

Stevens Canyon Ranch



Landscapes

Peninsula Open Space Trust

Stevens

The natural places that POST works to save possess unsurpassed beauty, diverse wildlife and a multitude of recreational opportunities. But these wild and rural lands also possess a legacy of human interaction with nature, where history reveals itself in unexpected places: a carved-out hollow in a rock where Ohlone Indians once ground acorns for food, a 100 year old orchard just off the main road with gnarled trees hung heavy with fruit, and a lone old-growth redwood spared from the logger's saw a century ago. This is what you see at Stevens Canyon Ranch, a magnificent 240-acre property in the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains and part of the California coastal range.

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.

photo © 2004 Alice Cummings



One of 20 properties that POST has entered into an agreement on to protect during its *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign, Stevens Canyon Ranch borders the bank of Stevens Creek in Cupertino. It has served as a family ranch since the late 1800s, when homesteaders first settled high up in Stevens Canyon, overlooking the Spanish land grant settlements in the valley below.

The scenic property still retains the atmosphere of an

earlier age. Just past weathered outbuildings, an old stone winery and the family residence lies a gently sloping orchard alongside terraced hillsides where vineyards once flourished — all striking reminders of the Santa Clara Valley's rich agricultural heritage. Surrounding the orchard and family home is a lush and varied landscape of mixed evergreens, redwoods and meandering creeks that served as a logging and fur-trapping site for early settlers, and hunting and fishing grounds

Canyon Ranch



photo © 2005 Karl Kroeber

for native tribes.

POST purchased this land in December 2004, with generous assistance from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which provided a \$5 million grant towards the property's \$6.6 million purchase price. "We are pleased that the Foundation was able to play a key role in helping to protect a portion of the Stevens Creek watershed," said foundation Director of Evaluation and Trustee Ken Moore.

Stevens Canyon Ranch is a

high priority for conservation. Located in western Santa Clara Valley, where thousands of acres of natural lands are threatened by high-end residential development, this ranch was in particular jeopardy. At the time of acquisition, there was another offer on the table from a Silicon Valley venture capitalist for \$6.6 million. The Ranch's strategic location, natural resources, visual beauty and rich history make it an excellent spot to enhance the network of scenic preserves and parks in the area.

The Ranch is readily accessible from the urban mid-Peninsula and San Jose, yet it lies at the heart of 6,640 acres of public open lands, connecting Upper and Lower Stevens Creek county parks. It is adjacent to the Saratoga Gap, Monte Bello and Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserves, all managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), and links to the Bay Area Ridge Trail, the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and numerous other preserves and parks along Skyline Boulevard.

The property still retains the atmosphere of an earlier age.

According to MROSD, one of the oldest and largest old-growth redwood trees in Santa Clara Valley can be found on the Ranch, thriving on the banks of a tributary of Stevens Creek. By 1900, loggers had cleared the canyon of timber up to Skyline Boulevard. Loggers spared this massive tree because it was considered an imperfect tree and would not have made top quality lumber. Its towering crown is still visible from several vantage points along the property's two and a half miles of winding trails.

For more than a century, only two families owned the property. The Bordis, originally from France, homesteaded the land in the late 1800s. Family patriarch Bastido Bordi purchased the property in 1881, clearing and cultivating about 100 acres. He planted a vineyard and an orchard with pear, apple and plum trees, and started a small family winery.

The original main house stands atop a stone-walled wine cellar that continued to operate during Prohibition, providing wine to dining establishments in Mountain View. Some of the old wine casks are still inside, behind sturdy wooden doors embellished with paintings of a pair of dancing girls — which is said to have

symbolized the location of a speakeasy in the early 1920s. The property also features a caretaker's cabin and a barn.

Longtime neighbor and POST Board member Vince Garrod worked as a farmhand on

family acquired the property from the Bordis in the 1950s and continued using it as a family ranch. Their descendents updated the main home, but the surrounding 10 acres of orchards still attest to the agricultural history of the

surrounding Santa Clara Valley, once known as “The Valley of Heart's Desire.”

