



Landscapes

PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST SUMMER 2008

South Santa Clara Valley

WHERE CALIFORNIA'S PAST COMES ALIVE

Here in Silicon Valley, thanks to the foresight and commitment of people like you, it doesn't take long to find bucolic escapes that are uniquely Californian. POST has spent the past 31 years protecting signature landscapes up and down the Peninsula and along the coast. While we continue to work fervently to conserve open space in these areas, we also recognize the need to expand our work into adjacent land of urgent concern.

In south Santa Clara County, development pressures have put increasing strain on Morgan Hill and Gilroy. Yet in the foothills just west of these burgeoning cities, an older, slower pace of life still exists. Vineyards dot the valleys and cattle graze the gentler slopes. The drive along Uvas Road—a favorite of mine—is a trip back in time, past hidden reservoirs, oak-studded pastures and rock-strewn meadows that hark back to the days of “old California.” You can almost hear the click of hooves and the groan of wagon wheels along winding ranch trails.

Nine years ago, along this very road, POST made its first major foray into south Santa Clara County by protecting the old Crummer family ranch. Part of this land became Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, while the rest was added to Calero County Park. In the years since, POST has built relationships with partner agencies and landowners in the area, preparing for conservation opportunities that are now beginning to come to fruition.

In the past few months an 865-acre ranch near Morgan Hill and the 408-acre Clark Canyon Ranch in Gilroy, featured in this issue of *Landscapes*, have been saved for the future. Located just a few miles from hotly contested Coyote Valley, these properties could have faced a very different future, sold for estate residences or other modern uses that would close them forever to public use and remove any vestiges of the land's rural, rugged character. Now these ranch lands are destined to become magnificent additions to public parkland, where you and I will be able to meander through carpets of spring wildflowers, walk the banks of gurgling streams, spot wild turkeys and follow miles of trails to surprising vista points. Old California will be new again, and it will be there for all of us to enjoy.

With your continued support, we know POST can have enormous impact on saving the Santa Cruz Mountain hillsides of south Santa Clara County. They are the Bay Area's undiscovered treasure and true vintage California.

Audrey C. Rust
POST President



SPRIT OF OWNERS HONORED WITH PURCHASE OF

Clark Canyon Ranch

When Burt Clark purchased 408 acres on the outskirts of Gilroy in 1948, he had no grand plans. The land was beautiful, affordable and seemed like a pleasant place where he and his wife, Veda, could entertain family and friends. Burt and Veda had no children, but they delighted in creating a modest retreat where they could hunt, fish, tramp through the woods and simply enjoy the spectacle of the seasons from their dining room window.



Photo courtesy of John Toth



Photo courtesy of John Toth

Seeking to give permanence to the spirit with which Burt and Veda shared their land, their nephew John Toth negotiated the sale of Clark Canyon Ranch on Whitehurst Road in Gilroy to POST for \$2.9 million. The sale was finalized in April, and POST is working to find a public partner to take over long-term management and provide public access.

“Though they had a walnut orchard and raised a few cattle, the Clarks never used the land for commercial purposes, leaving its plentiful natural resources largely undisturbed for the last 60 years—a major reason for POST’s decision to acquire the property,” says POST President Audrey Rust. “Whitehurst Road connects Clark Canyon Ranch with Mount Madonna County Park, and the potential for a trail corridor linking the properties is another major reason for POST’s interest.”

Beauties of the land

The moment one drives through the gate, Burt Clark's reasons (impulsively, without even consulting his wife, so the story goes) for buying the ranch are clear. A broad meadow stretches toward the wooded foot of a box canyon. Mixed forest rises steeply to the right. A tributary to Bodfish Creek, with its sturdy line of sycamores, creates a border on the left. Farther to the left, across the creek, are more meadow lands rising to a high wall of chaparral. It is a mini-universe, with evidence of abundant native species.

