



Landscapes

Peninsula Open Space Trust



Discover Mindego Hill

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

We're achieving higher ground...

POST Acquires Mindego Hill Along Skyline Ridge



“GoMindego” campaign to save heritage ranchland; Moore Foundation gives \$2.3 million to kick off campaign

What was once far away is now closer than ever before. In October, POST fulfilled a dream 27 years in the making by acquiring Mindego Hill, a stunning 1,047-acre property near the town of La Honda on the San Francisco Peninsula. POST’s founders identified this heritage ranchland as a top priority for

conservation. Today we are thrilled to launch a special “GoMindego” campaign to ensure that this breathtaking property and distinct Peninsula landmark receives the permanent protection it deserves.

Mindego Hill visually dominates the western flank of Skyline Ridge near the inter-



© 2007 Karl Kroeber

section of Alpine Road and Skyline Boulevard. With its top-of-the-world views, rich wildlife habitat and excellent trail connections to adjacent Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, the land is perfectly situated to become a major addition to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and a spectacular public recreation resource for Silicon Valley and beyond.

"The protection of Mindogo Hill really is a dream come true," said POST President Audrey Rust. "Looking west from Russian

Ridge, you can see Mindego Hill rising up in front of you, just out of arm's reach. It's so enticing, and the hill beckons you to hike and explore it, but as private property, it's always been off-limits. Now that's about to change, as POST works to transfer the land as soon as possible to a public agency for trail development and permanent protection."

Open Space



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near the heart of

Currently a working cattle ranch, Mindego Hill lies halfway between San Francisco and San Jose, close to the cities and towns of the Peninsula and only a 30-minute drive from the heart of Silicon Valley.

Awesome panoramic vistas unfurl from Mindego Hill's 2,143-foot summit, including views of MROSD's Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, San Gregorio Creek Valley, Pomponio Creek Valley and, on the far western horizon, the Pacific Ocean. Owned for more than half a century by the same family, the property has

long attracted attention from developers seeking to capitalize on its world-class views and proximity to the Valley. There are 27 density credits on the land, which could have been subdivided or, as Rust explains, purchased by "a single buyer building a luxury estate and permanently closing off access to the land."

The "GoMindego" Campaign

With this acquisition, POST is launching a "GoMindego" campaign to raise \$29.4 million to ensure completion of the final phases of protection of this classic California landscape. POST has set up a special Web site, www.gomindego.org,

where visitors can learn more about the property and the campaign to save it.

POST hopes to raise \$6.9 million from individuals, foundations and other private sources. These funds will be leveraged with an additional \$22.5 million in public funding. The money raised will be used to help cover the costs of property acquisition and management until the land can be transferred to public ownership. Once that happens, you will be able to savor the property's sweeping 360-degree views and



© 2007 Robert Buelteman



© 2007 Robert Buelteman

Silicon Valley

explore numerous hiking trails connecting to a strategic swath of nearly 33,000 acres of protected open space.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has already provided a generous \$2.3 million grant to POST for the campaign.

"The Moore Foundation has identified the protection of Mindego Hill as a vitally important land conservation project, which is why we have stepped forward with funding," said Helen Kim, the foundation's chief program officer for the San Francisco Bay Area. "The natural resources and recreational potential of Mindego Hill are simply extraordinary."

A Home for Wildlife

Mindego Hill is named after Juan Mendico, or "John of the Mountain," a Basque farmer who established a homestead and cattle ranch here in 1859. Nearly a century later, in 1954, the late Admiral Arnold True, a distinguished World War II veteran, and his wife, Corinne, purchased Mindego Hill. The family has continued the tradition of ranching on the land, raising white, hump-backed Brahman cattle as well as Angus cattle and a cross of the two breeds for rodeo bull-riding. When Corinne True died in 2006, the family honored her wishes to preserve Mindego Hill as open space and this year finalized an agreement with POST to permanently protect the land.

Mindego's steep slopes, wind-swept ridges and forested canyons provide critical habitat for a diverse population of wild animals, including mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, meadow mice, pocket gophers, badgers and dusky-footed woodrats. Raptors

© 2007 Ann Duwe



Chris True grew up on Mindego Hill and has raised cattle on the land since he was a teenager.



Five Reasons for You to Help Save **Mindego Hill**

1. Explore a Classic California Landscape

Old ranch roads wind through wildflower meadows, and rural California comes alive. These landscapes are disappearing due to inappropriate development, but at Mindego Hill we have the opportunity to preserve our region's rich natural history.

