



LANDSCAPES

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST  SPRING 2010

Thank You, Bob

Robert R. Augsburger, 1926–2009

Retirees should choose their volunteer jobs carefully, for these endeavors may keep them even busier than the career they left behind. Such was the case with the late Robert “Bob” Augsburger, POST’s founding executive director, who passed away December 31 at the Sequoias retirement community in Portola Valley.

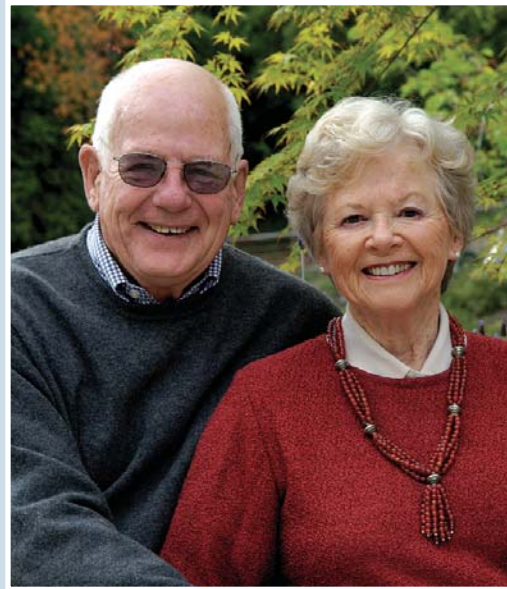
After retiring from his job as Stanford University’s vice president for business and finance, Bob guided POST through its formative years, from 1977 until 1987. With his training as a lawyer (Case Western Reserve University), his Wall Street experience (Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette) and six years managing Stanford’s 7,000 acres, he was well equipped to think about a new land-saving entity for the Peninsula.

“Bob brought impressive credentials to the organization,” says POST President Audrey Rust. “Add to that his knowledge of the community, his deep network of friends, and his passion for entrepreneurial enterprises, and you begin to understand the reasons people took POST seriously from the beginning. The spirit and vision he gave to POST continue to inspire our work today.”

Windy Hill

Bob’s first major acquisition was Windy Hill, a landmark project that put POST on the conservation map and, through a subsequent bargain sale to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), gave POST a nest egg for its revolving land acquisition fund.

A youthful excitement pervaded Bob’s approach to tasks of the utmost seriousness. POST’s first board president, F. Ward Paine, recalls it was just that enthusiasm that led Bob to take the job in the first place. In 1977, Bob headed the search committee in charge of finding an executive director for what would become POST. “Bob was so excited by the concept for the organization and the talents of the founding board members that he took the job



Bob Augsburger with his wife, Jean Ann.

himself, with ample encouragement from the board,” says Ward.

Bob was tireless in his search for methods to keep large holdings in private hands, and made it clear that POST would work well beyond the geographic limits of MROSD.

POST – A Model

By 1987, when Bob retired again, POST had protected 4,500 acres and assisted other organizations in safeguarding an additional 8,000 acres. He had put a framework in place that would be expanded, refined and molded to make POST one of the country’s most successful land trusts. At the same time he helped found the Land Trust Alliance, a professional organization that promotes land conservation across America.

“Bob took this experience back to Stanford, where he taught courses in non-profit management for the Graduate School of Business. He influenced thousands of students, many of whom were already out there, engaged in making a difference,” says Christy Holloway, former long-time POST board member. “What a grand legacy he has left!”

When not volunteering or thinking about better ways to manage non-profits, Bob let his mind soar to the melodies of grand opera. We will miss him, and we will think of him whenever we look at the open, green expanse of Windy Hill. ■

We've Got Wildlife

The Bay Area has a richness of species found in only a few other places on the planet. The confluence of wildly varied geology and a Mediterranean climate promotes California's diverse wildlife as well as a profusion of endemic species—those that occur nowhere else. This richness of life creates a responsibility on our part to protect what we have inherited, and POST meets the challenge by protecting the land on which we all depend.

Gerald and Buff Corsi © California Academy of Sciences.



THE NEIGHBOR YOU NEVER SEE:

Keeping Mountain Lions in Our Midst

Known as mountain lion, cougar, puma and panther, the elusive “cat of one color” has inspired more names—40 in English alone—than perhaps any other animal in the world. Native to the Americas, mountain lions have the largest geographic range of any carnivore in the Western Hemisphere and can be found from the Yukon to the southern Andes. Here in the Bay Area, lions are known to roam the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo and Gabilan ranges.