Burt passed away in 1993, Veda in 2006, at which time John became executor of their estate. John had offered the property for sale for more than a year, until a series of inquiries led him to POST. Once John, his two siblings and two cousins became aware of POST's

ability to purchase land for future public use, they knew they had found a buyer whose mission and goals the Clarks would have admired.

"Our family is thrilled that the ranch will be a place we can always come back to and visit, and I am looking forward to bringing my grandson here to experience the same hikes I loved to take growing up," says Linda Toth Berg, John's sister.

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Family activities

Now in his 50's, John remembers as a kid spending all his summer weekends exploring Clark Canyon Ranch. While his sister and brother rode horses, John covered the territory on his homemade mini-bike. There were trout and good-sized steelhead in the creek. His uncle Burt would sometimes catch them in pools on the higher portions of the property. Burt liked to hunt, though John says he generally took only one deer each year. The Clarks kept a few cows;

(continued on page 8)

SOUTH COUNTY ROAD TRIP

The history of southwestern Santa Clara County is written into the very soil. To gain familiarity with this former hub of early California commerce, we invite you to drive south on the region's back roads, many of them designated "scenic" by the county. The look of the area is different enough to make north county residents feel as if they've gone on vacation.

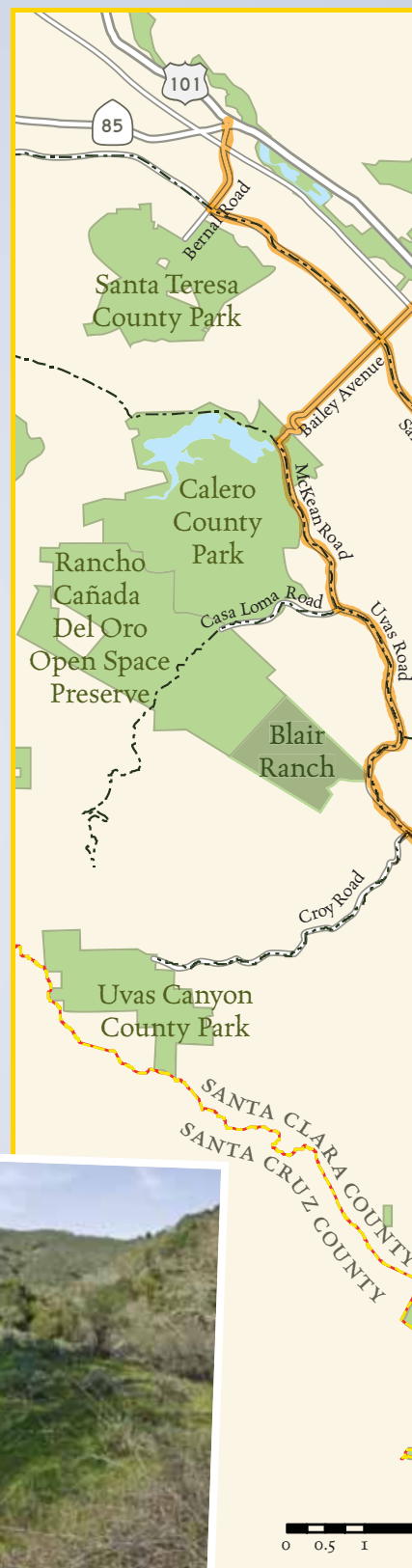
From the Peninsula, take Highway 101 south to Bernal Road. Turn left onto Santa Teresa Boulevard passing **Santa Teresa County Park**. Travel three miles through the rich agricultural land of **Coyote Valley** and turn right onto Bailey Avenue. Follow Bailey to McKean Road, turning left along the edge of **Calero County Park**. The park itself might be a destination, or you can continue past meadows and streams lined with sycamores, maples and alders to the junction with Uvas Road. A right on Casa Loma Road leads to the entrance of **Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve**, to which POST transferred significant acreage. If you drive back to McKean Road, which becomes Uvas Road as you continue south, you pass the entrance to **Blair Ranch**. Though not yet open to the public, POST facilitated protection of this 865-acre ranch as part of adjacent Rancho Cañada del Oro.

