

Landscapes Peninsula Open Space Trust

POST Reaches New Heights!

Peninsula Open Space Trust

Dear Friends,

We did it! Together, POST donors rose to the challenge of an awesome and ambitious \$200 million *Saving the Endangered Coast* fund-raising campaign to save the San Mateo Coast—and triumphed!

This is an extraordinary achievement—a bold, visionary statement on behalf of our California coastal landscape. Our community rallied around something of value, and we worked together to save it. On behalf of POST's Board and staff, thanks to all of you who went above and beyond your annual commitments to POST to put us over the top in this historic initiative. Thanks also to the new friends who joined us to complete this campaign. You recognized that there is no other place in the world like the San Mateo Coast and that it deserves to be protected forever.

Your support has now set the stage for POST to complete the other significant goal of this campaign — saving 20,000 acres of coastal open space. To date, we have saved 14,532 acres. Only when this phase of the campaign is complete can we look back and say we did what we set out to do.

As we work to complete the 20,000-acre goal, this issue of *Landscapes* will celebrate POST's success in providing permanent protection to the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations.

Sincerely, Susan The Warsy

Susan Ford Dorsey Chair, POST Board of Directors

The mission of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations. POST encourages the use of these lands for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, low-intensity public recreation and agriculture.

Saving the Campaign

At POST, we measure success in many ways. Taking our lead from our mission statement, we strive to "give permanent protection to the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula for people here now and for future generations."

To that end, we are thrilled to announce that POST's *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign has reached its \$200 million goal! It is by all accounts the most successful fund-raising campaign on behalf of local land conservation and will result in thousands of acres of pristine beaches, hiking trails, majestic redwoods, fertile farmland, and breathtaking vistas preserved for generations to come.

This record-breaking achievement is the result of four and a half years of commitment and generosity from POST's donors, some of whom have been with us since our founding in 1977 and some of whom have just joined us. More than 10,000 donors have made gifts and pledges during this campaign to save 20,000 acres of threatened coastal lands along the San Mateo Coast.

"All of us at POST are profoundly grateful to everyone who

Endangered Coast Surpasses Goal

came forward so generously to help us attain this ambitious goal," said POST President Audrey Rust. "There are no words to express how elated I am at this remarkable achievement. Thank you to everyone who contributed!"

Over the course of the campaign, many individuals, including members of POST's Board of Directors, Coastal Campaign Advisory Council and Skyline Society Committee, stepped up with major gifts to the campaign. Many of these donors made repeat gifts to put us over the top.

Foundations also played a pivotal role in this success. At the outset of the campaign, both the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation made grants of \$50 million each to Saving the Endangered Coast. The Kresge Foundation's \$1.75 million challenge grant motivated POST donors to bring the campaign to a strong finish.

"This campaign to save the coast is so important. Those who follow us will look back and say how smart it was to save this landscape and make sure it remains protected forever," said Campaign Chair Karie Thomson. "POST's success just goes to show that amazing things are possible when individuals band together behind a common cause. This is a phenomenal legacy we are leaving for the future. As POST continues to work to complete its 20,000-acre land-saving goal, everyone who contributed to the campaign can be proud of this accomplishment."

"Those who follow us will look back and say how smart it was to save this landscape and make sure it remains protected forever."

> Karie Thomson Campaign Chair



A Long-Awaited Victory: POST's Rancho Corral de Tierra Included in GGNRA Boundary

After five years of collaborative effort by POST and its public partners, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) boundary has been expanded and POST is one big step closer to ensuring that the majority of Rancho Corral de Tierra will be transferred to permanent protection.

President George W. Bush signed bill S. 136 into law on December 20, 2005, to include the POST property within the GGNRA. The long-awaited legislation extends the southern boundary of the park to incorporate 4,076 acres of Rancho Corral, one of the largest undeveloped parcels of the San Mateo County coast, along with approximately 800 acres of state property near Devil's Slide. These lands will join Alcatraz, the Marin Headlands, Muir Woods and the Presidio within the GGNRA, the world's largest urban park.