Despite their adaptability, mountain lions need one thing that is in increasingly short supply: space. “An essential part of POST’s mission is to preserve land for wildlife habitat,” says POST President Audrey Rust. “We take a big-picture approach to land protection, connecting large swaths of open space when possible so that no property is an island but, rather, part of a strategic network of lands that help meet the needs of all animal species, including the mountain lion.”

Protecting Pathways

Solitary and extremely territorial, a male mountain lion needs about 100 square miles of land (64,000 acres) in which to roam, while females need about half that space. They prefer areas with plenty of cover from which to ambush deer, their favorite prey.

Today, stable populations of mountain lions exist in only 12 western U.S. states and two western Canadian provinces. California has an estimated population of 4,000 to 6,000 lions, thanks in part to Proposition 117, the California Wildlife Protection Act, passed by voters in 1990. The law, which remains the only one of its kind in the country, prohibits sport hunting of mountain lions in California and funds wildlife habitat protection. Most importantly, Prop. 117 recognizes the need to protect the pathways of land, also known as “wildlife corridors,” that lions and other animals use to move from one area to another.

For mountain lions, these pathways are critical. By nature, lions already limit their own population with small litters and the need for large home ranges. When obstacles posed by freeways, fences and subdivisions block their natural corridors, the odds get stacked against them. Experts say protecting habitat pathways is the key to maintaining healthy populations of lions here and elsewhere. Corridors from the Santa Cruz Mountains to the Diablo and Gabilan ranges need to be kept open for local lions to survive. Without them, the big cats get forced into genetic isolation, which eventually threatens the survival of the species.

Top Predator is Essential

Recent studies suggest that giving mountain lions room to roam is good not just for their health, but for the entire ecosystem. Protecting one species like the mountain lion has positive impacts for other species. For example, as top predators, lions keep deer populations in check, limiting adverse impacts on vegetation and soil erosion. Ideally a mountain lion eats one deer per week, but lions also feed on mice, rabbits, beavers, porcupines, skunks, coyotes, bear cubs, grouse, wild turkeys and fish. With the exception of fish, the wild creatures on the lion’s menu can proliferate to nuisance levels when this top predator is removed.

“There have been numerous signs of mountain lions at POST’s Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. I’ve seen their tracks, their scat, the occasional remains of a kill, but in ten years of living at the edge of thousands of acres of wildland, I have never seen a mountain lion.”

– Jeff Powers, POST Conservation Project Manager for the 5,777-acre property near Pescadero.



POST’s work in south Santa Clara County helps keep habitat connected for mountain lions and other wildlife (inset).



Gerald and Buff Corsi
© California Academy of Sciences

Home on the Range

Scientists say that understanding how lions and other wildlife use corridors to move between mountain ranges—and giving such corridors permanent protection—is paramount to ensuring the animals' long-term survival. Researchers in the Bay Area have long postulated that mountain lions travel between home ranges in Santa Cruz and south Santa Clara counties to other parts of the state. One possible route cuts across Coyote Valley, south of downtown San Jose, and the other through the

Pajaro Valley, which separates the Santa Cruz and Gabilan ranges to the south.

Last year, researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz embarked on the first field study of mountain lions in the Santa Cruz Mountains. While findings are preliminary, the researchers believe the Santa Cruz Mountains are home to as many as 30 to 70 lions. In addition, recent fieldwork conducted by students in De Anza Community College's environmental studies program has identified the presence of mountain lions in parts of Coyote Valley.

Humanity for Habitat

POST has long recognized the importance of connecting land. Providing room for wildlife is just one of many reasons for preserving properties contiguous to already protected open space and parkland. This approach enhances the land's value for outdoor recreation and visual enjoyment as well.

In south Santa Clara County, POST has completed several major projects over the past 20 years in the Santa Cruz Mountain range that have added to the region's network of open space and habitat. At the southern tip of Almaden Valley, Rancho San Vicente sits just a few minutes west of Coyote Valley in the heart of more than 30,000 acres of protected lands linking wildlife corridors, hiking trails and scenic vistas. Instead of hundreds of tightly packed homes on Rancho's rolling hills and meadows, animals will be able to roam freely on the property, which includes 506 acres of rare and valuable serpentine soils that provide potential habitat for many species.

"It was a very exciting experience. My sister-in-law and I were riding on Pomponio Ranch, south of Pescadero, when a mountain lion emerged from the brush. It sauntered through an open field and across the road in front of us. The tail was unmistakable. The horses seemed unfazed. Since no one else has ever seen a mountain lion on this property, I feel very lucky."

— Ann Bowers,
resident of Palo Alto

At least one resident mountain lion has been observed here. An eight-year-old male that covers a huge range from Lexington Reservoir to Uvas Reservoir was identified last year by the UC Santa Cruz team using a collar fitted with a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Last October, the collar ceased working and scientists feared the cat was dead, but in late November several cameras captured evidence that he was alive and well.