2. Savor Top-of-the-World Views

From atop Mindego Hill's 2,143-foot peak, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean extend all the way to Monterey Bay. From here, the Santa Cruz Mountain range continues southward in hues of blue, from azure to periwinkle.

3. Save Critical Habitat for Plants and Wildlife

What will you find at Mindego Hill? Quail coveys rustle in the cattails, a red-tailed hawk catches a wave of warm air, and a grove of oaks canopy a rolling stream. The diversity of Mindego Hill's terrain sustains these unique and fragile habitats.

4. Keep Free-flowing Creeks and Streams Clean

Water, that priceless resource, flows freely throughout the property. The streams, creeks, springs and lakes found on Mindego Hill have supported life, both human and animal alike, for centuries.

5. Preserve Precious Open Space Close to Home

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Coal Creek Open Space Preserve—Mindego Hill is destined to join an inspiring patchwork of protected landscapes and hiking destinations, adding more than 1,000 acres to nearly 33,000 acres of nearby safeguarded lands.



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Ponds and lakes used for cattle are also favorite stopping places for migrating birds at Mindego Hill.

such as red-tailed hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, golden eagles, Cooper's hawks, white-tailed kite and peregrine falcons coast overhead, while spotted towhee and California quail skitter through the brush. Other fascinating creatures—western rattlesnakes, blue-bellied lizards and rare and endangered San Francisco garter snakes and California red-legged frogs—also benefit from habitat on the land.

These animals make their home in Mindego Hill's open meadows, towering Douglas-fir and redwood forests, and sparkling creeks. Native grasses such as purple needle grass, blue wild rye, California oatgrass and Idaho fescue cover the hillsides. In spring, eye-popping wildflowers such as owl's clover, ruby chalice clarkia, California poppy, blue-eyed grass, suncups, Johnny jump-ups, checkerbloom, yarrow and sky lupine erupt in vivid color. A variety of oaks—including canyon live oak, coast live oak and blue oak—abound, giving Mindego Hill its distinctive Californian feel.

POST's acquisition of Mindego Hill will also protect four miles of tributaries to San Gregorio Creek, which provides habitat for threatened steelhead trout and Coho salmon. The land is the primary watershed for two waterways, Mindego Creek and Alpine Creek. Two spring-fed lakes, Mindego Lake and Knuedler Lake, provide not only suitable habitat for riparian wildlife but also drinking water for the cattle that graze the land.

A Paradise for People

Mindego Hill is a critical link in a chain of dramatic open lands extending along the spine of the Santa Cruz Mountain range. Once POST's protection of the property is complete, it will be poised to serve as an outdoor enthusiast's paradise, promising miles of recreational enjoyment for casual and experienced hikers alike. With the addition of Mindego Hill to the area's existing network of protected lands, the property's winding

ranch roads and summit trails are likely to connect to neighboring Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, significantly expanding local trail systems.

But before that can happen, POST must oversee the transfer of Mindego Hill into public ownership, a lengthy process that can often take several years. POST's campaign to protect Mindego Hill seeks to accelerate this process. With your help, POST can work to open up this remarkable landscape and place it into public ownership as quickly as possible.

"Mindego Hill has been on POST's top five list of priority projects for more than 27 years, so we are thrilled to work with the True family and our donors to save this land," said Rust. "The protection of Mindego Hill is the capstone of achievement of POST's 30th anniversary, which we are celebrating this year. We're simply overjoyed that this magnificent part of the Peninsula will be preserved for generations of visitors to experience, explore and enjoy at last." ■

Achieve higher ground
at gomindego.org



GoMindego

Mindego Hill requires immediate and extraordinary action to prevent private development of the land.

If we don't protect Mindego Hill now, we could lose this signature landscape forever. Through our "GoMindego" campaign, POST seeks to protect the land's exceptional visual impact, wildlife habitat, watershed resources and recreation potential for the benefit of all. By purchasing this property for ultimate transfer to a public agency, we can ensure permanent protection of the land, so that views remain beautiful, wildlife corridors uninterrupted, waterways pristine and hiking trails bountiful for you to enjoy.