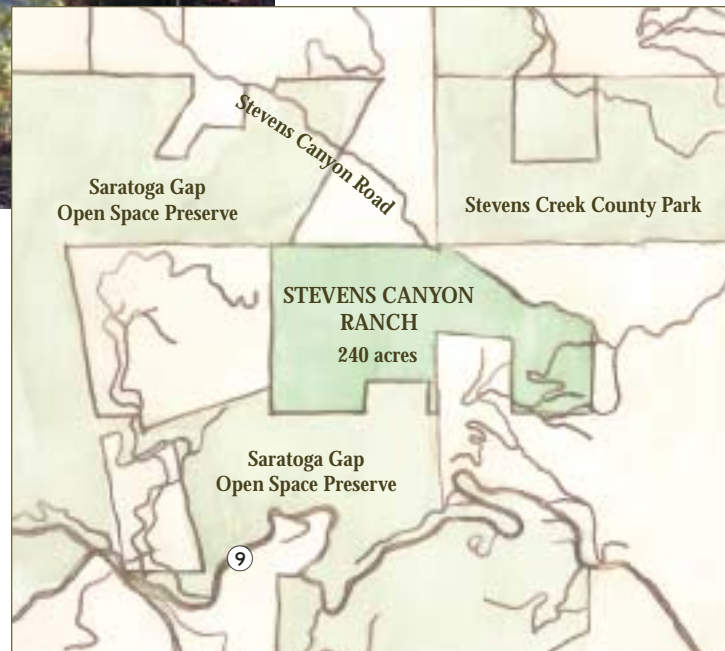
Ultimately, POST hopes to transfer the property to MROSD for long-term stewardship. “The Glendennings were one of the original pioneering families in

photo © 2004 Robert Buelteman



the property in the early 1950s. “Up in the hills, people wanted to lumber and cut all the redwoods and big pines they could get out,” he said. “If there was any flat, open land, somebody would try to farm it. That's why the Bordis were there. Otherwise, the rest of the canyon was too steep and nobody wanted it,” he said.

The Jones/Glendenning



the valley making their living as fruit ranchers,” said Bernice Glendenning Jones. “We are very pleased that this historic ranch will be preserved for future generations to enjoy.” ■

DISCOVER STEVENS CANYON RANCH Sponsored by POST's Skyline Society

photo © 2004 Alice Cummings



photo © 2005 Karl Kroeber

Saturday, July 16, 2005: 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.
or
Saturday, July 23, 2005: 11:00a.m. – 2:00p.m.

Join us at Stevens Canyon Ranch

bring a picnic lunch and hike the property

The 240-acre Stevens Canyon Ranch is located in the foothills of Cupertino. As seen in the previous article, the Ranch is a property rich in history and fantastic scenic views.

POST's Skyline Society (a group of POST donors who give \$1,000 or more annually) invites you to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy with your family and friends, and then take a short, self-guided walk or a longer, strenuous hike led by POST staff. The self-guided walk leads to a beautiful meadow high on the property where you will find wonderful views of the canyon. The more strenuous hike will pass