It's likely the collared mountain lion also makes its rounds through other POST-protected properties nearby. In 1999, POST saved 2,438-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro on the outskirts of San Jose, now a stunning open space preserve. From its hilltops, mountain lions can gaze upon the Diablo Range. POST later transferred the land to Santa Clara County Parks and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA). Blair Ranch, which POST helped SCCOSA acquire in 2008, is also prime mountain lion habitat. The 865-acre property, along with two others saved by POST totaling 192 acres along the Santa Cruz ridgeline, have been added to Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, creating even more room for the big cats to roam.



© Leo Holub

Memo to the Mountain Lion

In 1984, the author Wallace Stegner was asked by his good friend and fellow conservationist Margaret Owings to write on behalf of the California mountain lion. Concerned about their loss of habitat and the growing popularity of trophy hunting, Owings and a small coalition were fighting to convince the California state legislature to ban taking mountain lions for sport. The piece Stegner wrote helped garner public support for the elegant, secretive cats.

"Once, in every corner of this continent, your passing could prick the stillness and bring every living thing to the alert. But even then you were more felt than seen. You were an imminence, a presence, a crying in the night, pug tracks in the dust of a trail. Solitary and shy, you lived beyond, always beyond. Your comings and goings defined the boundaries of the unpeopled."

FROM "MEMO TO THE MOUNTAIN LION"
BY WALLACE STEGNER

"POST has been successful in linking thousands of acres of critical habitat in the region, but much more needs to be done," says Rust. "We rely on the generous support of donors, local landowners and the community to continue this urgent work on behalf of all the life that thrives on these remarkably rich and vibrant lands."

Connection is Critical

Conservationists agree that it's not possible, or practical, to preserve all mountain lion habitat. The area required is simply too large. But what is possible—indeed, necessary—is to connect the critical lands that support lions and other wildlife. Currently in the Santa Cruz Mountains, there is great risk of severing habitat and pathways by allowing development to creep further into the range. Climate change is another ongoing concern. As temperatures rise and habitat zones shift, lions and other large mammals will need somewhere to go, and a way to get there. With your help, POST can continue the important work of protecting and linking wildlife habitat. Only this way can magnificent creatures like the mountain lion keep their place alongside us as the elusive, mysterious neighbors we rarely see, but who enrich our world by their presence. ■



Q&A WITH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST

Mike Kutilek

POST: Mountain lions are elusive animals. What do we know about their behavior and habitat needs here in the Bay Area?

Mike Kutilek (MK): We know there are resident populations here in the Santa Cruz Mountain range and the Diablo range in eastern Santa Clara County. Mountain lions are generally shy and retiring and avoid people, but sometimes they do wander into areas of human habitation. They need large, contiguous tracts of natural habitat that have adequate cover, water and prey. Deer and wild pigs are their main prey in this area.

POST: What poses the greatest threat to mountain lions in our region?

MK: It's probably the same factor posing a threat throughout their range, and that's habitat fragmentation. Lions can suffer catastrophes like any animal, and if a population dies out in one fragment and there's no opportunity for other lions to migrate into that fragment and repopulate it, then that fragment no longer has a lion population.

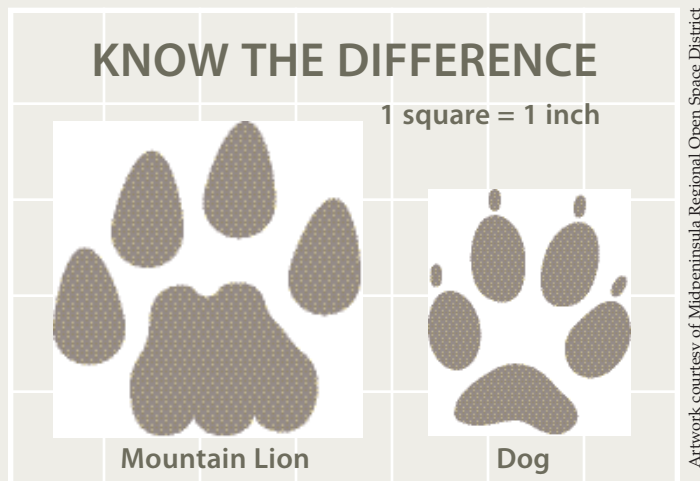
POST: In 1999, POST saved 2,438-acre Rancho Cañada del Oro in south Santa Clara County. How does land protection on this scale help address the habitat needs of mountain lions?

