

Report to Our Supporters



"We have relatively short lives, and yet by preserving the world

Somewhere hidden in the hills of Cloverdale Coastal Ranch near Pescadero, a mountain lion is roaming. Last spring, animal trackers working with POST staff found tracks and scat at the ranch, which was a truly extraordinary discovery for us.

Mountain lions are a keystone species, which means their health is an indicator of the vitality of the ecosystem at large. Although they're seldom seen, it's thrilling to think of the big cats on Cloverdale. Their presence makes the hills wilder, more alive.

Mountain lions need a large uninterrupted range to hunt and to ensure their genetic diversity, but development on rural lots threatens to break up this habitat. Loss of open space means these magnificent animals are at risk of being marooned on wooded islands of protected land crisscrossed by fence lines, residential roads and estate home construction. As their territory shrinks, so do their chances of survival.

But thanks to the support of POST donors, we've succeeded in giving mountain lions and the rest of the Peninsula's wild creatures — along with all of us — some breathing room. Since 1977, we've protected more than 50,000 acres of open space on the Peninsula.



Robert Buiteman

Cloverdale Coastal Ranch



Western Wildlife Photography

Mountain Lion



Driscoll Ranch

Natural resources: The San Mateo Coast is part of the California Floristic Province, named by Princeton University and Conservation International as among the earth's places in most urgent need of protection. Its rich diversity of species and habitat are threatened with regional extinction by inappropriate development. If we aren't successful in our campaign to preserve these lands, our scenic native landscape and its native butterflies, birds and animals could give way to invasive exotic plants and opportunistic animal species. We must preserve these precious resources to protect the health and diverse beauty of our coastal environment.

in a condition that is worthy of us, we win a kind of immortality.”

This year, in one of the most significant land gifts ever made in San Mateo County, Mike and Margaret O'Neill and their family donated a stunning 482-acre property adjacent to Rancho Corral de Tierra. Within 10 miles of San Francisco, the property could have been the site of large estate homes, but instead the land will form an extraordinary connection to local, county and state parks and trails. What a gift!

Through our *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign, we've protected 10,610 acres of coastal land to date. That means we are more than halfway toward reaching our 20,000-acre goal. Our ambition is great, but so are the challenges.

State demographers say the Bay Area's population is growing at 1.3 percent a year. This seemingly modest growth rate means the current population of 6.9 million could soar to 9 million in the next 20 years. Meanwhile, from 1993 to 2000 the average house built in rural San Mateo County quadrupled in size from 2,500 square feet to 10,000 square feet, further compromising the rural landscape we are working to protect.

The threats of development and loss of open space are even more acute when you consider what we stand to lose. Princeton University scientists deemed the rural

Peninsula one of the most biologically diverse places on earth. San Mateo County has 25 threatened and endangered species, is among 13 counties in the nation that contain more than half of the nation's endangered plant species, and is home to one of the most diverse populations of birds in the country. Drive from the beach in Pescadero over the hill to Palo Alto and the Bay, and you'll pass through every major habitat on the Peninsula.

We simply can't afford to lose any more ground.

Geographic isolation and ever-encroaching development doomed the area's mountain lions in Orange County's San Joaquin Hills. The last mountain lion there died in 1990. For the sake of the mountain lions, the larger ecosystem and for us, we cannot allow that to happen here.

"We have relatively short lives, and yet by preserving the world in a condition that is worthy of us, we win a kind of immortality," said Dr. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and featured speaker at next year's Wallace Stegner Lecture Series. "We become stewards of what the world is."

The stakes are high, but so are the rewards. In these challenging times, we depend on the Peninsula's redwood forests and coastal bluffs for solace and renewal. POST, in turn, depends on your support to help us go on protecting these lands to ensure they will continue to be a source of inspiration and refuge for all who seek it.



Robert Buelterman



William Martinus

Purisima Trail Corridor

Accomplishments

Thanks to the generosity of POST donors, we accomplished a great deal this past year.