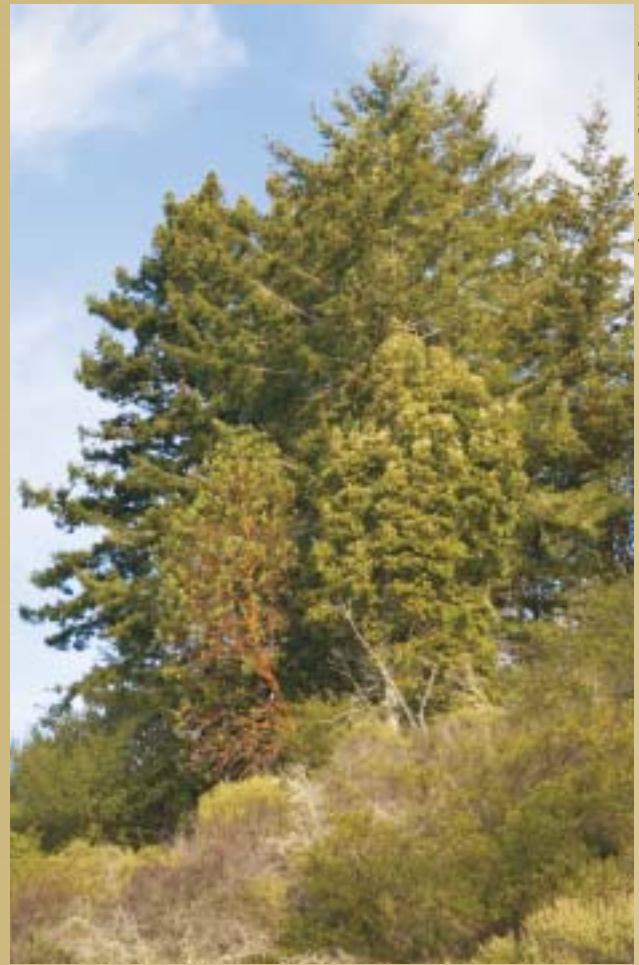
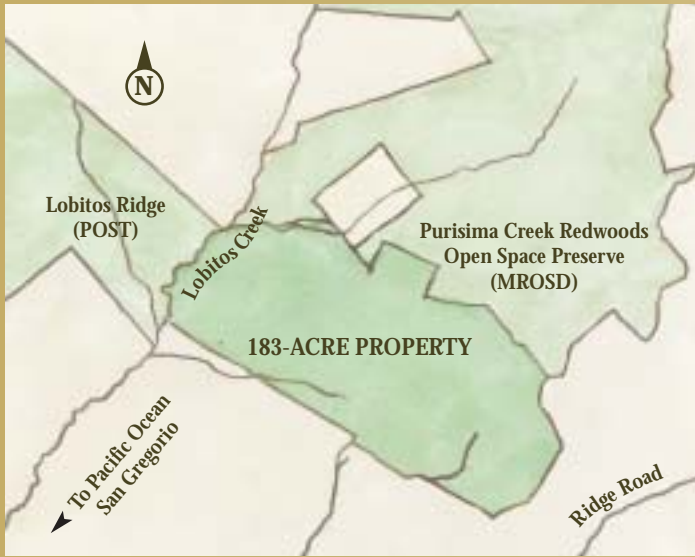
through magnificent groves of redwoods, sturdy oak woodlands, and mixed evergreen forest.

Your gifts to POST are helping to protect Stevens Canyon Ranch and other important natural lands. POST and the Skyline Society are delighted to be able to offer this unique opportunity to our donors.

To reserve your spot on one of the two outings send an email to:

stevenscanyon@openspacetrust.org.

Contact POST early as space is limited. Location and logistics will be provided when you reserve your space. Sorry, no pets.



photos this page © 2005 Dan Quinn



Step-by-Step the Trail Becomes Reality

Rising between Lobitos and Tunitas creeks, an expanse of grassy slopes climbs up to a long narrow ridge with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean, towering redwoods and rolling hills. This beautiful 183-acre property, located four and a half miles southeast of Half Moon Bay, is POST's latest acquisition in the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign, and is a key component in a potential Skyline-to-the-Sea trail.

Originally part of the Cañada de Verde y Arroyo de la Purisima Spanish Land Grant of 1865, the property features lush meadows, redwood forest, eucalyptus stands and an alder-lined creek. Irish Ridge, the windswept divide between the two creeks, crosses the property at an elevation of about 1,200 feet.

The land was previously used for logging and hunting. It is now poised to become a future link in an unbroken trail connection between Skyline Ridge and the Pacific Ocean — a major goal of POST's for almost 20 years.