To see more images of Mindego Hill and learn how you can make a difference through the "GoMindego" campaign, please visit our campaign Web site at www.gomindego.org. ■

THE 15TH ANNUAL

WALLACE STEGNER LECTURE SERIES

Storytellers of the Land

SERIES SPONSORS: Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane

Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane invite you to join us for the 15th Annual Wallace Stegner Lecture Series. All lectures will be held at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts beginning at 8:00 p.m.

A lecture series subscription at the Stegner Circle level of \$325 per season ticket or the Patron level of \$175 per season ticket will give you preferred seating at each of the lectures. Series subscriptions for the three lectures are available at \$75. Your tax-deductible contribution will further benefit POST's land conservation work.



WALLACE STEGNER

Tickets are on sale now. You can order series tickets by calling POST at (650) 854-7696 or by mailing in your order form when you receive your lecture series brochure in January.

Single tickets to the three lectures are \$22 and can be ordered through the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts at: (650) 903-6000 or online at www.ci.mtnview.ca.us/mvcpa/mvcpa.html.

All proceeds from the series benefit POST's land-saving mission. For more information, call POST at (650) 854-7696 or email lecture@openspacetrust.org.



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Bill McKibben

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist and author who writes about global warming, alternative energy and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. His essay anthology, *The Bill McKibben Reader: Pieces from an Active Life*, will be published in March 2008. His most recent book, *Fight Global Warming Now*, is the first hands-on guidebook to stopping climate change. His other books include *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future*; *The End of Nature*; *Hope, Human and Wild*; *Maybe One*; *Enough*; and *Wandering Home*.

A former staff writer for *The New Yorker*, McKibben is a frequent contributor to *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Orion Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *Rolling Stone* and *Outside*. He is also a board member and contributor to *Grist Magazine*.

McKibben has been awarded Guggenheim and Lyndhurst fellowships, and won the Lannan Prize for nonfiction writing in 2000. He is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College in Vermont.

LECTURE SPONSOR:
To Be Announced



© Cael Momaday

N. Scott Momaday

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

N. Scott Momaday is a poet, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, playwright, painter, storyteller and professor of English and American literature. He is a Native American (Kiowa), and among his chief interests are Native American art and oral tradition. His books include *House Made of Dawn*; *The Way to Rainy Mountain*; *Angle of Geese*; and *In The Bear's House*. His essays have appeared in *Natural History*, *American West*, *The New York Review of Books* and *The New York Times*.

Momaday has received numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, a Guggenheim Fellowship and a National Institute of Arts and Letters Award. He has held tenured appointments at University of California, Santa Barbara; University of California, Berkeley; Stanford University; and the University of Arizona. He is the founder and chairman of The Buffalo Trust, a nonprofit foundation for the preservation and restoration of Native American culture and heritage.

LECTURE SPONSOR:
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Photo courtesy Kaiulani Lee

Kaiulani Lee as Rachel Carson

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Kaiulani Lee is the actress and writer of *A Sense of Wonder*, a play based on the life and works of pioneering environmentalist Rachel Carson. Lee portrays Carson circa 1963, just as her book *Silent Spring* begins to garner significant public attention, alerting the world to the dangers of DDT and other chemical pesticides.

Lee has performed *A Sense of Wonder* for 15 years. She first performed the play for POST in 1997 and is back by popular demand.

The play—made up of mostly Carson's own words from letters, journal entries and speeches—focuses on *Silent Spring* as well as aspects of Carson's private life not often examined. Lee has performed the play at more than 100 universities, the Smithsonian Institute, and the Sierra Club's Centennial in San Francisco, as well as in Canada, England and Italy.

Lee has worked in theater, film and television for more than 35 years, starring in more than a dozen plays on and off-Broadway. She has been nominated for the Drama Desk Award on Broadway and has won the OBIE Award for outstanding achievement off-Broadway.

LECTURE SPONSOR:
Sand Hill Advisors

Steve Blank Joins POST Board

POST is pleased to welcome Silicon Valley entrepreneur Steve Blank to its Board of Directors.

Steve has a long track record in the high-tech world. He co-founded several companies, including E.piphany, MIPS Computers, Ardent and Rocket Science Games. Now retired from business, he teaches entrepreneurship at the Stanford School of Engineering; Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley; and Columbia Business School. He sits on the boards of two Silicon Valley technology companies, CaféPress and IMVU.



Courtesy of Steve Blank

A passionate advocate for the environment, Steve is a member of the California Coastal Commission. He serves on the National Audubon Society's board of directors and is chair of the board of Audubon California.