A Local Landmark of National Significance

Rugged and massive Rancho Corral is located only seven miles south of San Francisco, near the towns of Montara and Moss



Beach. Jutting out of the northern end of the Santa Cruz Mountains, it features maritime chaparral habitat that is rare on the San Francisco Peninsula. Its most prominent feature, the nearly 2,000-foot high Montara Mountain, commands the coastal landscape along much of Highway 1.

"The GGNRA and Rancho Corral de Tierra are a treasure trove of recreational opportunities, unique habitat, diverse wildlife and tremendous views," said POST President Audrey Rust. "We are grateful for the efforts of Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California), Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo), Congresswoman Anna Eshoo (D-Palo Alto), and the entire Bay Area congressional delegation for leading the effort to expand the boundaries of the GGNRA."

Historic Wilderness

Rancho Corral de Tierra boasts panoramic views and the headwaters for four major watersheds. It also supports dense forests of redwood and Douglas fir and distinctive coastal scrub and coastal chaparral habitats.

Numerous federally listed rare and endangered plant and



Other Protected Land

Agricultural Lands excluded from GGNRA boundary

animal species flourish on Rancho Corral's steep slopes. The federally endangered Hickman's cinquefoil, a delicate yellow flower and member of the rose family, grows in only two places on earth: Rancho Corral and at Pebble Beach on the Monterey Peninsula.

Historically known as Rancho Corral de Tierra Palomares, the property encompasses the majority of an 1839 Mexican land grant to Francisco Guerrero y Palomares, who built the first adobe on the San Mateo Coast at Rancho Corral's Denniston Creek.

POST acquired 4,262-acre Rancho Corral in three phases beginning in 2001 from investors who intended to develop housing and a golf course on the land. POST's private donors, the California Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board made the \$29.75 million acquisition possible.

Rancho Corral is the second POST-protected property to be included within the boundary of the GGNRA. In 1995, the Phleger Estate in Woodside became part of the park after POST raised \$10.5 million from donors and an equal amount in federal matching funds to permanently protect the 1,252-acre estate.

New Gateway to GGNRA

"The action by Congress and the President to include Rancho Corral de Tierra within the boundary sends the clear message that this amazing coastal land is worthy of national park status. This will be an important addition to our San Mateo coastal lands and will help round out our boundary, which now includes San Francisco Watershed lands, Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Pedro Point Headlands—all of which are in the vicinity of Rancho Corral de Tierra." said Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the GGNRA. "Audrey and her staff worked very hard in the mid-1990s to preserve the Phleger Estate, which is now part of the GGNRA, and we look forward to continuing our relationship with them as we discuss future management of Rancho Corral de Tierra."

POST will collaborate with its partners to ask Congress to appropriate \$15 million in Land and Water Conservation Funds to purchase the property for permanent protection. Once that process is completed, Rancho Corral will serve as an important recreational asset for the GGNRA, providing an easily accessible southern entrance to the recreation area and connecting the congressionally designated Bay Area Ridge Trail with the California Coastal Trail.



Hickman's Cinquefoil



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Saving Our Last **POST**

Just off Highway 1, Purisima Creek Road curves up a rugged valley through old farmsteads and scrub-covered knolls. As you drive into this quiet slice of the Coastside, past rolling green hills where deer, sheep and cattle graze, a gently sloping meadow leading up to a sheer rocky peak comes into view.

This is Bluebrush Canyon, and it is POST's latest land purchase through the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign.

Located south of Half Moon Bay, this 260-acre property is an excellent example of the signature landscapes POST is protecting along the San Mateo Coast. The acquisition of this propertypart of the 14,532 acres POST has protected through the campaign to date—will result in the protection of the pastoral character of the Purisima Creek Valley and help safeguard native plants and animals. It will also create a vital link in a nearly completed trail corridor that will provide hiking access along Lobitos Ridge from Skyline Ridge to the sea.