POST purchased the land from a private owner for \$2.25 million. If POST hadn't acquired this land, two sprawling trophy homes could have been built on the ridge. Instead, because

of your support for the campaign, a striking diversity of habitats will continue to flourish here. The terrain includes northern coastal scrub, a mixed redwood and Douglas-fir forest, eucalyptus and Monterey pine plantings and a half-mile riparian corridor, which provides important steelhead trout habitat. The upper reaches offer dramatic views of the ocean, Lobitos Ridge, Bald Knob and the Lobitos and Tunitas creek valleys.



photo © 2005 Dan Quinn

The property is a key link in a potential network of hiking trails connecting Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, along Skyline Ridge, all the way down to Cowell State Beach and the future California Coastal Trail. This possible trail corridor would pass through POST's Purisima Farms and Lobitos Ridge properties to South Cowell Ranch,

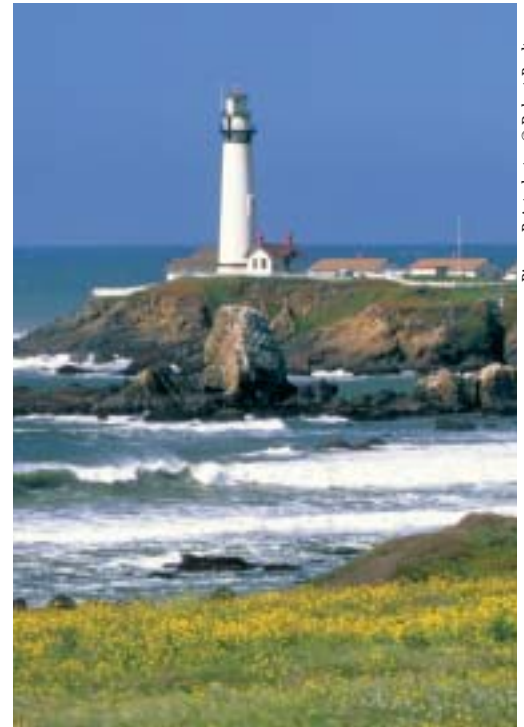
which is protected by a conservation easement.

The property itself will likely be incorporated into the Purisima Creek preserve, managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. Once POST transfers the land to public ownership, hikers will one day enjoy a spectacular walk along the ridgeline, with stirring views of the ocean and coastal hills unfolding all around them.

This beautiful and scenic property presents an excellent opportunity for you to make a real difference through the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. POST is currently focused on raising funds to cover the cost of acquiring this land. A significant gift in support of this purchase would afford the donor the opportunity to name the property or a feature on the property — such as a trail, valley or overlook — for his or her family or the honoree of their choosing. All who contribute gifts to the campaign will demonstrate that individuals are protecting our coastal lands and can make a difference.

For more information on this exceptional naming opportunity, please contact POST Vice President Kathryn Morelli at (650) 854-7696. ■

POST Transfers Pigeon Point Properties to California State Parks



Pigeon Point photos © Robert Buelleman

After four years of working with State Parks, POST celebrated the transfer of Whaler's Cove, Lighthouse Ranch Beach and Bolsa Point Beach to California State Parks on February 16. These properties comprise 64 acres of land surrounding the Pigeon Point lighthouse and offer some of the most scenic views on the San Mateo Coast. They also provide excellent public recreation opportunities and rich ecological habitat for wildlife.

POST began working to acquire Whaler's Cove in 1993. The three-acre property was finally purchased in 2000 as the first project in POST's *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. At the time of acquisition, a nine-unit motel was under construction on the bluff top directly adjacent to the Pigeon Point lighthouse. By March 2002, POST had "deconstructed" the property by



removing the motel and its foundation and began restoring the natural contours of the land.

With the permanent protection of these three properties, a 10½ mile stretch of uninterrupted open coastline extends south to Año Nuevo State Preserve.

The adjacent waters along this coastline are protected by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and provide habitat to a variety of coastal birds, sea mammals, and intertidal marine life. It is possible to spot sea lions, seals, sea otters, and gray whales from the beaches and bluff tops. Tide pools along the shore provide habitat for intertidal communities including abalone, starfish, and sea anemone.



© 2001 Paul Reimer



With the transfer to State Parks complete, POST is moving ahead with the planning and permitting of a portion of the California Coastal Trail along the bluff top. This trail will be known as Mel's Lane in honor of POST founder and conservationist Mel

Lane. A kiosk on the trail will include a listing of every donor who contributes to the historic *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. The Council Circle, a special donor recognition area resting just off Mel's Lane, will permanently recognize donors

who have made gifts of \$100,000 or more to the campaign.