- County Wicklow in Ireland was Mike O'Neill's inspiration for naming the spectacular hilltop property above the San Mateo coastal town of El Granada with sweeping views of Pillar Point and south along the coast. While not the green fields of his native country, this 482-property will stay "green" forever. This year, Mike and Margaret O'Neill and their family gifted the land to POST to preserve as open space. Their generosity will provide a key link to other protected lands and create an incredible trail connection from the ocean to the peaks of the Santa Cruz Mountains.



Driscoll Ranch

Viewshed: Driving along scenic Highway 1 south of San Francisco is one of the great escapes from the pressures of urban life in the Bay Area. The natural beauty and recreational opportunities afforded to us by the rural San Mateo Coast are unparalleled, and essential to the quality of life we have come to expect living here. Yet inappropriate development proposed along coastal bluffs and ridgelines threatens to destroy the peace and beauty we have come to take for granted. The only thing that lies between the transformation of this pastoral landscape into a Southern California checkerboard of large houses is your support of POST's work to preserve critical lands.

- Can you imagine a building the size of a Best Buy store in the middle of a 600-acre open space preserve? We couldn't, and that's why POST entered a competitive bidding process to protect a 13-acre island of land in Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve from inappropriate development. POST's purchase gives the city of Palo Alto an opportunity to permanently protect the entrance to the preserve, enhance an important recreation area, safeguard oak woodlands and rolling grassland habitat, and restore native vegetation.
- Instead of giving conservationist and retired executive director Colburn Wilbur a gold watch, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation gave him and the public a place to "watch" one of the spectacular California native landscapes he helped to protect during his 23-year tenure. Wilbur's Watch is a one-mile public trail and overlook located just east of the Pigeon Point Light Station. From Wilbur's Watch, visitors can see Año Nuevo to the south, the annual migration of



Pigeon Point/Whaler's Cove

gray whales to the west, and the open space and agricultural fields surrounding the lighthouse to the north. Construction began on the site this year and will be open to the public in spring 2004.

- Sometimes it takes years to reach agreement with landowners and sometimes it takes years to reach agreement with a public agency. With Rancho Cañada del Oro, agreement was reached with the Crummer family on POST's purchase in less than an hour. But it's taken three years and four months to transfer the land to the County of Santa Clara and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority. The 2,428-acre property near San Jose was permanently protected as a park and open space preserve this year. The land is home to an array of wildlife including bobcat, mountain lion, California newt, acorn woodpecker, and the threatened California red-legged frog and bay checkerspot butterfly. Its hilltops offer sweeping views of the Diablo Range, Mt. Hamilton and Mt. Umunhum.

- Even during these difficult economic times, California voters saw the need to protect our health, economy and quality of life by providing funding to preserve the state's open spaces and natural resources. That's why they voted for propositions 40 and 50 in 2002, which designated a total of \$6 billion in bond money to protect our air, land and water. POST made sure it received its fair share of these state funds and secured a total of \$41.5 million to protect lands on the San Mateo Coast. The funds will be used to help complete the acquisition of four key coastal properties.
- POST received \$6 million in grants from California's Coastal Conservancy that will partially reimburse POST for its acquisition of the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch near the town of La Honda. The funds will help protect diverse habitat, glorious views and, with the adjacent La Honda Open Space Preserve and Djerassi property, will create nearly 10 square miles of permanently protected open space.
- The Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board approved grants totaling \$15 million to help complete the acquisition of the magnificent Bolsa Point Ranches — 1,719 acres of grassland, farmland and beachfront adjacent to the Pigeon Point Light Station. Permanent protection of the land halted the sale of 51 lots ready for building.



Robert Buelteman



Robert Buelteman

Rancho Corral de Tierra

- California State Parks has committed \$5 million to Whaler's Cove, Bolsa Point Ranches, and San Gregorio Farms, which received another \$1.5 million from the Coastal Conservancy.
- The Coastal Conservancy and Wildlife Conservation Board granted a combined \$14 million for the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra. These funds are a significant contribution to the permanent protection of this land, which provides important wildlife habitat, sweeping views of the Bay Area, and accessible recreation.