MK: We know there is a wildlife corridor in Coyote Valley that allows migration between the Diablo and Santa Cruz ranges. Rancho sits just above the valley floor on the Santa Cruz side, so it very likely makes up a portion of the corridor. It's also a lovely piece of land—a little vignette of what that area should look like for lions and other living things.

POST: On a personal level, do you think mountain lion habitat should be protected?

MK: I think we should protect habitat to protect entire ecosystems. We have to protect biodiversity because that biodiversity provides so much. We also need to understand it because if we are going to practice good conservation, we can't do it just based on our ideas of how these systems work. We need good data. Too much of the time we think we understand something and we make some conservation decision only to find out it was absolutely the wrong thing to do because we didn't understand the intricacies of the system. ■

Mike Kutilek has been a professor of biology at San Jose State University for 35 years. His main scientific interests are in ecology, conservation biology and large mammals. He is president of the board of directors of the Michael Lee Environmental Foundation and lives in San Jose.



For more about mountain lions, and how to stay safe while recreating in their habitat, follow our tracks to www.openspacetrust.org/Kutilek.

Chaparral Spells Home to Animals Large and Small

Chaparral is a characteristic plant community on the hot, dry, exposed slopes of our region. Smelling faintly of sage and coyote bush, it is chaparral that perfumes the still air of summer. Seen from a distance, it looks like rumpled, gray velvet.

Chaparral covers the flanks of POST's Rancho Corral de Tierra, pops up in patches along the slopes of Skyline Ridge and thrives in the heat of Mt. Umunhum and Rancho San Vicente in southern Santa Clara County. Left undisturbed it can become too dense for humans to penetrate, making it a fine place for animals. Deer, jack rabbits, coyotes, even mountain lions frequent the chaparral. Grey fox, spotted skunks and an array of rodents and snakes also find comfort in this habitat. Chaparral is also the preferred home of California valley quail, the state's official bird.

Chaparral grows where winters are mild and rainfall limited to a few months each year. Plants such as sumac, poison oak, scrub oak, chamise and manzanita dominate. California coffeeberry, ceanothus and toyon are often found here. Even yucca and cacti can be part of this shrubland plant system.

All these plants have tough, woody stems and small, hard leaves for holding whatever moisture comes their way. Historically chaparral has been subject to intense, but infrequent wildfires. More recently such areas have been ignited by arson, poorly tended campfires or stray sparks from machinery, according to the California Chaparral Institute. Like forestland, this shrubland habitat can build up a fuel load of dead material in its under-story, making it vulnerable to wildfire; however, chaparral is a fire-adaptive plant community, and many plants return via root sprouts.

Early settlers in California had no use for chaparral; they called it "brush" and cleared it away to make farming and grazing land. Today's residents clear chaparral to make way for residential subdivisions. Loss of this unique shrubland forces common animals to seek food and shelter in suburbia. For these animals, protection of chaparral is just as important as that of oak woodlands or salt marshes. For people, it is just a harder sell. ■



© 2007 Dan Quinn

Deer stand out against the deep greens of the forest but become nearly invisible among the dense gray branches of chaparral.



© Peter LaTourette

California quail are characteristic chaparral birds.



© 2003 Dan Quinn

Viewed at close range in early spring, local chaparral puts on a colorful show with California sage, sticky monkey flower, coyote brush and globe gilia.

Saving Habitat Saves Fish

In dry California, the life of creeks and streams is especially beguiling, yet there has been a collective failure to give adequate protection to watercourses. Native Coho salmon, steelhead and trout, whose abundance was once legendary, are in serious decline. These fish return to spawn at the precise spot where they hatched. POST's job is to safeguard the land and its water in preparation for this miracle.

At Cloverdale Coastal Ranches south of Pescadero, POST has repaired more than 50 erosion gullies from which thousands of cubic yards of gill-choking sediment were emptying into Gazos Creek during storms. Professor Jerry Smith of San Jose State University, who studies local fish populations, believes steelhead are now in generally good shape at Gazos Creek. Coho salmon, which used to be plentiful, may be gone.