Continuing south along Uvas Road, you pass **Chesboro Reservoir County Park** and Croy Road, which leads to the entrance to **Uvas Canyon County Park**. Once inside the park, you can take the one-mile Waterfall

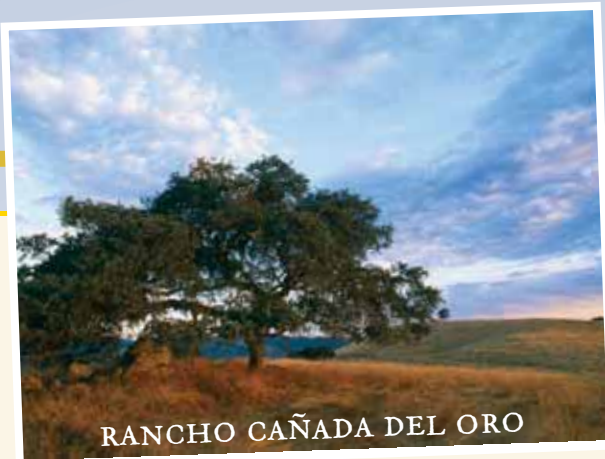
Loop along Swanson Creek to see one of Uvas Canyon's many waterfalls. Back on Uvas Road you pass **Uvas Reservoir County Park**. At the junction with Watsonville Road, bear right toward **Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park**. At the junction with Hecker Pass Highway (Route 152), turn right and head for **Mt. Madonna County Park**, your turn-around spot or your destination for the day. Entrance fees are \$3 per car daily and give you access to the visitor center, picnic tables, campgrounds, an archery range and 18 miles of hiking trails. At the summit you can see stone garden walls of the once-glorious summer home of cattle baron Henry Miller, who at the turn of the last century controlled nearly every acre within sight.

From Mt. Madonna retrace your route, passing near the entrance to lovely **Clark Canyon Ranch**. (The property is not yet open.) Hecker Pass Road retains its scenic designation only to the Gilroy city limits.

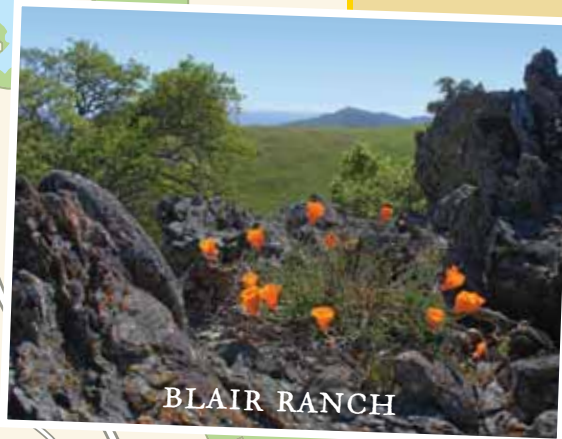
From downtown you can make your way to Highway 101 for the return trip north or turn left before the center of the city and take Santa Teresa Boulevard. Pass through San Martin and Morgan Hill before taking Bailey Avenue or Bernal Road to the point where you departed from the fast lane. ■



HIGHLIGHTS



- Traces of the prehistoric Ohlone culture are found in bedrock mortars and petroglyphs on display in Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park.
- Early permanent residents worked Mexican land grants, raising cattle for hides and tallow.
- Blair Ranch was originally part of lands granted for the pueblo of San Jose.
- Clark Canyon Ranch was part of the 24,000-acre Las Animas land grant.
- Gilroy thrived because it lay at the crossing point for connections between the San Joaquin Valley, Santa Clara Valley and the coast as well as along the Southern Pacific rail line. City history is preserved at the Gilroy Museum on Fifth Street.



■ Wheat was the valley's primary crop by 1868. Tobacco was important enough to warrant a cigar factory.