"This acquisition is a special opportunity to connect the redwood forests of the mid-Coast region with the California Coastal

Remaining Rural Places: Acquires 260-Acre Bluebrush Canyon

Trail along the Pacific," said POST Executive Vice President Walter Moore. "By protecting this property, we will be preserving land that represents all four aspects of POST's mission: natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, recreation and agriculture."

A Haven for Wildlife

POST purchased Bluebrush Canyon in February for just over \$3.2 million from the de Cesare family, which has owned it since 1977. Had POST not acquired the land, up to two additional private residences could have been built there, spoiling its rural atmosphere and impeding its panoramic ocean views from Montara Mountain to the north to Pigeon Point near Pescadero to the south.

Purisima Creek runs along the northeastern portion of the property, while Lobitos Creek defines its southwestern edge, adjacent to POST's Lobitos Ridge and Lower Purisima Creek properties.

On a typical spring afternoon, thick banks of fog melt away to reveal a prominent rocky knoll rising 796 feet above the steeply sloped land. The crumbling cliff face, consisting of ocher-hued sandstone exposed as a result of historic landslide activity, serves as a navigational marker for hikers in the area.

The land is prime habitat for the endangered San Francisco garter snake and the threatened California red-legged frog. It is also hunting grounds for birds of prey such as red-tailed hawks and golden eagles, which soar over the canyon's Northern Coastal Scrub terrain of tangled willow, coyote brush and California lilac in search of their next meal.

Wide Open Spaces

The property was originally part of an 1838 Spanish land grant called Rancho Cañada Verde y Arroyo de la Purisima. The historic rancho, covering 8,906 acres, once stretched from Purisima to Tunitas creeks.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the land was part of a 1,000-plus-acre dairy cattle operation co-owned by the Beffa, Marsh and McCarthy families. That ranch included lands that are now part of POST's 340-acre Lobitos Ridge property immediately to the south and nearby Elkus Ranch, currently owned by the University of California, Berkeley.

In recent years, the de Cesares

have been leasing Bluebrush Canyon to Half Moon Bay resident Tom Pacheco, who spends several months a year grazing Black Angus cattle on its rich pastureland of rye grass, fescue and wild oats. For many generations — three on his father's side, five on his mother's his family has been ranching in the area. In fact, his aunt and uncle lived and worked on Bluebrush Canyon for more than 40 years, beginning in the late 1920s.

Pacheco has seen first-hand the changes that are transforming the Coastside from a sleepy agricultural region into a growing suburban outpost and vacation destination. He says his greatest concern for the area is increasing property subdivision that threatens to destroy the Coast's vast expanses of scenic wilderness and productive ranchland like Bluebrush Canyon.

"Everybody's idea of what they want to do with their property changes from generation to generation, but I don't like seeing small subdivided parcels all over the place," he said. "If it wasn't for POST being able to acquire these places, they would be in 20- to 40-acre parcels, and the Coast just wouldn't be the same."



Purisima Farms



Brussels Sprouts



8 LANDSCAPES

POST to Trans Local Farm Fa

For John Giusti, the land is his livelihood. The third-generation farmer learned how to work the soil from his father, Aldo, who grows Brussels sprouts and artichokes along the San Mateo Coast.

Now, thanks to a pending agreement with POST, John Giusti plans to own POST's Purisima Farms just south of Half Moon Bay, which he currently leases. Once finalized, this agreement will keep fertile fields in the hands of a local farming family and protect agricultural land from rising development pressures on the Coast.

Protection through Partnerships

Since 1998, Giusti has leased 100 acres of the 534-acre Purisima property, where he grows primarily Brussels sprouts on land east of Highway 1. He also leases 121 acres of POST's Johnston Ranch property near Half Moon Bay. Under the proposed new agreement, Giusti would purchase the Purisima land from POST.

Plans for the protection of this signature coastal property came about thanks to POST's unique partnership with Giusti and others. POST acquired Purisima Farms in 1998 for \$3,942,500 with funding from

fer Prime Agricultural Lands to mily

POST supporters, the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Transportation. "As many as six luxury estates could have been developed on this oceanside property had POST not acquired the land," said POST Executive Vice President Walter T. Moore.