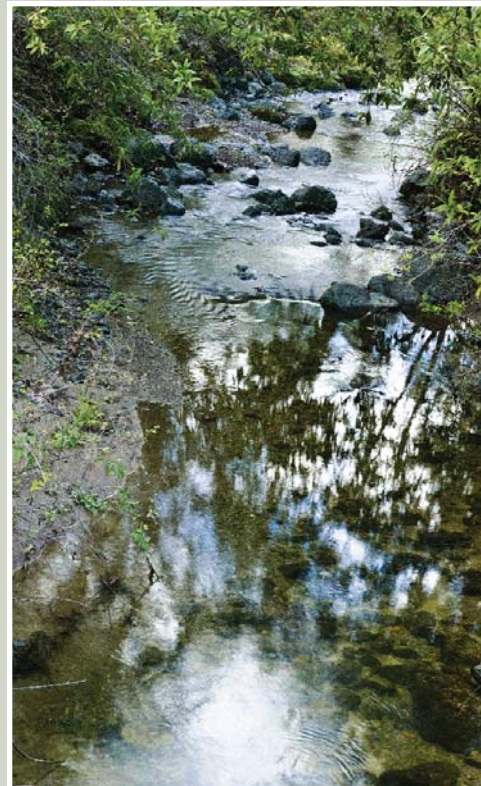
Coho salmon have dwindled to 1 percent of their historic numbers, according to the U.S. Department of Fish & Game. Jennifer Nelson of the Bay Delta Region of the Department is hopeful about the chances of Coho returning to Gazos Creek, but accurate data is elusive. "NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) samples only a kilometer of the stream and samples a different kilometer every year."

Fish Rescue

Success has also come to steelhead in southern Santa Clara County, where POST has had a number of recent projects. Volunteers from Gilroy-based CHEER (Coastal Habitat Education & Environmental Restoration) comb the tributaries to Uvas Creek looking for newly hatched steelhead trout. Typically the tributaries dry up or become disconnected puddles by late summer. Before the water disappears, CHEER volunteers catch as many fingerlings as they can and transport them to the relative safety of Uvas Creek, below the dam, where water levels are more dependable.

"It takes a big collaborative effort to make a difference," says Gilroy resident Jean Myers, a POST donor who participated in the rescue of steelhead fingerlings (232 in all) at POST's Clark Canyon Ranch in May 2008. (See page 13.)

Sediment, dams, levees, roads, water withdrawals, pollution, over-fishing and climate change—all these may contribute to the decline of fish in local creeks. The task for POST and others is to safeguard the habitat before the fish disappear altogether. ■



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A small tributary to Uvas Creek, home to steelhead, flows through Clark Canyon Ranch in Gilroy.



© 2008 CHEER



© 2008 POST

Fingerlings rescued by CHEER-trained volunteers at Clark Canyon Ranch may be lucky enough to return as adults (inset above).

SALT MARSH

Good for the Harvest Mouse, Good for You!



Among threatened and endangered species, the salt marsh harvest mouse has received more scorn than praise, but protecting even the smallest creature may save Bay Area residents from a series of perils we have only recently come to understand.

"This tiny mouse is beautiful, endangered and lives only in the marshes of San Francisco Bay," explains Howard Shellhammer, professor emeritus of biology at San Jose State University, who has studied the mouse for 35 years. "The problem is that much of the mouse's habitat has disappeared in the last 150 years due to man-made alterations to the shores of the bay."

The mouse, which prefers salt water to fresh, depends on finding food and cover in the tangle of vegetation just above the waterline. The diminutive creature can stay dry by climbing plant stems that stick out of the water. Not only have marshes been reduced from a band of roughly a mile wide to a remnant fewer

than nine feet from the water, but what was formerly continuous marsh is now highly fragmented. Marshes have been diked, filled and impaired by land subsidence and sewage effluent in order to make way for salt ponds, subdivisions, airports and industrial parks.

POST Saves Marshland

POST has played a key role in protecting and restoring marshes in the South Bay since 1980. POST's major acquisitions include 54-acre Crittenden Marsh, added to Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area; 98-acre New Chicago Marsh, added to the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge; and 1,600-acre Bair Island, added to the refuge in 1997. With each of these projects, life conditions for the salt marsh harvest mouse have improved.

Ironically, while much attention has been paid to the need to protect wildlife—harvest mouse, clapper rail, brown pelican and others—protecting the marsh may bring the greatest benefits to humans. Healthy salt marshes build up sediment and establish vegetation in response to rising sea levels. They also filter pollutants from the water and help protect Bay Area residents from storm surge, high tides and flooding. At the same time, marshland contributes to the multibillion-dollar fishing industry and provides people with recreational opportunities.

What's good for the mouse is even better for people! ■



For more about the mouse and salt marsh, follow our tracks to www.openspacetrust.org/Shellhammer

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Pickleweed, a salt-tolerant plant, provides cover or, when the tide comes in, a temporary perch for the salt marsh harvest mouse.

