

# PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

LANDSCAPES SPRING 1999



*Rancho Cañada de Oro*

A GOLDEN ACQUISITION





*I* imagine journeying to the Peninsula during the 19th century. You have spent several months crossing the continent, enduring weather, sickness, bandits and all manner of physical peril with your by now diminished party of fellow pioneers. You have come seeking a better life, in a land renowned as rich with opportunity and breathtaking natural beauty. You ride up over a ridge to an outcropping providing a sweeping view of golden rolling hills and valleys below.



Photo: Rob Buelteman  
Photo: Rob Buelteman

**B**efore you is a broad grassland meadow blanketed in wildflowers. To each side are canyons surrounded by oak covered ridges with scattered rocky outcroppings. A strong, clear creek lined with willows, sycamore and bay laurel trees runs through the center of the valley in a series of inviting pools and riffles. Dismounting from your horse, you take a stroll, hoping to get a glimpse of the astounding array of wildlife that exists around you: mountain lion, red-tailed hawk, gray fox, badger, black-tailed deer, and pond turtle.





Photo: Herb Ling



## FAST FORWARD TO 1999

**T**ake Highway 85 South to Santa Teresa Boulevard, followed by a right on Bailey Road and a left on McKean. Follow McKean to Casa Loma Road and continue until you come to a gate and watch more than one hundred years slip away.

Rancho Cañada de Oro is that extraordinary — and is POST's most recent acquisition. An unspoiled gem, this property offers a rare look at the Eastern foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains as early settlers may have found them. In fact, Rancho Cañada de Oro is one of the few easily accessible signature California landscapes

remaining on the west side of the Santa Clara Valley. Unlike much of the area, the character of the land surrounding the property is unspoiled by extensive “ranchette” development.

Remnants of walnut orchards can be seen on the property, indicating its rich agricultural history. Originally part of the pueblo of San José, the property that is now Rancho Cañada de Oro was once part of Mexico's Rancho grant system. When California gained statehood in 1848, the pueblo lands became part of the city of San José.



*Eschscholzia californica*  
CALIFORNIA POPPY



*Allium serratum*  
WILD ONION



*Linanthus dichotomus*  
EVENING SNOW

Located within half an hour of downtown San José, the property's 2,428 acres are immediately adjacent to Calero Reservoir County Recreation Area. POST is acquiring the property for \$6.25 million, a remarkable value given the intense development pressure that exists throughout the region, specifically, nearby Coyote Valley which is slated for major business and housing developments.

This tremendous acquisition opportunity for POST is a result of the organization's successful relationship with the Crummer family, owners of the property. The family is the previous owner of another POST property, the 5,638-acre Cloverdale Coastal Ranch in San Mateo County.



Photo: Rob Buckman



## MORE THAN ONE REASON TO CELEBRATE

**T**his latest acquisition also gives POST another reason to celebrate. With the purchase of Rancho Cañada de Oro, POST has exceeded the goal of protecting 12,000 acres in POST's *Completing the Vision* Campaign. "POST supporters should feel proud that their commitment to conservation has led to permanent protection of 12,449 acres since the Campaign began in September 1996," said POST President, Audrey Rust. "This accomplishment shows that we can set, and realize, our dreams when it comes to preserving the beauty of the region for generations to come."

To achieve the \$6.25 million purchase price of Rancho Cañada de Oro, POST is seeking a combination of funding, from the City of San José, Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, the Santa Clara County Open

Space Authority, and private foundations and individual donors.

The purchase of Rancho Cañada de Oro fits well with POST's goal of connecting and expanding existing open space. The property's preservation will eventually double the size of adjacent Calero Reservoir County Recreation Area, which now covers 2,421 acres.

"Rancho Cañada de Oro is ideally situated next to Calero County Park and is also on our acquisition plan, which makes it more attractive for us," said Paul Romero, Director of the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. "It has also led to an exciting partnership between POST, the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and Santa Clara County Parks," noted Romero, who described the partnership as "precedent setting."