The property is currently protected by easements held by the California Coastal Conservancy and American Land Conservancy. These easements shield Purisima Farms from development by removing the potential to build all but one single-family dwelling.

Those provisions suit Giusti and his wife, Maureen, just fine, as they hope to build a single home on the property. The couple has three young children and would like to raise them on the family farm, just as Giusti was raised.

"Owning this farm is a dream come true for us. We have had to make many sacrifices in order to make this purchase happen but we believe that owning this property makes good sense for our family as well as our business. We hope that our children will be able to carry on with the farming tradition of this land for years to come," said John Giusti.

Saving Farmland from Development

Giusti's hopes for his family come at an especially challenging time for farming on the San Mateo Coast. In recent years, many factors have impacted the viability of farming in the area and reduced the number of acres currently in agricultural production. Land costs have sky rocketed; water has become more scarce; operation costs, including the price of fuel, continue to escalate; processing facilities have been relocated as far as away as Salinas; and equipment repair shops and suppliers have moved away from the Coast and closer to the giant farming operations of the Central Valley.

More and more farmers in the area are having to lease, not own, the land they work, according to POST Board member Larry Jacobs, a farmer who owns Jacobs Farms in Pescadero.

"Historically, farmers purchased their farms, but with time, families stopped farming and leased acreage to others. The shift to leased ground probably began after WWII and accelerated with the movement of new generations to cities," said Jacobs. "With the Giusti agreement, POST will be making land affordable enough so that a farmer can



John Giusti

own the lands he farms instead of being pressured to sell off to developers. Such an arrangement will help preserve the Coast's agricultural community, keep these lands in local ownership, and save scenic open space."

Following in a Father's Footsteps

John is not the only Giusti to work with POST to preserve open space as farmland. In 1992, John's father Aldo purchased POST's North Cowell property, which, like Purisima, is protected by conservation easements owned by POST as well as the California Coastal Conservancy. The elder Giusti currently owns 597 acres of POST-protected land near his son's agricultural operation on Purisima Farms.

Whaler's Cove Reopens to the Public Trail Segment Dedicated to Coastal Champion Mel Lane



Gazing out at the rocky outcroppings of Whaler's Cove,

a picturesque curve of coastline at Pigeon Point near Pescadero, POST friends and supporters were ecstatic.

"This is the greatest day in 11 years," exclaimed Mark Nolan, Director of Outdoor Education for the San Mateo Office of Education and founder of the Pigeon Point Environmental Education Program. Nolan joined nearly 100 other POST friends, supporters and agency partners last November to celebrate the opening of Mel's Lane at Whaler's Cove, the first property POST protected through its *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign.

Press event attendees had waited a long time to see the fences come down on the scenic bluff top overlooking the cove. The area was closed off in 1994



Melvin B. Lane

when a private developer broke ground for a nine-unit motel that would have permanently blocked views and access to the beach. Six years later, POST stepped in to purchase the land, halt construction and eventually reopen the area to the public.

Trail Honors Conservationist Mel Lane

POST transferred Whaler's Cove to California State Parks in May 2005 for permanent protection and public access. Now part of Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, it lies adjacent to the Pigeon Point lighthouse, which POST also helped State Parks acquire.

The quarter-mile trail segment skirting the edge of the bluff is named in honor of Melvin B. Lane, former co-publisher of *Sunset* magazine and books and a cofounder and former longtime Board member of POST. Lane served as the first chairman of the California Coastal Commission from 1972 to 1977.

"We are pleased to be opening this trail to the public and honored to name the trail for Mel Lane. He has devoted much of his life's work to preserving California's coastline," said POST President Audrey Rust.



Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director of the California Coastal Commission; Supervisor Richard Gordon of the 3rd District of San Mateo County; Ruth Coleman, Director of California State Parks; Audrey Rust, POST President; Mel Lane; Sam Schuchat, Executive Director of California Coastal Conservancy.