Threatened, Endangered Creatures Recover at Cloverdale Coastal Ranches

Of the animals POST regularly encounters, the California red-legged frog (threatened) and the San Francisco garter snake (endangered) have received the most press. These two creatures might inhabit nearly any freshwater pond or wetland, natural or man-made, yet loss of

habitat has made them rare. POST has found survivors at Pillar Point Bluff, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, Mindego Hill, Clark Canyon Ranch and

Rancho San Vicente, to name a few of their haunts.

Until the early 1900s, California red-legged frog legs were

a regional delicacy. Besides urbanization and industrial agriculture, what spelled their demise was the importation of non-native bullfrogs. These larger cousins preyed upon red-legged frogs, crowding them out of their steadily disappearing habitat. Nearby on the food chain, the San Francisco garter snake felt the loss, since red-legged frogs are the snake's favorite food. The beauty of their turquoise blue stripes also makes the snake a target for collectors.

Using state and federal grants, POST has improved pond and wetland habitat at Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and there are signs the three-year effort is succeeding. "One pond was so crowded with rushes, a person could walk across it," says Dave Kelly, recovery program coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department in Sacramento. "Now there is open water and improved vegetation on the banks. Both are important for wildlife. Cloverdale is an excellent model for how habitat restoration should be done." ■

© 2008 Sebastian Kennerknecht



The San Francisco garter snake (top) has been called "the most endangered reptile in North America." The threatened California red-legged frog, another wetland species, is the snake's favorite food.

Bair Island Restoration, Slow but Sure

Bair Island, just offshore of Redwood City, is in fact three separate islands—Outer, Middle and Inner Bair. All are part of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. At Outer Bair Island, where the last man-made levees were removed in December 2008, small signs of native habitat recovery are already apparent, according to Eric Mruz, refuge manager. It is a very slow process; however, partial public access is likely to be restored in three years.

Why not sooner? A million cubic yards of fill are needed to raise the level of Inner Bair, and there have been delays getting enough clean dirt. Funding for approved facilities, such as a footbridge from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service parking lot near Uccelli Boulevard to Inner Bair, has suffered delays due to California's financial crisis. ■



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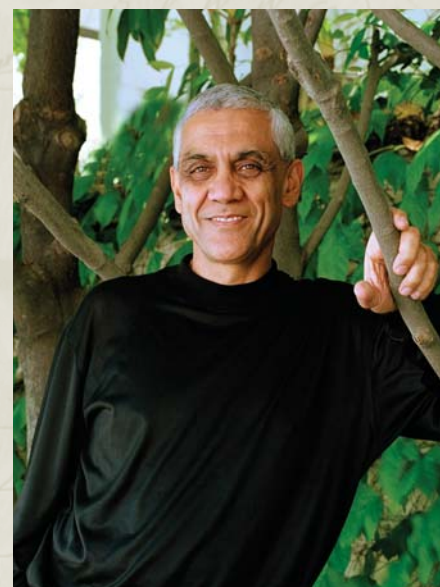
Ducklings at Bair Island are proof that the ancient rhythm of the tides is quietly mending the marsh.

VENTURES

INTO THE NATURAL WORLD

SERIES SPONSORS: Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane

Vinod Khosla: Where Energy, Technology and the Environment Meet



Courtesy Andy Freedberg

When it comes to funding innovation, regardless of its high cost or probability of failure, Vinod Khosla is the Silicon Valley entrepreneur eager to take it on.

Under the banner of Khosla Ventures, a firm he founded in 2004, Khosla raised \$1.1 billion for two venture funds last year. The funds, which include \$400 million of his own money, will be used for alternative energy and information technology companies. He had already earned a reputation for courage and creativity as the founding CEO of Sun Microsystems and as a member of the venture capital firm of Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

Curious to know more about how new technology and the natural world intersect, we asked Khosla, who lives in Portola Valley, the following questions:

POST: Is it possible to turn around some of the major, disturbing environmental problems like climate change or loss of species by applying new technology?

Vinod Khosla (VK): Absolutely! My favorite quotation is something Stanford professor Paul Romer said: "A crisis is a terrible thing to waste." This crisis is an opportunity to fundamentally change an industry (energy) that has had limited innovation. I'm an unabashed technology evangelist when it comes to solutions to the problems we continue to face.

POST: Can you describe two of the most promising "science experiments" you are funding?

VK: Calera makes cement using CO² from coal burning as feedstock. The process turns the traditional idea of carbon sequestration on its head. Not only is it carbon

free; it's actually carbon negative. The more coal we use, the more cement we produce, while taking CO² out of the air. Another company, Kior, is producing bio-crude oil, essentially taking the million-year-long natural process of producing crude oil and reducing it to seconds. The new oil goes into the existing refinery infrastructure.

POST: Can you suggest how land protection features in the spectrum of technologies you are promoting?