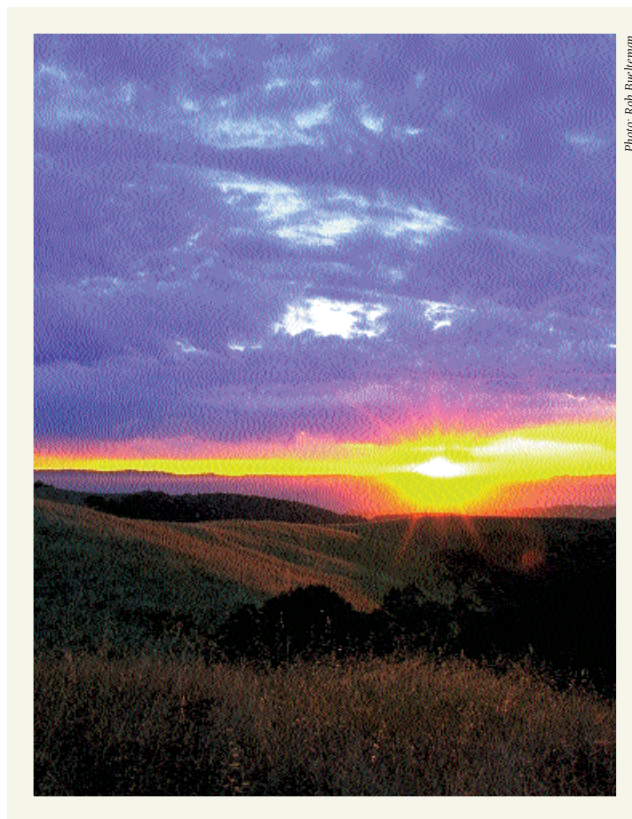
Photo: Rob Buckleman

A classic remnant of a region once known as the “Valley of the Hearts Delight,” Rancho Cañada de Oro’s hilltops offer sweeping views of the Diablo Range, Mt. Hamilton, and Mt. Umunhum. The perennial Llagas Creek, which feeds into Chesbro Reservoir and Monterey Bay, runs through the property for more than three miles, creating a lush riparian corridor.

Rancho Cañada de Oro is home to a broad array of oak woodland, grassland and sage scrub dwelling species, from the Acorn woodpecker to the California newt to coyote and bobcat. The property also provides habitat for the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly, tiger salamander and California red-legged frog.

## PRESERVING THE FUTURE

As the eleventh property protected through POST’s *Completing the Vision* Campaign, Rancho Cañada de Oro creates an important opportunity to enhance existing park land and wildlife habitat. Eventually, when open to the public, this protected area will offer new recreational opportunities.



With the preservation of Rancho Cañada de Oro POST has not only preserved an important piece of the past, but has ensured an extraordinary piece of the future for a new generation of pioneering outdoor enthusiasts.



*Euphydryas editha bayensis*

BAY CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY





Photo: Rob Buckman

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES

# Bay Area Oaks

California has one of the most diverse landscapes in the world. More than twenty different plant communities exist in the state, and within a single plant family there is incredible variety. For instance, almost half of all the species of oak growing throughout the country are found within the borders of this state. Seven of the ten most prevalent species of oaks found in the state grow in the Bay Area and can be found on many of the Peninsula's open space preserves. Some of the oaks are found in the mixed forest of the Santa

Cruz Mountains and some in what naturalists call oak woodlands.

The oaks of California are both deciduous and evergreen. Their leaves range from soft and deciduous to leathery and evergreen, giving clues to the ways that they have adapted to California's long dry summers and wet winters.

Take this article with you the next time you hike in the hills. Using Herb Dengler's superb illustrations of oak leaves and acorns, you will find it easy to identify the various species.

