville Land Trust is currently in need of volunteers to assist with several activities including easement monitoring, property management planning, and project management.

The Board is also accepting letters of interest from community members interested in serving on the McKinleyville Land Trust Board. Board membership may include serving on a committee focused on conservation or fundraising/community outreach activities. Board meetings are held monthly on Sundays between 7-9 p.m.

Please contact a board member or call 839-LAND if you are interested.

Skills We Need
'On Board'

Real Estate
Legal
Project Management



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P.O. Box 2723, McKinleyville, CA 95519

THE MCKINLEYVILLE LAND TRUST
For Everyone, Forever