VK: Personally, I think there is genuine value in open space, and it offers substantial economic value. To me open space is more fun than a movie, and we invest in making movies! Being a shared resource makes it more difficult to "finance," but organizations like POST are doing a good job of it. ■

Our interview continues online at
www.openspacetrust.org/Khosla.

Vinod Khosla

*In conversation with KQED radio host
Michael Krasny*

Monday, April 26, 8:00 p.m.
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Additional Federal Funds Approved for Rancho Corral de Tierra

In October 2009, Congress approved an additional \$5 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund toward the purchase of Rancho Corral de Tierra from POST. This is the third installment payment on behalf of the National Park Service for the 4,262-acre property, destined to become the southern gateway to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA).

© 2009 Robert John White



Rancho Corral de Tierra affords expansive views of McNee Ranch State Park and Pillar Point.

To date, Congress has set aside \$11 million in appropriations for federal protection of this property.

POST acquired the land in 2001 for \$29.5 million, with major grants of \$5 million from the state's Wildlife Conservation Board and \$9 million from the California Coastal Conservancy in addition to generous private donations. All but 300 acres of the property, which rises up from Highway 1 behind the coastal towns of Montara and Moss Beach, will be transferred to the National Park Service by year's end through a bargain sale at approximately half the original price. POST will retain the 300 acres currently under agricultural lease.

Says POST President Audrey Rust, "A project of this size and complexity has taken hard work, patience and persistence to maintain momentum, and we are grateful to our Bay Area Congressional delegation, especially Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Anna Eshoo, who have championed this project in Congress from the beginning." ■

POST Transfers Clark Canyon Ranch

A little part of Gilroy became public land in November 2009 when POST transferred 408-acre Clark Canyon Ranch to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. POST purchased the ranch for \$2.9 million in April 2008 and sold the land to the county for the same amount.

For 60 years the ranch belonged to Burt and Veda Clark, who left a very light footprint. With its range of habitats and abundant water sources, including natural springs and a waterfall, the ranch has been a haven for native wildlife, including steelhead trout.

Clark Canyon Ranch touches Mount Madonna County Park, and purchase by the county increases the chance that a trail corridor can connect the two. The county is already engaged in the planning process that will one day open the ranch to public access while protecting its many natural attributes. ■



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Meadows at Clark Canyon are enclosed within a high wall of chaparral and mixed forest.

TRIBUTES

August 22 – December 31, 2009

POST is grateful to receive gifts in honor or in memory of particular individuals. These gifts are a wonderful way to pay tribute to a person's love of outdoor places.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Linda and Mark Allen
Sue and Howie Anawalt
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Anne and David Bernstein
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The grizzly bear that used to roam these lands
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Pomponio State Beach



Dialog by Roland Mayer is one of the site-specific sculptures visitors see during walking tours.

WALK *in the Wild*

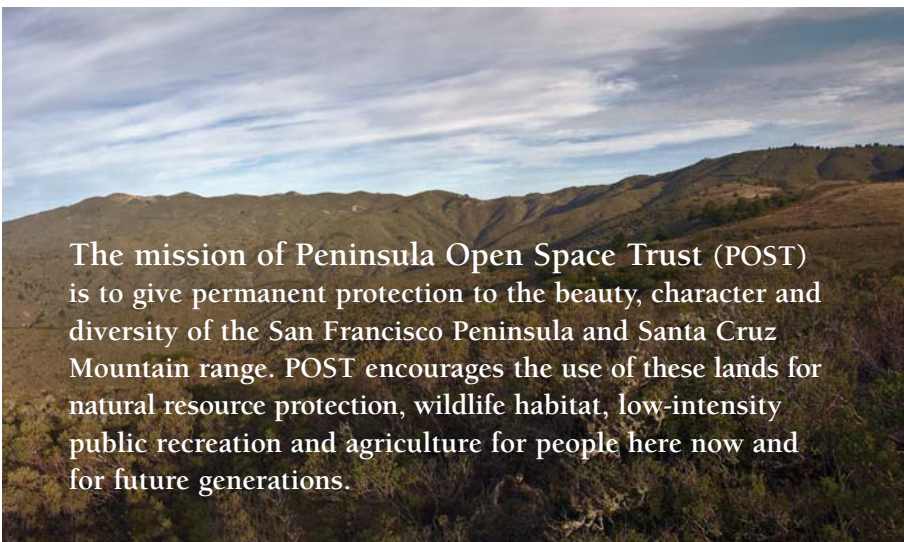
DJERASSI SCULPTURE TOURS BEGIN IN MARCH

Two different public tours are available on the 580-acre Woodside property of the Djerassi Resident Artists Program (DRAP), beginning March 28. A POST conservation easement protects the dramatic beauty of this private ranch.