■ Timber in Uvas Canyon was harvested for the New Almaden mines, while Bodfish Mills provided lumber for South County construction.

- Eventually Bodfish Mill Road became Hecker Pass Road in honor of Henry Hecker, an early Bank of Gilroy president and county supervisor. The mills at one time belonged to L. A. Whitehurst, also a Bank of Gilroy president, whose name clings to the lane leading to Clark Canyon Ranch.
- By 1900 viticulture and orchards were replacing wheat and cattle. Dairies made Gilroy California's dairy capital until 1940. French prunes, raisin and table grapes and French varieties were planted. Vegetables, flowers and seed propagation filled Coyote Valley. Canning, drying and processing followed. Garlic, brought by Japanese immigrants after World War I, was a latecomer.
- Today a dozen wineries dot the region. Some, like Solis Winery, have a history going back to the 1800's. Uvas Road is said to have taken its name from wild grapes found by early Mexican settlers. *Uvas* is the Spanish word for grapes.

SOURCES Web pages of the City of Gilroy, Gilroy Museum and Santa Clara County



LEGEND

- Driving Tour
- County Designated Scenic Roads
- Recent POST Acquisitions
- Other Protected Properties
- County Line



Walnuts are persistent. Ghost trees dot the meadow at Clark Canyon Ranch.

© 2008 Karl Kroeber

the calves would be sold each spring, and though cattle might have provided a livelihood, the Clarks kept them mainly as “lawnmowers,” according to John.

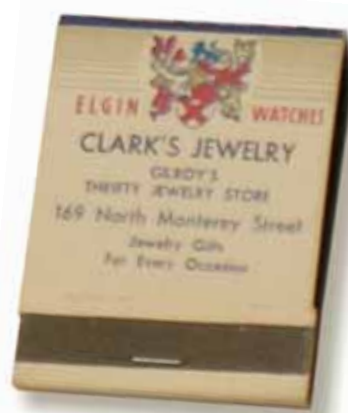
Burt and Veda owned Clark’s Jewelry Store in downtown Gilroy, ten minutes away by car. Veda was an accomplished artist who took great pleasure in painting scenes from the ranch. She painted landscapes in Yosemite and other spectacular natural places, yet a frequent subject of her art was the meadow right outside her front door.

The meadow was not always as wide open as it is today. Years ago both sides of the creek had been planted in walnuts. One year a county official noticed the trees and informed the Clarks the crop was taxable, even though they were not selling the walnuts commercially. Burt immediately tore out most of the trees. Ringed with woodpecker holes and draped in moss, the remaining trees are ghosts of the orchard that was.

The open meadow is one of the most endearing features of Clark Canyon Ranch. Animals of all kinds cross to the creek, browse and hunt. John and his wife, LoAnne, report seeing wild turkeys, bald eagles, even a mountain lion with two kits. Clark Canyon has an antique wagon and fencing that kept the cattle from wandering away. Grapes and climbing roses put on leaves in anticipation of a measure of appreciation.

With careful planning and the continued support of POST donors, Clark Canyon Ranch will help retain the natural resources that give character to the slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains in southern Santa Clara County. Development

here could easily have closed off all the property’s ecosystems as well as public access. Instead, Clark Canyon Ranch is now ready to join the ranks of protected open space in the region. ■



POST PARTNERS:

In Their Words...

POST works closely with our elected officials to save land. In this issue we highlight Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose ongoing support for POST has been essential to our having added the Phleger Estate to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) in 1995 and to our having extended the GGNRA boundaries to include Rancho Corral de Tierra in 2005.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein

“Community-based

organizations like POST are invaluable partners with government. They can work side-by-side with federal and state officials to protect open space and ensure that our natural lands remain shielded from development and other pressures.

“The Golden Gate National Recreation Area has long been the crown jewel of the San Francisco Bay Area’s beautiful landscape. And POST was really the driving force behind the successful campaign to expand the GGNRA to include the unique Rancho Corral de Tierra property, near Montara.