*From Landscapes, Summer 1990, by Ellie Huggins. Illustrations by Herb Dengler.*



The grandest oak of the area is the **Valley or White Oak**, *Quercus lobata*. The word lobata describes the leaves which are lobed without spines or teeth. The upper surface is a dull green, while the lower side is pale and has yellow veins. This largest of all American oaks once dotted the landscape of the Santa Clara Valley, but cattle grazing, fruit orchards and development have reduced the numbers so that it is no longer found in stands, but as isolated patriarchs on hillsides and in suburban gardens.

The **Blue Oak**, *Quercus douglasii* has irregularly lobed small leaves that have distinct blue-green color. These trees are one of the last to lose their leaves in the fall. They are found on the rolling hills and dry slopes, sometimes bordering chaparral slopes. A wonderful stand of these lovely trees can be found at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve on the High Meadow Trail that crosses the Wildcat Loop.

Another deciduous oak often found on north-facing slopes and in mixed evergreen forests is the beautiful **Black Oak**, *Quercus kelloggii*. Its leaves are deeply lobed, each point being tipped with a bristle. In spring the trees wear lovely pink dresses of new leaves, which turn a clear yellow in fall. This is the only California oak that reminds one of east coast varieties and can be seen in the forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The oak most often seen in local gardens and on the Stanford hills is the **Coast Live Oak**, *Quercus agrifolia*. Named Encina by the Spaniards, this evergreen oak has shiny, dark green leaves with a leathery feel and a convex shape. The edges are curled under and are usually spiny. The underside of the leaf is shiny green and a discerning eye can find clumps of hairs at the junctions of the uneven veins.

Another oak found on the Peninsula is the **Canyon Live Oak** or **Hickory Oak**, *Quercus chrysolepis*. It is also known as the **Golden Cup Oak** or **Maul Oak**.

One shrub-like species of oak occurs in the area, the **Scrub Oak**, *Quercus dumosa*. This oak prefers dry barren slopes and is common at Jasper Ridge and on the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. The Scrub Oak has very small, stiff, spiny leaves that are deeply lobed in the middle of one side. The are shiny above with a hairy, dull underside.



*Quercus lobata*

VALLEY OAK



*Quercus douglasii*

BLUE OAK



*Quercus kelloggii*

BLACK OAK



*Quercus agrifolia*

COAST LIVE OAK

# Remembering Tom Ford

**Tom Ford** (1921-1998) was one of the defining personalities of POST. A founder and loyal benefactor, Tom was also a visionary leader who taught us to take the long view and to always reach farther than we thought possible in our efforts to save open space on the San Francisco Peninsula. His memory will continue to inspire us as we go forward in our mission to preserve open space.

Although Tom was well known for his success as a businessman, it is his quiet generosity which never asked for anything in return that

his friends will remember best. At POST, he will be remembered for his willingness to be the first person to commit resources to a daunting new project and for his enthusiasm for projects others considered “risky” and “too ambitious.”

POST is very grateful for Tom’s twenty-one years of leadership and dedication to the preservation of open space. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to thank him at a special dinner in honor of POST’s founders at Mountain Meadow last June. He was and remains a very positive and influential force at POST.

*“He loved our beautiful open lands, and gave his time, energy, and financial support generously to ensure they would be protected...”*