The transfer of these coastal properties is a significant milestone in the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. Whaler's Cove, Lighthouse Ranch Beach, and Bolsa Point Beach are the first of the campaign properties to be transferred to a public agency. The sensitive habitats of Bolsa Point Beach will be protected forever and a planning process to determine an approximate timeline for public access will be initiated in the near future. One day we will all be able to watch from Lighthouse Ranch Beach as brown pelicans skim the ocean waves and view sunsets from the sheltered beach of Whaler's Cove. ■

Bob & Jean Ann Augsburger Make Major Gift to Campaign

As one of POST's founders and its first executive director, Bob Augsburger has a unique appreciation for where POST has been and how far it has come, particularly with respect to its involvement on the San Mateo Coast. He and his wife, Jean Ann, recently demonstrated their ongoing support through a Council Circle level gift to our *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign.

"While we have always made modest annual gifts to POST to support operations, we have never seriously considered a major gift, figuring that Bob had already given at work," Jean Ann observes with a twinkle in her eye. "However, having led POST over to the San Mateo Coast, we just couldn't sit back and not participate in this campaign, even though we have other philanthropic interests. The wonderful work done by Audrey Rust and her staff and the POST Board deserve what support we could give."

The Augsburgers, who have three grown children and four grandchildren, now live in the Sequoias community in Portola Valley, literally right next door to Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, POST's first major project. "I can walk out my back door and I'm 75 feet from Windy Hill," Bob says. He remains active in the Stanford Historical Society, having served as vice-president for business and finance at Stanford from 1971 to 1977.

Bob recalls the circumstances that led POST to turn its attention to the Coast. Early attempts by citizen activists to expand the Golden Gate National Recreational Area southward along the San Mateo Coast in the mid-1970s had met with strenuous local opposition. Although MROSD later incorporated the



photo © 2005 Paolo Vescia

Skyline Corridor within its boundaries, the Coast was left exposed without any funding to protect it from development. Recognizing this vacuum, POST began to focus on this area in the early 1980s. Land ownership was mapped, priorities were established, and a program to develop relationships with landowners was undertaken.

"In 1986, Tom Ford, who served as treasurer of POST, came to me and offered to give \$100,000 to POST for a high risk, entrepreneurial venture," Bob remembers. "That \$100,000 was used to acquire a three-year option to purchase 1,270 acres of coastal property owned by the S.H. Cowell Foundation immediately south of Half Moon Bay. It was a critical piece of land and represented an opportunity to see if we could cobble together a combination of public and private funds to begin a coastal protection program. To do so required a tested, experienced fund-raiser, which I was not. I agreed to step down and recommended that the Board hire Audrey Rust, whom I had interviewed for the executive director position almost ten years earlier.

"What Audrey and others have accomplished since then has gone far beyond our wildest dreams. Jean Ann and I are delighted that we are able once again to step up and help save our endangered coast." ■