- After acquiring an option to purchase the spectacular Rancho Corral de Tierra in 2001, our working capital allowed POST to take title to the entire property in January after making the last of three payments. The spectacular property is located just seven miles south of San Francisco and will be open to the public if POST is successful in its efforts to transfer the land to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- On a fog-shrouded day in 2001, POST celebrated the removal and recycling of a 9-unit motel at Whaler's Cove, located adjacent to the Pigeon Point Light Station in Pescadero. This year, we delighted in the rebirth of the natural landscape that had been destroyed by the development. The natural contours of the land have been restored to the site, and the multi-year project to restore native plants is underway. Next spring, we are looking forward to beginning the development of a segment of the Coastal Trail called Mel's Lane in honor of longtime conservationist and POST founding Board member Mel Lane. Once completed, the area and adjacent beach that were almost closed to the public will be permanently reopened for their enjoyment.



Rancho Corral de Tierra



Brewer's Blackbirds and House Finch at San Gregorio Farms

Wildlife corridors:

Segmented development of rural landscapes has led to the extinction of animal and bird species that depend on large swaths of land and connected habitat areas to live. The mountain lion and eagle are two species affected by habitat loss, but their presence here indicates the health of our lands. If we lose these species, the health of the overall environment will decline. If our campaign to protect land on the San Mateo Coast is successful, we will give the mountain lion and eagle the habitat they need to thrive here, and the health of the ecosystem will be self-sustaining.

Along Mel's Lane, nestled in a rolling meadow with views of the lighthouse, secluded beach cove and sea, and surrounding open space, will be POST's "Council Circle," a place where hikers and visitors can rest and reflect. Significant donations to *Saving the Endangered Coast* will be recognized here. To learn more about the Council Circle and this donor recognition opportunity, contact POST's Vice President Kathryn Morelli.

Looking Forward

The end of 2003 brings us to the midpoint in our *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. To date we have saved more than half of the 20,000 acres we set out to protect, and raised nearly three quarters of our \$200 million goal. The success in the first two years of the campaign is due to the supporters who have contributed their resources to the campaign. Thank you!

Yet we cannot reflect on our accomplishments during the first half of the campaign, as significant as they are, without taking a hard look at the work ahead and the challenges we face in order to complete it.

In the coming year we will be actively pursuing the acquisition of 16 properties for a total of 4,352 acres at an estimated cost of approximately \$40 million. At the beginning of the campaign, strategy and opportunity

enabled us to protect three of the campaign's key properties: the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra, the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch and the 1,719-acre Bolsa Point Ranches. Although the lands we've targeted for protection in the coming year will be smaller in size, their importance in terms of their strategic location near other protected lands and within wildlife and scenic corridors can not be underestimated.

During the first half of the campaign, your contributions were leveraged by state bond money. Now that the bond money has been dispersed, we expect public funding will play less of a role during the remainder of the campaign. This means we will rely on contributions from our supporters, federal and foundation funds, and creative approaches to land deals to maximize our resources.

On the federal front, POST is continuing to work with national leaders to gain final approval to expand the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include Rancho Corral de Tierra. While the Senate passed the legislation last winter, partisan struggles in the House have created obstacles to its passage there. Our staff and board of directors continues to work to encourage representatives in the House to pass the legislation before the end of the year.

Once the boundary expansion is approved, we will work with the Bay Area Congressional delegation to gain approval from Congress to appropriate \$15 million to fund the transfer. While this federal funding will be difficult and time consuming to obtain, it is needed to match the \$14 million in state funding and \$1 million in contributions from thousands of individual supporters.

We will need the help of POST supporters to ensure Congressional approval of the appropriation. If our efforts are successful, this landmark partnership between individuals, the state and federal governments will ensure this land is permanently protected and opened to the public.