- Five "Director's Tours" include more than 25 sculptures on a three-mile route. Cost is \$50 per person, payable to DRAP.
- Twelve "Two-Mile Tours" include approximately 20 sculptures. Free.

Both tours are considered strenuous due to the steep terrain. Reservations are essential. Registered guests receive additional instructions and a map to the property.

For reservations or information, call DRAP at (650) 747-1250 or visit www.djerassi.org. ■



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



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Saturday, April 10
10 a.m. to noon

*Join us for an exclusive
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Moderately strenuous.



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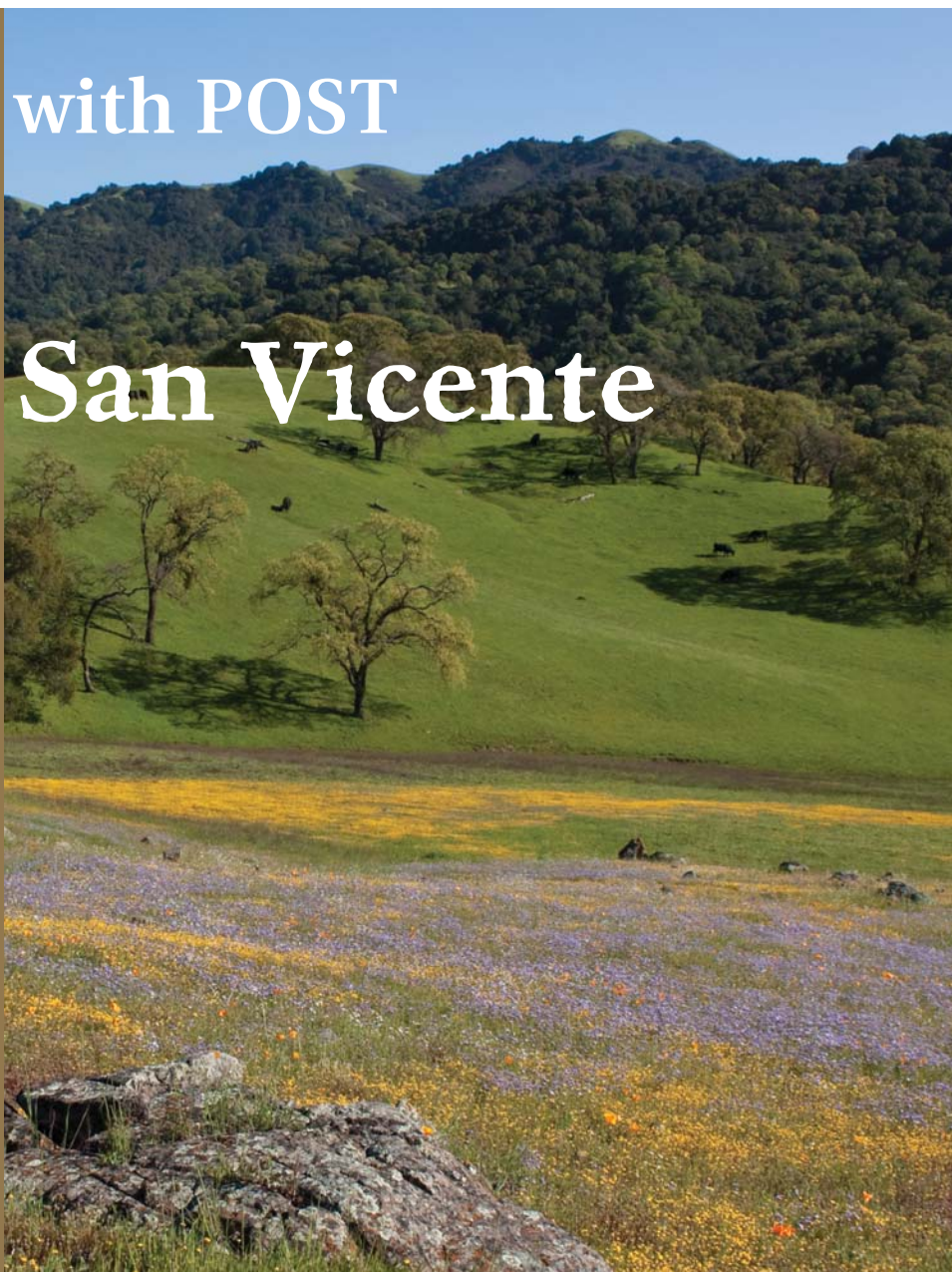


Oak-studded meadows



Expansive views

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