THE COUNCIL CIRCLE

at whaler's cove

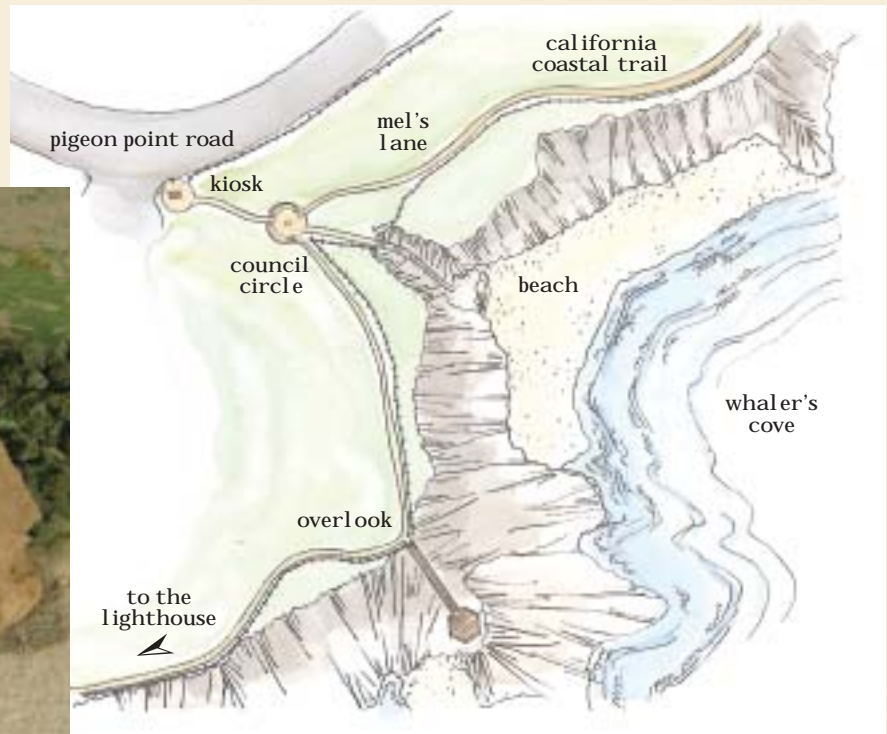
Bob and Jean Ann Augsburger are just two of the 54 individuals, families and foundations who have made gifts of \$100,000 or more to *Saving the Endangered Coast*. The names of all these extraordinary donors will be permanently engraved on the Council Circle, a low ring of natural stone benches POST is building at Whaler's Cove next to a future segment of the California Coastal Trail.

Many of our donors often shy away from public recognition of their gifts in the community. They give to POST because they care about saving the natural lands that will determine the quality of life future residents of the Bay Area will have, including their own children and grandchildren.

Bill Reller, a POST Board member and campaign volunteer, was one of the first to make a Council Circle gift to the campaign with his family. "We gave because we believe in the goals of

Saving the Endangered Coast," said Bill. "We also liked the idea of our grandchildren being able to visit the Council Circle one day, take in the natural beauty surrounding them, read our family's name and think, 'we did this.'" Hikers, schoolchildren, and visitors to Pigeon Point from all over the world will also be able to enjoy this inspiring place to reflect on what people can do when they commit their hearts and resources to saving land close to home.

There will be no other place like the Council Circle on the California Coast. This artist's rendition shows the planned trail and seating area. For more information on making your Council Circle gift, please contact Kathryn Morelli, Vice President, at (650) 854-7696.



model and map: Dan DiVittorio

(left) Detail of model of Council Circle bench. (above) Artist's rendering of Council Circle, California Coastal Trail and Whaler's Cove.

The Kresge Foundation Awards \$1.75 Million Challenge Grant to POST

The Kresge Foundation has awarded POST a challenge grant in the amount of \$1.75 million. The challenge grant, awarded by one of the most highly respected foundations in the country, reflects the success of the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign to date and the hard work still ahead. It is intended to encourage broad community support as POST works to complete the campaign.

POST has raised \$185,257,146 and entered into agreements to protect 14,259 acres of land. By December 31, POST must raise an additional \$13 million to receive the Kresge grant. Your gift to the campaign will help POST complete the campaign and ensure the \$1.75 million challenge grant.

Based in Troy, Michigan, The Kresge Foundation is a private foundation created in 1924 by

Sebastian K. Kresge “to promote the well-being of mankind.” It awards challenge grants to charitable organizations in capital fund-raising drives promoting higher education, health and long-term care, arts and humanities, human services, science and the environment, and public affairs.

A Kresge challenge grant requires each recipient organization to raise all remaining funds to complete its campaign goal, thus helping to broaden and deepen its base of support and encouraging volunteer involvement in the fund-raising effort and beyond.

During the remainder of the campaign, POST will look to the Peninsula community to ensure that meeting the Kresge challenge becomes a reality. Every contribution will move POST one step closer to

accomplishing that goal.

“This challenge comes at an especially critical time, as we work to complete the final and most difficult stage of our fund-raising effort,” said Karie Thomson, POST Board member and campaign chair. “This challenge will help us leverage every campaign gift from here on out, right up to our December 31 deadline. The generosity and commitment of POST supporters and volunteers is what put us in a strong enough position to receive this important grant. Your continued help is more important than ever to meet this challenge and inspire others to give.” ■



POST Welcomes Larry Jacobs and Charlene Kabcenell to the Board

POST is pleased to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors: Charlene Kabcenell and Larry Jacobs.