Photo: Dewitt Jones



**TOM'S SON, CHRIS FORD, RECALLS:**

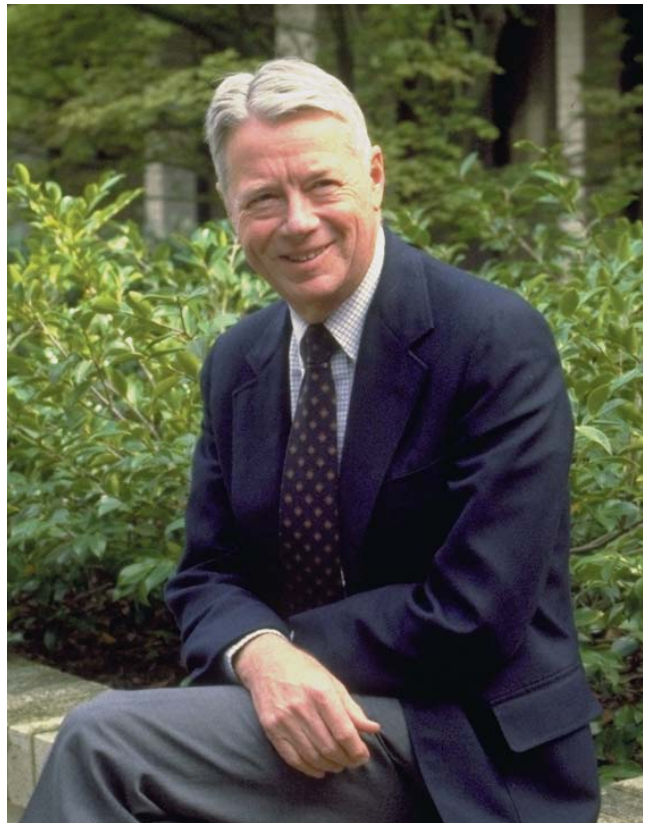
*"Our Portola Valley home had an unobstructed view of Windy Hill and the surrounding redwood-forested mountainside. My dad built the home in 1959, a time when he could have purchased a lot facing the bay or the mountains. He deliberately chose the mountain view, because places of natural beauty provided peace and respite for a man who tended to be actively involved in his work and his community.*

*Dad believed strongly that one should endeavor to leave the world a better place. And one of the ways he acted on that belief was to donate his time, expertise and financial resources to POST, so that the beautiful mountainside for which he felt that personal affinity would be saved for all members of this and future generations.*

*It is my hope that my dad's efforts to preserve the Peninsula's natural beauty will continue despite his passing. 'The song is over, but the melody lingers on.'"*

**POST** acknowledges everyone who made a memorial gift to POST in honor of Tom Ford; he would be very pleased by your support. Thank you for helping to continue his legacy.

If you would like to make a memorial gift in honor of Tom Ford, please contact POST at (650) 854-7696 ext. 22 .



*"Give me amidst the confusion of my day the stillness of the mountain tops. Break the tension of my nerves through the soothing music of the singing streams that live in my memory. Remind me each day that the race is not always to the swift, that there is more to life than increasing its speed. Let me look upward into the branches of a towering redwood, and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well."*

EXCERPT FROM A SENTIMENT  
TOM KEPT IN HIS WALLET

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

# COMPLETING THE VISION: *The Campaign to Save Essential Open Space*

**The Kresge Foundation's** challenge of \$1,000,000 and **The Gabilan Foundation's** match continues to inspire Peninsula residents to support POST's *Completing the Vision* Campaign. In two and a half years, 6,324 gifts have been made to the Campaign totaling more than \$27,000,000 of our \$28,500,000 goal.

### **You really have made a difference!**

Your outstanding support has resulted in the protection of 12,449 acres on the Peninsula. Eleven properties, including Rancho Cañada de Oro, have been purchased, are under option to purchase or have had conservation easements placed on them.

The purchase price of these properties totals just over \$40 million, including \$10 million expected in state and federal funds for the acquisition of Bair Island. POST is known for its entrepreneurial nature, so it should be no surprise to learn that we have earmarked all \$27,000,000 already! Our eleven new properties are ones which have been on our "wish list" for many years, and when they came on the market during the Campaign, we were ready, thanks to you, with the necessary funds.

As we enter the last year of *Completing the Vision*, we are close to our goal of \$28,500,000, but we still need \$500,000 to guarantee the \$1,000,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation.

Campaign gifts of \$1,000 to \$4,999 continue to be matched 1-for-1, or doubled, by The Gabilan Foundation, and gifts of \$5,000 to \$50,000 are matched 2-for-1, or tripled.

We are hopeful that we will achieve our goal this year with the help of additional donations. The challenge and matching programs are strong incentives to help guarantee the beauty of the Peninsula for today and for future generations.