“Two and a half years ago, the president signed into law the GGNRA boundary expansion to include Rancho Corral de Tierra. This scenic, 4,262-acre property along the San Mateo Coast was originally slated for development. POST stepped in and helped ensure that the land, which provides enormous recreation potential as well as fertile fields for farmers, would be protected for generations to come.

“Open lands like Rancho Corral de Tierra are special places. With its sweeping vistas of our picturesque



Courtesy Sen. Dianne Feinstein

coastline, this property offers a refuge from the demands of our hectic lives. You can spot rare and endangered wildlife like the peregrine falcon or red-legged frog, and find native wildflowers like poppies and lupines. There are even unique plants found on Rancho Corral, like Montara manzanita, that grow nowhere else in the world.

“In today’s tough budgetary times, private organizations such as POST play a critical role in helping the federal government protect precious open space—at a more affordable price. POST’s anticipated transfer of the land to the federal government for about half the original purchase cost is really the key to this project. By arranging such a bargain sale, POST creates the momentum that motivates me to work now on securing money from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to help pay for adding this property to the National Park System. Once Congress approves the remaining appropriations for Rancho Corral de Tierra, the land will provide an excellent southern gateway into the rest of the GGNRA.

“Today, more than ever, we must be vigilant in our efforts to ensure that our open spaces in California and across the country are protected. If we don’t act now, we’ll be in danger of losing them forever. And that’s why organizations like POST are so very important. “ ■



© 2002 Robert Buelteman



© 2002 William Mathias

Coastside Landowner Donates Easement to POST

GIFT PROTECTS EXPANSIVE TOTO RANCH

POST received a donation of a conservation easement on a 952-acre ranch along Highway 1 south of Half Moon Bay. In April landowner and longtime POST supporter Kathleen Scutchfield donated the easement, valued at \$7.9 million, to preserve the scenic vistas and rich natural resources on her Toto Ranch.

“I’ve seen how development has been creeping up and down the coast. I believe it’s important to make a statement and save this land just as it is, in its open, natural state,” said Scutchfield. “POST has done so much to preserve the character of the Coastside, and I want to see this beautiful land protected forever.”

A native of Texas, Scutchfield has called California home since 1971. She co-founded the nonprofit Until There’s a Cure Foundation, which raises funds for AIDS vaccine development, care for AIDS patients and AIDS education. She is also a trustee emeritus of the San Francisco Ballet. An avid equestrian, she lives in Woodside. She purchased Toto Ranch in 1982 with her late husband, Donald.

The ranch, currently used for open space and grazing, offers impressive views of the Pacific Ocean and Tunitas Creek Valley as well as

Purisima Creek Redwoods and El Corte Madera open space preserves. On clear days, Montara Mountain, part of POST’s Rancho Corral de Tierra property, is visible in the distance. The easement protects five acres of prime agricultural soils as well as grasslands, hardwoods and mixed evergreen forest. It also preserves a lengthy corridor of watershed along Tunitas Creek and its tributaries, habitat for the federally threatened steelhead trout and federally endangered Coho salmon.

Given its prime location along Highway 1, the ranch would have been a likely candidate for a luxury second-home subdivision were it not for this easement, according to POST Executive Vice President Walter T. Moore.

“Properties similar to Toto Ranch have become very attractive to extremely wealthy private buyers. Up to seven lots of more than 100 acres could have easily overwhelmed the gentle slopes of this rolling coastal terrain and threatened its watershed and wildlife habitat,” Moore said. “Thanks to her donation of this easement to POST, Kathy Scutchfield has made sure that such threats will never overtake Toto Ranch. We are most grateful for her vision and extraordinary generosity.” ■

POST Completes Protection of 865 Acres in Morgan Hill

OPEN SPACE AUTHORITY NOW OWNS LAND DESTINED FOR PUBLIC PARK

In March, POST successfully completed protection of the former Blair property, an 865-acre cattle ranch in Morgan Hill featured in the spring 2008 issue of *Landscapes*. The ranch, located in south Santa Clara County, is destined to become public parkland as an addition to neighboring Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve.