"Without Mel Lane, the California coast would not be the inspiring, natural place that so many people from all walks of life enjoy today," said Susan Hansch, chief deputy director of the Coastal Commission.

Open to All

Mel's Lane is one of the most visible segments of the proposed 1,300-mile California Coastal Trail. The gravel-lined path winds through the future site of the Council Circle, POST's recognition area for special donors to the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. When completed this spring, the Council Circle will comprise a ring of stone benches where the names of individuals, families and foundations who made major gifts to the campaign will be engraved on permanent plaques.

"Many agencies and individuals have worked to protect this special place, which benefits the people of San Mateo County and those who will visit this site for generations to come," said Supervisor Richard Gordon, 3rd District, San Mateo County. "This is a great day, now the area is open to the public again. It's a real treasure," said Nolan.



Visitors to Mel's Lane can enjoy views of the ocean, Prisoner's Rock and Año Nuevo from the lookout point that now stands on the site that was once slated to be a private motel.

POST Says Goodbye to Departing Board

With a combined 64 years of service to POST, volunteers Vince Garrod, Christy Holloway and Dave Mitchell stepped down from the Board at the end of 2005. "We'll miss the humor. camaraderie and invaluable expertise that Vince, Christy and Dave brought to every Board meeting, but I know their devotion and enthusiasm for open space will continue in all they do," said POST President Audrey Rust. "We are infinitely grateful for everything they've done for POST and for our local natural lands."



Vince S. Garrod

Vince S. Garrod

Vince Garrod's roots on the Peninsula go back to 1892, when his grandparents moved to America from England and established Garrod Farms in Saratoga. These days Vince and his family run a 120-acre ranch, an equestrian center, and the award-winning Cooper-Garrod Vineyards.

A native of Saratoga, Vince served on POST's Board for 23 years and is one of the founders of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Recreation Department. He was also the first president of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts and was an elected member of the Saratoga school board for 23 years.

Of all his years at POST, Vince says the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign is a highlight. Speaking of the ambitious \$200 million goal set by the Board, he said, "It's important not to say no. You just go ahead and do it."

Christina A. Holloway

Christy Holloway was born in England, but she has always felt a deep connection to California's rural landscapes. In the late 1960s, she chaired Environmental Volunteers, then served on the board of the Peninsula Conservation Foundation. She was one of the first co-executive directors of Hidden Villa and later chaired its board of trustees. A resident of Stanford, she currently serves as chair of the board of the Yosemite



Christina A. Holloway

Association and is a trustee at The Yosemite Fund.

"Of all the places I've volunteered, POST is one of the most meaningful to me," said Christy, who joined POST's Board in 1984 and served as president for a number of years. "We've permanently changed the landscape of the Peninsula for the better, and that to me is just an extraordinary thing to be involved with."

David W. Mitchell

Attorney Dave Mitchell is of counsel at Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, Inc. in San Jose. He joined POST's Board in 1982 and also served as president.

Dave's pro bono legal work has helped POST navigate a wide range of transactions, from crafting conservation easements and

Members

negotiating tenant leases to helping finalize major land acquisitions. A resident of Palo Alto, he is a board member of the Palo Alto Community Fund and the Stanford Historical Society. He is also a former board member of Community Foundation Silicon Valley. Although he is stepping down as a voting member of POST's Board, he will continue to attend meetings as secretary and assist POST in arranging planned gifts.

"I feel very nostalgic," said Dave. "Serving on POST's Board has been so much fun and such a big part of my life. POST has succeeded in protecting vulnerable areas of our local landscape, and I'm honored to have been a part of that."



David W. Mitchell

POST Welcomes Martha J. Kanter to the Board

POST is pleased to welcome a new member to its Board of Directors, Martha J. Kanter of Cupertino.