Photo: Gil Davis





Photo: Rob Buellman

## BAIR ISLAND: *We're Almost There!*

**POST's** campaign to permanently protect Bair Island is nearly complete. With the state of California's commitment of \$4 million confirmed late in 1998 and an additional \$1.5 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, POST is only \$500,000 short of meeting Bair Island's purchase price.

POST is seeking donations from individuals to secure the remaining \$500,000. To accomplish this fund-raising goal, POST ran a full-page Bair Island ad in *The San José Mercury News* in January, to garner new support. In addition, POST mailed a letter of appeal Bay Area wide to generate new supporters of this vital wetland project.

If you haven't made a gift in support of Bair Island, please consider making a gift today. Your support will help POST meet its goal and ensure Bair Island's inclusion into the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

*Thank you for helping save Bair Island.*

## POST Receives Award

**In January**, POST was awarded the 1999 David Packard Civic Entrepreneur Award by Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network. The award recognizes individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Silicon Valley's economic vitality and quality of life.

Joint Venture is a nonprofit regional collaborative that brings people together from business, government, education and the community to identify and act on regional issues. Just recently, Joint Venture published, *Silicon Valley 2010: A Regional Framework for Growing Together*. With input from more than 2,000 community residents, this report outlines a vision for our region's future with specific goals for economy, environment,

society, and regional stewardship.

Along with the late Tom Ford, POST received the award in the Livable Environment category. "According to the 1999 Silicon Valley Index, 25% of Silicon Valley and the surrounding area is now permanently protected open space — a contributing factor to the improved quality of life in our region," said Lew Platt, President of Hewlett Packard Company. "Since 1978, the Peninsula Open Space Trust has played a key role in the acquisition of this natural resource. The organization has saved more than 35,000 acres of land on the San Francisco Peninsula and has become one of the most successful land trusts in the nation."



*There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature — the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.*

RACHEL CARSON





# The Benefits of Giving Stock

by Gary Conway, President, Sand Hill Advisors, Inc.

The value of a gift to POST is very important to all individuals who are concerned about the protection of open space. *How* a gift is given is, additionally, very important to the donor.

Frequently, people answer requests from charitable organizations with gifts from their figurative cash drawer, forgetting that, at various times during the year, they also make separate investment decisions to sell highly appreciated securities. Rather than treating these as separate events, combining routine securities decisions with charitable giving may yield considerable tax savings.

Here's how it works: if you sell an appreciated security for \$10,000, but it originally cost you only \$3,000, you will have to pay Federal and California capital gains taxes of as much as \$1,890 on the difference. Then, or later in the same year, if you decide to make a \$10,000 gift to POST, it will be in addition to the \$1,890 in taxes you already now owe. By giving the stock to POST in a single transaction, your income tax bill is reduced, in this example, by as much as \$1,890.

	Sell Securities and Give Cash	Give Securities Directly to POST
<b>Gift Value to POST</b>	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>Tax Deduction for Charitable Gift</b> (assumes a 44% combined Federal and California income tax rate)	\$ 4,400	\$ 4,400
<b>Capital Gains Tax Due</b> (assumes 27% Federal/ California combined rate)	(\$ 1,890)	0
<b>Net Tax Savings</b>	<b>\$ 2,510</b>	<b>\$ 4,400</b>

In order to make a gift of stock to POST please contact:

NationsBanc Montgomery Securities, Inc.  
600 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Attn.: Kelly Lawson  
(415) 627-2191

Relevant information for a transfer of stock:

Account Name: Peninsula Open Space Trust, #1 Land Purchases  
Account #: 110-66982  
DTC #: 773  
Tax ID #: 94-2392007

Your gift is fully tax-deductible. Please notify POST directly of your gift to ensure that it is recorded accurately. Thank you for your support of POST!



## Landscapes

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*When we see land as a community in  
which we belong, we may begin to use it  
with love and respect.*

ALDO LEOPOLD

Cover photos: Rob Bueltman

**Peninsula Open Space Trust**

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