Brian O'Neill

Cloverdale Coastal Ranch

The Endangered San Mateo Coast —

The San Mateo Coast is home to an incredible diversity of species, many of them at risk. Species listed as endangered, threatened or of concern on the Peninsula and San Mateo Coast include the San Francisco garter snake, California tiger salamander, tidewater goby, California red-legged frog, coho salmon, mission blue butterfly, San Bruno elfin butterfly, salt marsh harvest mouse, California clapper rail, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet, California sea otter, and plants such as the Montara manzanita, the coast wallflower, and the San Mateo tree lupine.

All told, there are 25 federally threatened and endangered species in San Mateo County. That's a staggering figure when you consider the entire state of Alaska has only 11.

It's no accident that plants and animals here are in such peril. We've pushed them to the edge. The endangered bay checkerspot butterfly lives on plants native to the serpentine soils found on ridgelines, the same ridges favored for development. The marbled murrelet is an endangered sea bird that nests exclusively in old growth redwoods a few miles inland from the coast. Except for pockets in Portola and Big Basin state parks, the birds' habitat is in short supply and the partridge-size birds live a tenuous existence on the coast.



Pigeon Point/Whaler's Cove

Robert Buelteman



Hikers on the Coastal Trail

Dan DiVittorio



Recreational opportunities: Less than an hour drive from one of the largest urban areas in the country lies the potential to create a remarkably vast recreation area, with unbroken networks of trails stretching for miles from mountain top to seaside. If the campaign to save the endangered coast is successful, we will create trail corridors that connect urban areas to rural and scenic landscapes. The Bay Ridge Trail will connect to the Coastal Trail, which will stretch north to Oregon and south to Mexico.

It's ours to save or lose forever.

The statistics of lost habitat are shocking and sad. We've lost 99 percent of native grassland, while invasive, non-native annual grasses have increased 8,653 percent. Eighty five percent of coastal redwoods are gone. Eighty percent of coastal wetlands have been converted to urban or agricultural uses.

This cannot go on. Once natural lands are developed, wildlife habitat is severely diminished. The mountain lion is a state-listed special protected mammal. The range of adult males, which can grow as large as 150 pounds, often spans over 100 square miles. Development in rural areas can squeeze the mountain lion into small areas of land where human contact is more likely, and where the genetic diversity of their species and their very survival in a region is threatened.

Restoring wild habitat is nearly impossible and very expensive where it can be done. It's much more effective to protect what we have left.

Being so close to millions of people is part of the wonder of these lands but it's also what puts them at such risk. Without protection, the development that rages around us threatens to spill into the remaining forests and coastal bluffs we've come to love. Even with the stalled economy, the push to build trophy homes on the ridgetops of former ranches and in the midst of agricultural fields is alive and well. But just as we have collectively pushed our native wildlife to the brink, we can bring it back.

POST needs your help to protect this incredible array of species as well as the refuge these lands provide us. The construction of homes on those sweeping ridgelines above Highway 1 won't just rob us of a once pristine view, it could hasten the demise of species already on the run from the footfall of development. It's our responsibility to protect and preserve this land. There's no place quite like it. Without your support of POST's work, the rugged mountains and coast would soon look like everywhere else.

Open space needs its defenders. Join POST's campaign to help keep this incredible place special. In so doing, you will help to preserve this natural beauty forever. What a gift to pass on to future generations.



Montara – Rancho Corral de Tierra

Robert Buelterman



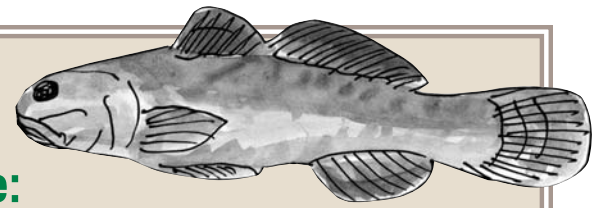
Robert Buelterman

Rancho Corral de Tierra

Endangered, threatened and species of concern in San Mateo County include:

San Francisco garter snake
California tiger salamander
California red-legged frog
Yellow-legged frog
Coast horned lizard
Western whiptail lizard
Striped racer
Night snake
Tidewater goby
Coho salmon
Mission blue butterfly