Martha is chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, one of the largest community college districts in the country. A former public school teacher, she has served as director, dean and vice chancellor for policy and research for the California Community Colleges Chancel-



Martha J. Kanter

lor's Office in Sacramento. In 1993 she was named president of De Anza College, where she served until becoming chancellor in 2003.

"I grew up in Boston and spent a lot of time on Cape Cod, where at one time the bay was extremely polluted. The community joined together to clean up the bay and the remaining open space was preserved, which instilled in me at a young age a strong awareness of environmental issues," she said. "We're all stewards of the land, and we've got to do what we can to preserve the open space we enjoy today for future generations."

Active in many national, state and local organizations, Martha is co-chair of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network, Inc., and serves as a trustee of the San Jose Museum of Art, The National Hispanic University and the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology. She holds a doctorate in organization and leadership from the University of San Francisco, a master's degree in education from Harvard University, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Brandeis University.

"Martha is an accomplished educator and innovative leader with a deep passion for open space and a terrific sense of humor," said POST Board Chair Susan Ford Dorsey. "She brings with her extensive contacts throughout Silicon Valley in diverse communities that POST would like to reach. She is sure to enrich our organization and we are delighted to welcome her aboard."

Walk in the Wild: Djerassi Program Grounds and Sculpture Tours 2006

The Djerassi Resident Artists Program (DRAP) will offer two types of tours during the 2006 season. Scheduled are six Director's Tours at \$40 per person and twelve free Two-Mile Tours.

The free public tours are a result of a conservation easement purchased by POST in 1999. The easement protects the natural splendor of the 580-acre property. Funding from POST's purchase of the easement also created an endowment fund for the Djerassi Resident Artists Program. Most of the sculptures on the property were made by artists-in-residence during their month long stay at the DRAP ranch.

For more information, visit http://www.openspacetrust.org/ tours-djerassi.htm



Untitled. Mauro Staccioli, 1989.

Tributes October 1 - December 31, 2005

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Your honorary and memorial gifts to POST create a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones by helping to protect the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations.

If you would like to make a tribute gift please contact Director of Development Daphne Muehle at (650) 854-7696.

Vicki and Dave Payne's wedding Trisha Pescador Paul Pinsky Cindy and Lee Pitt Joan Pratt Peter and Terry Roberts **Terence and Patty Roberts** Tony and Leslie Roberts John C. Roosma Audrev Rust Betty Schink Mary and Lloyd Šchouweiler Catherine Scott's participation in the New York Marathon Joan Scott Gladys Siefert Ms. Šmithlin Alexandra and Doug Standing Danny van der Rijn Hart, Justin, Ellie, and Liam Walsh Dick and Rossini Zumwalt

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Annual Giving

POST owes its success to your generosity. We have established a reputation for achieving visionary land protection goals, leveraging your gifts to attract public funding and using your contributions effectively.

Your annual gifts to POST translate into permanently protected lands. POST is able to enter confidently into long-term negotiations for acquiring strategic properties knowing that we have your unwavering support.

We can produce materials to use with landowners, partner agencies and donors that highlight important animal and plant habitats, trail corridors and future connections to already protected properties.

We can also responsibly steward lands that are in our ownership awaiting transfer to a public agency for management and public access. This includes innovative cattle grazing plans, invasive plant removal led by volunteers and much-needed erosion control.

POST can do all these things, but only if you stay with us. It's a commitment that can change a community. Together our local landscape, rich in history, natural resources, breathtaking views and recreational opportunities, will be left intact for all of us today and for the future.

Tax-deductible gifts of cash or stock are some of the ways to contribute annually to POST. For more information about the benefits of making such a gift, please contact Daphne Muehle, POST's Director of Development at dmuehle@openspacetrust.org or at 650-854-7696.



Landscapes

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Telephone: (650) 854-7696 Fax: (650) 854-7703 Web site: www.openspacetrust.org

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Under the Harvest Moon

With Special Thanks to Our Event Sponsors

In September, POST hosted *Under the Harvest Moon* with the extraordinary support of the table sponsors listed below. We thank you for your support and look forward to partnering with you in the future.

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