Partnering with the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, POST negotiated the purchase of the land for \$8.65 million from the Blair family. Prior to close of escrow on March 17, POST assigned its right to purchase the land to the Open Space Authority. By doing so, POST hastened the eventual opening of the property to the public and made it possible for the Blairs to continue owning a home on an adjacent 126 acres. ■

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GoMindego

Double Your GoMindego Gift!

We're in the homestretch of our effort to raise \$6.9 million in private funds to safeguard Mindego Hill forever. An anonymous foundation has stepped forward to match your contributions dollar for dollar.

Double your gift by making it now while the match is available. To make your contribution, go to: www.gomindego.org or call Daphne Muehle, Director of Major Gifts, at (650) 854-7696.

Wavecrest Purchase Final

Early this year POST purchased Wavecrest, a 206-acre property between Highway 1 and the Pacific Ocean in Half Moon Bay. POST made a down payment of \$4.5 million to save the property and has two years to raise the \$9 million balance due.

During this interim period, public use of the ball fields, dog park and informal trails will continue as before, and POST will work on plans to extend the California Coastal Trail across the property.

"The protection of Wavecrest means the community is no longer at risk of losing this amazing natural and recreational resource," says POST Executive Vice President Walter T. Moore. "From now on, residents and visitors will come here and know that this beautiful, vital landscape will remain undeveloped forever." ■

Claudia Newbold and Alisa MacAvoy:

POST Honors Two Volunteers of the Year

Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) recently named two outstanding volunteers—Claudia Newbold, of Menlo Park, and Alisa MacAvoy, of Redwood City—as Volunteers of the Year. Honors were bestowed on both women for their inexhaustible energy in helping POST complete tasks important to the organization.



Claudia Newbold

“But for the generosity of others, we wouldn’t be able to enjoy open space now,” says Claudia. She has volunteered for POST since 2004, when she created a visual, written and GPS record of all plaques, kiosks and other items installed as memorials on POST land. She serves on a volunteer team that makes quarterly visits to 304-acre Lobitos Ridge and 206-acre Bluebrush Canyon, both POST-owned coastal properties, to check conditions on the land. Claudia is also part of a team that monitors POST’s conservation easement over the Krauskopf/ Conley property, 191 acres along Skyline Ridge near Highway 9. She has also helped with

labor intensive projects like planting willow shoots to help control erosion on POST watershed land.

Alisa MacAvoy

Alisa has volunteered for POST since 2002 and been a leader in engaging new people to support the organization. “POST connects people with each other and with the properties in a special way,” says Alisa. She is an enthusiastic public speaker, able to articulate her passion for POST’s mission, whether on the podium or on a path.

Alisa and her husband, Neil, have a view of Bair Island from their home in Redwood City and can often be found there on outings with their daughters Clara and Marissa, ages 7 and 9, respectively. The girls have been playing on POST-protected land since they were infants.

“POST’s corps of 115 volunteers adds immeasurably to what we can accomplish,” says POST President Audrey Rust. “Claudia and Alisa not only take on important tasks but motivate others to lend their skills and support. We are very grateful for their help.” ■



SUMMER OUTING

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

When it is hot everywhere else, trails in Purisima Creek Redwoods offer numerous cool variations—one-way trips or loops, depending on how you connect them.

Redwood Trail

0.25 miles, one-way

In 1987 POST provided \$16,600 toward construction of the Redwood Trail, a wheelchair-accessible path. The special surface trail takes off from Skyline Boulevard half a mile north of the Kings Mountain and Tunitas Creek Road intersection in Woodside. There is a small parking lot at the trailhead and a picnic table nearby. Between the trees you can look across the descending slopes toward Half Moon Bay.