San Bruno elfin butterfly
Bay checkerspot butterfly
Salt marsh harvest mouse
California clapper rail
California black rail
Western snowy plover
California least tern
Bald eagle
Peregrine falcon
Marbled murrelet



Tidewater goby

Bank swallow
Salt marsh common yellow-throat
California brown pelican
California sea otter
Montara manzanita
Coast wallflower
San Mateo tree lupine
Dudley's lousewort
San Mateo thornmint

William Mathias



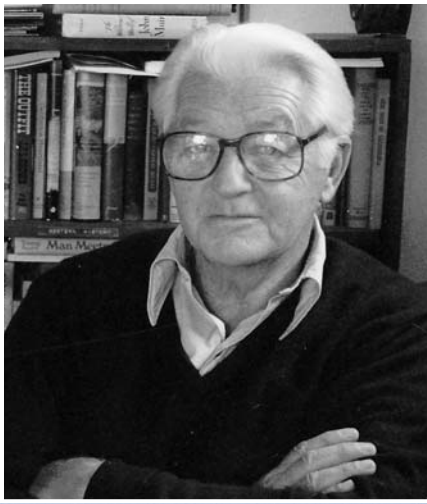
Johnston Ranch



Rancho Corral de Tierra

Robert Buelteman

Agriculture: Where subdivision and estate homes were once planned, POST has preserved the opportunity for local farmers to continue earning their livelihoods on more than 2,000 acres of farmland and 4,000 acres of ranchland. In preserving open agricultural lands, we are also protecting the historic landscape of the San Mateo Coast. Residents and visitors can stop at many of the farm stands along Highway 1 and buy local produce grown on conservation lands.



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GREAT ADVENTURERS

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL WALLACE STEGNER LECTURE SERIES

In the spirit of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806), Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane invite you to join us for the Eleventh Annual Wallace Stegner Lecture Series and hear from people who embody the spirit of adventure today. All lectures will be held at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts beginning at 8 p.m.

A lecture series subscription at the Stegner Circle level of \$300 per season ticket or the Patron level of \$150 per season ticket will give you preferred seating at the three general admission lectures and admission to a special lecture by world renown botanist Peter Raven. Your tax-deductible contribution will further benefit POST's land conservation work.

Series subscriptions for the three lectures at \$60 will give you preferred seating. You can order tickets by calling the POST office at (650) 854-7696 or by mailing in your order form when you receive your Lecture Series brochure in late December. Single tickets to the three lectures are \$20 and can be ordered through the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at (650) 903-6000. All proceeds from the series benefit POST's land-saving mission.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2004

CLAY JENKINSON

Meriwether Lewis is portrayed by Clay Jenkinson in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition. A National Endowment for the Humanities Charles Frankel Prize winner, he is known for his dynamic impersonations that bring the thoughts and writings of the historical characters he portrays to life. Appearing in full costume, he adopts the language, character and perspective of Lewis, who was hand picked by then President Thomas Jefferson to head the expedition that explored the uncharted West.

Jenkinson performed Thomas Jefferson for POST in 1994 and again in 1996. Clay Jenkinson has made thousands of presentations throughout the United States and appeared in a PBS special on the life of Thomas Jefferson. He co-authored *The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery*, an alphabetical primer on all things Lewis and Clark.

LECTURE SPONSOR: Paul & Antje Newhagen



THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

DIANE JOSEPHY PEAVEY

Twenty years ago, Diane Josephy Peavey adventured into Flat Top Sheep Co., a sheep and cattle ranch in south central Idaho, from Washington, D.C., where she was a lobbyist. Now the author and environmentalist writes stories about life on the ranch, its ordinary and extraordinary moments, its people, history and the changing landscape of the west. Among other topics, she explores the conflicts that can occur between ranching and resource preservation. Many of her stories air weekly on Idaho Public Radio. Her writings have appeared in numerous magazines and journals and in the anthologies, *Where the Morning Light's Still Blue* (University of Idaho Press, 1994) and *Woven on the Wind* (Houghton Mifflin, 2001). Fulcrum Publishing published a collection of her stories entitled *Bitterbrush Country: Living on the Edge of the Land* in September 2001. Diane Josephy Peavey runs the October Trailing of the Sheep Festival in the Wood River Valley.