Charlene is a retired vice president of Oracle Corporation. She serves on the Community Foundation Silicon Valley's advisory council and distribution committee. She is also vice chair of grantmaking for the foundation's Silicon Valley Social Venture (SV2) Fund, where she serves on the board of directors.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Charlene moved to California in 1979 and lives in Portola Valley with her husband, Derry. They are both avid scuba divers and certified instructors, and have long supported POST

for its local land conservation work.

"If you support open space and live on the Peninsula, you know about POST," Charlene said. "They try to strike a balance between appropriate development and open space, and come up with win-win solutions. I'm pleased to be joining the board of such an effective and dynamic organization."

"If you support open space and live on the Peninsula, you know about POST."

Larry is President and CEO of Jacobs Farm/Del Cabo, Inc., producers of organic culinary herbs and edible flowers in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties and of organic vegetables in Mexico.

Larry brings a wealth of experience to POST as a coastsider farmer and innovator in organic growing practices. He also has a background in community development. In the late 1970s,

"The... work POST is doing is critical to maintaining the nature of what's here."

he and his wife, Sandra, spent four years running a small non-governmental organization working with indigenous communities in Guatemala. They settled in Pescadero and established their current farming business in 1980. He also chairs the San Mateo County Agriculture Advisory Committee.

"One of the reasons we moved here was because the area was surrounded by pristine views and undisturbed, undeveloped areas," Larry said. "The type of work POST is doing is critical to maintaining the nature of what's here. I don't think we'd have this coastsider if it weren't for the forward-looking people doing what they do at POST."





photo © 2005 Kendra Muscarella

Tributes

January 1 - March 31, 2005

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 Annual Giving Daphne Muehle at (650) 854-7696.

Gifts in Honor of

Bob and Jean Ann Augsburger
Kathleen Bennett
Ruby Lee Black's birthday
Hy Libby's birthday
Carol Lovell's birthday
Linda McCarthy's birthday
Mac McCarthy's birthday
Eleanor McKee's birthday
Janet Morris
Eric Risley
Sandy Cold Shapero's birthday

Gifts in Memory of

Mary Elizabeth Allari
Soquella Allender
Skip and Paula Athey
Sue Elizabeth Campbell
Rachel Campochiaro
Adolfo Canela
Douglas Crews
Janet Crews
David Daniels
Dr. Albert DeRanieri
Mark Grgich
Kathleen Harrington
Ken Heinz
Eleanor Laird
Victoria Langenheim's mother

Patricia Leal
Nettie Lehmann
"Poppy" F. H. Lowry
Robert Mehringer
Chris Menke
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Bob Pringle
Armin Ramel
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Landscapes

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GIVING TO POST

POST owes its success to your generosity. With your support, POST has established a reputation for:

- Achieving visionary land protection goals
- Leveraging your gifts to attract state and federal funds to our projects
- Using your donations effectively

Your gifts to POST bring together the research, partnerships and financing for our increasingly complex conservation projects.

Here are four ways to make a lasting contribution to POST today:

1. Give cash. Write a check, make a pledge, charge your credit card.
2. Give appreciated stock. A gift of securities to POST is free of capital gains tax, and you can deduct the current market value of the gift.
3. Give your home, retaining life tenancy. You may give POST your home subject to your continuing use of the property. In so doing, you will earn an income tax deduction now.
4. Give real estate. Donated property is evaluated for its conservation resources. If a decision is made to sell the property, the proceeds will be used to further our land-saving mission. You can realize tax savings by deducting the market value of your real estate and avoiding capital gains taxes.

Your contributions to POST are tax-deductible.

Our families and community value and benefit from the investment we make in protecting our remaining natural lands today. For more information call POST Vice President Kathryn Morelli, (650) 854-7696. ■

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POST THANKS THE ENTIRE ROSEKRANS FAMILY
FOR THE USE OF RUNNYMEDE FARM.



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LANDSCAPES SUMMER 2005

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