Whittemore Gulch Trail

Approximately 3.5 miles, one-way

This multi-use trail is easily reached from the preserve's main entrance on Skyline Boulevard or from the west entrance on Higgins-Purisima Road in Half Moon Bay. Where you start depends on whether you want an uphill or a downhill experience first. Along the way are beautiful, first- and second-growth redwood trees. Be prepared for a series of switchbacks in the portion of your journey closest to Skyline Boulevard.



Purisima Creek Trail

Approximately 4.1 miles, one-way

A car shuttle at the preserve's west entrance will make this trail an easy ramble. Like the Whittemore Gulch Trail, this one is open to bicyclists and horsemen. If you're planning a round trip, bring lunch and water. Our description begins at the preserve's southern Skyline entrance, opposite Huddart Park and ignores the other trail connections you pass along the way. Go over the hiker's stile and walk beneath a mixed redwood and Douglas fir forest. A little more than a mile into your walk, you'll find yourself beside the ferny banks of Purisima Creek. The trail follows the old logging road as it winds down the canyon, eventually widening to more open, sunny terrain. From this point on, the trees become more dense, hiding numerous small streams that support wildflowers in all seasons. Among the rewards at this end of the trail is a memorial grove of immense redwoods.

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve encompasses 3,117 acres of slopes and canyons west of Skyline Boulevard and is managed by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). Over the years POST has transferred parcels amounting to 670 acres to MROSD for the preserve. Though the transactions took place years ago, public enjoyment from a wide spectrum of visitors continues to grow.

Maps for the preserve are available at the entrances or online at: www.openspace.org/preserves. Click on the pdf icon in the map column under Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve to print your own trail map.



Tributes

JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2008

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 and Santa Cruz Mountain range.

If you would like to make a tribute gift, please call Kathleen Ward, Associate Major Gifts Officer, at (650) 854-7696.

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Christian Beck	William Knill
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Howard Kresge	Al and Grace Wilhelm

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Howard Anawalt	Sig Kriegsman
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Anne and David Bernstein	Mrs. Janet Morris
Ruby Lee Black	David Nelson
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Evelyn Flanary	Sandra Cold Shapero
Will Fourt	Marilyn Walter
Morey Gross	Jim and Louise Wholey
Mary Hamilton	
Richard Hoegh	



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Corrections: Spring '08 Landscapes

- Several observant readers pointed out that the "metal sculpture", page 7, is a hay rake, not a road grader. Our apologies....
- We wish to clarify that Craig Britton, page 11, retiring after 30 years at MROSD, began his tenure as land acquisition manager and became general manager 14 years ago.



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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 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.