LECTURE SPONSOR: INNW Fund

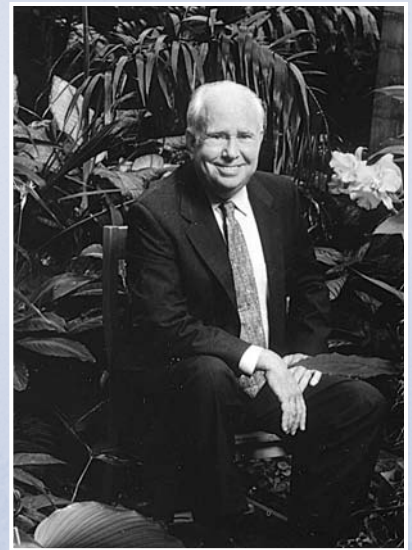


THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2004

SY MONTGOMERY

Sy Montgomery has been chased by an angry silverback gorilla in Zaire and bitten by a vampire bat in Costa Rica. She has been deftly undressed by an orangutan in Borneo, hunted by a tiger in India, and — for her book *Journey of the Pink Dolphins* — has swum with piranhas, electric eels and dolphins in the Amazon. By uncovering a side of nature people have rarely seen before, nature writer Sy Montgomery changes our beliefs about animals and their capabilities. In addition to *Journey of the Pink Dolphins*, she has written *Spell of the Tiger*, and *Walking with the Great Apes*. Her latest book, *Search for the Golden Moon Bear*, was published in 2002. She also pens a nature column for *The Boston Globe*, is a contributing commentator for National Public Radio's "Living On Earth," and writes for magazines in the U.S. and abroad, including *International Wildlife*, *GEO*, *Nature*, *Orion*, and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

LECTURE SPONSOR: Matteoni, Saxe & O'Laughlin and anonymous donor



SPECIAL LECTURE FOR
STEGNER CIRCLE AND PATRON
SUBSCRIBERS:

JUNE 3, 2004

PETER H. RAVEN

Dr. Peter H. Raven, one of the world's leading botanists, grew up in San Francisco and studied plants on Montara Mountain as a youth. He is the Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and a passionate advocate of conservation and biodiversity. Recognized as a *Time Magazine* "Hero for the Planet" in 1999, he champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and is a leading advocate for conservation and a sustainable environment. For three decades, he has nurtured the Missouri Botanical Garden into a world-class center for botanical research, education and horticulture display. Dr. Raven is currently Chairman of the National Geographic Society's Committee for Research and Exploration and Chair of the Division of Earth and Life Studies of the National Research Council. The author of numerous popular and scientific books, he is the Engelmann Professor of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis.

LECTURE SPONSOR: Sand Hill Advisors

POST'S MISSION STATEMENT

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.



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 annual operating gifts provide essential funding to bring together the research, partnerships and financing for our increasingly complex conservation projects.

Your gifts to POST's campaign, *Saving the Endangered Coast*, are used to acquire properties that add to the remarkable natural landscape west of Skyline to the ocean. Your contributions to POST are tax deductible. Additionally, *how* a gift is given can make a difference to you. 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. Get a tax deduction and maybe miles on 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 avoid capital gains taxes.

Our families and community value and benefit from the investment we make in protecting our remaining natural lands today. Please contact POST's Vice President, Kathryn Morelli, for more information. ■



Landscapes

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Cover photography (left to right): Hotel demolition at Pigeon Point (Paul Reimer), Star Lily – Rancho Corral de Tierra (Brian O'Neill), Rufus Hummingbird – San Gregorio Farms (Brian O'Neill), View from Wicklow (Robert Buelteman).



LANDSCAPES WINTER 2003

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