Cloverdale Coastal Ranch © 2003 Robert Buellman



Landscapes

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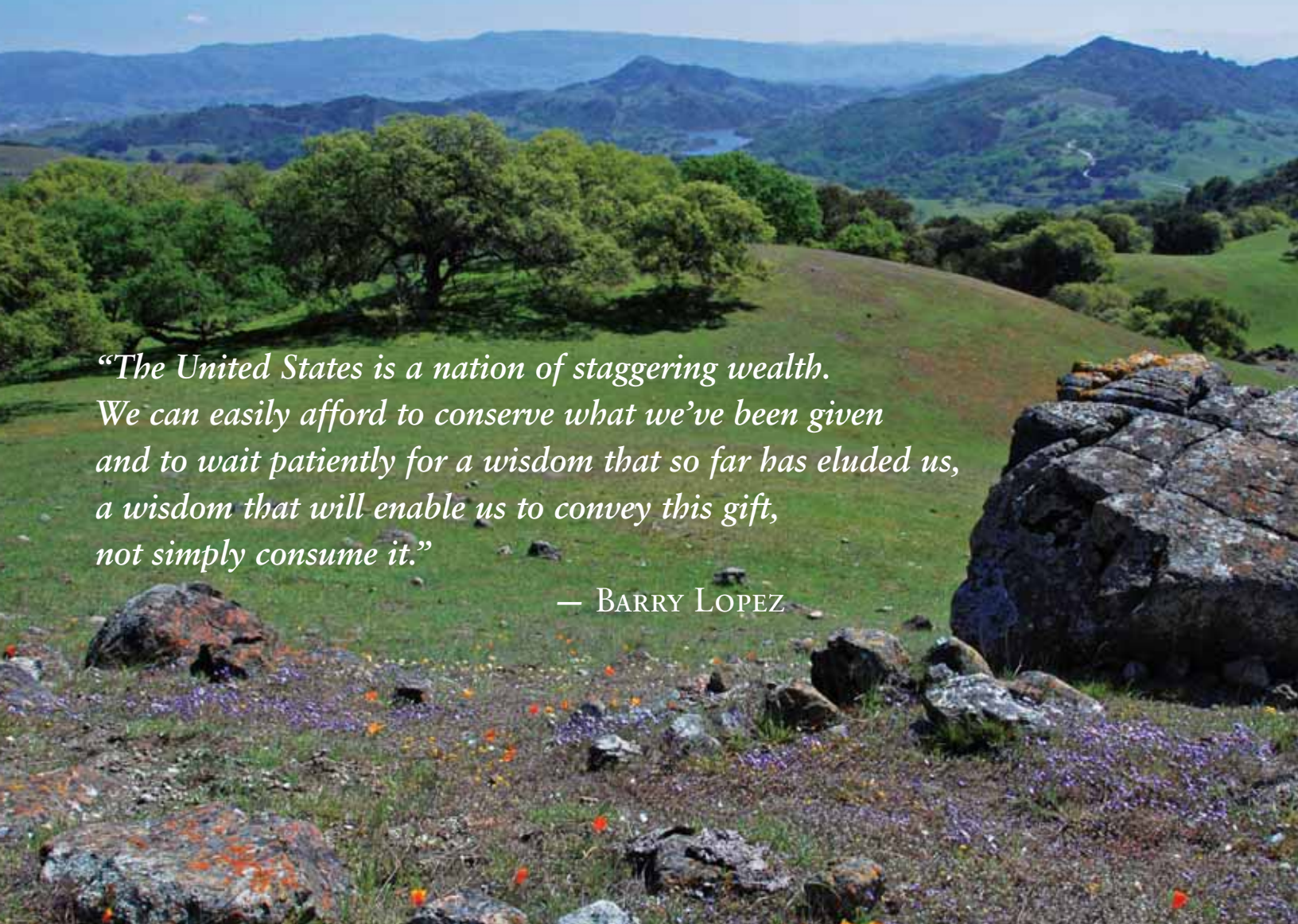
Why Your Annual Gifts Make A Difference

Generous annual gifts to POST translate directly into protected landscapes that people can explore, experience and enjoy forever.

Your support enables us to enter confidently into negotiations to acquire landmark views that shape our vision of where we live, historic farms and ranches that define communities, and wildlife habitat that sustains the land on which we depend. Together we have protected 60,000 acres of local land.

Negotiations to protect such properties often extend over a lengthy period. Yet even 31 years doesn't seem very long when you know the goal is to protect the places we love in perpetuity. Thanks to your support of POST's work, we have established a national reputation for achieving visionary land protection goals. Working with our public and private partners, we take every opportunity to leverage your gifts to attract matching funds so your dollars go as far as possible on behalf of saving land. With your ongoing help, the rich fabric of our local landscapes will remain whole for future generations to know and love.

Tax-deductible gifts of cash or stock are some of the ways to make your annual gift to POST. You can make your donation online at: www.openspacetrust.org. For more information, please contact POST's Associate Major Gifts Officer, Kathleen Ward, at kward@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696. ■



*“The United States is a nation of staggering wealth.
We can easily afford to conserve what we’ve been given
and to wait patiently for a wisdom that so far has eluded us,
a wisdom that will enable us to convey this gift,
not simply consume it.”*

— BARRY LOPEZ

Blair Ranch © 2008 Judy Kramer



LANDSCAPES
SUMMER 2008

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