In addition to their home in Menlo Park, Steve and his wife, Alison Elliott, own a ranch on the coast near Pescadero adjacent to Año Nuevo State Reserve. In 2004, the couple made a generous \$1 million gift to POST's *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign through the Elliott-Blank Family Foundation.

"POST is the quintessential definition of 'entrepreneurial conservation.' It's creative, agile and effective," said Blank. "POST has become a model for 21st-century land conservation, saving threatened properties that define our experience of California and the American West." ■

POST Earns Praise for Wavecrest

© 2007 Gil Davis



Since POST announced its plan in August to protect 206-acre Wavecrest in Half Moon Bay, donors, community members and the media have voiced enthusiastic support for the project. "The overwhelmingly positive response we have received has been deeply gratifying and nothing short of inspiring," said POST President Audrey Rust.

"POST purchasing the property is a perfect solution to a 20-year project that hadn't moved forward. It ends the many years of many attorneys being involved," according to Marina Fraser, Half Moon Bay City Council member, as quoted in the *San Jose Mercury News*.

POST continues to finalize the acquisition of Wavecrest with the current landowners, to be followed by development of an interim plan exploring mixed use of this extraordinary natural, recreational and scenic resource for Half Moon Bay and the entire Coastsides. ■

Claudia Newbold: Never Too Soon to Give Back

Many people put off estate planning until the last possible moment, yet making a plan before the need is acute has advantages. Just ask Claudia Newbold, POST volunteer and donor since 2004.

Estate planning should be done at a time in people's lives when they are in good health, says Newbold, a resident of Menlo Park and a member of POST's Open Space Legacy Society, which recognizes individuals who have named POST in their wills or trusts. For Newbold and her late husband, Howard Schopman, the process began in 2001, as she was preparing to retire as vice president in charge of taxes for McKesson Corporation.

"Here we were, at a point where we had spent most of our lives accumulating wealth. It was time to give some thought to where it might go after our needs were met."

"Here we were, at a point where we had spent most of our lives accumulating wealth. It was time to give some thought to where it might go after our needs were met," says Newbold. "In our case we had no children, so after designating amounts for relatives, friends and other charities, we agreed on giving what remained to POST. Howard died in 2005, but we had already chosen POST and saving land. We so enjoyed the open lands around us, and we knew we couldn't enjoy them but for the generosity of others in the past."

Newbold is a POST Open Space Guardian and Conservation Easement Monitor. Naming POST in her estate plans further ensures continuation of our land-saving work.



"I had the advantage of familiarity with tax law, but that wasn't the key to our satisfaction with the process," she says. "You concentrate on doing something meaningful and lasting, and you feel good knowing your legacy is in place."

If you are interested in making a planned gift to POST or have already named POST in your estate plans, please call Adelaide Roberts, Director of Planned Giving, at (650) 854-7696. ■

Make Your Tax-free IRA Gift to POST Today!

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows individuals age 70 1/2 and up to make charitable gifts up to \$100,000 from traditional and Roth IRA's without having to count the gifts as taxable income. This current legislation is in effect only until December 31, 2007. To make an IRA gift to POST, please call Adelaide Roberts at (650) 854-7696.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The 2006-07 fiscal year was not only a year of exciting accomplishments at POST, it was a year of significant growth, change and renewal for this evolving organization.

Last year, POST completed several long-range conservation projects that have added thousands of acres of open space to our region, including the transfers of Lower Purisima Creek, Driscoll Ranch and Stevens Canyon Ranch to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for permanent protection. We supported the passage of Proposition 84 in the November 2006 election to protect California's natural resources and attract much-needed funding to water and parks projects here on the Peninsula. We made good on the promise of our coastal campaign to reopen beach access at Whaler's Cove at Pigeon Point. And we seized an opportunity to protect Little Basin, a recreational treasure in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

We also conducted extensive behind-the-scenes preparation leading up to at least five new projects, including the acquisition of Mindego Hill, a spectacular ranch just minutes from Silicon Valley. And we moved into new headquarters in downtown Palo Alto—a change that has filled our Board and staff with new energy and enthusiasm for the road ahead.

These projects are part of a larger strategic plan for POST, which is still in its development phase. With a refined vision and ambitious goals, POST—with the help of generous supporters like you—will be able to continue saving our most beautiful and precious natural lands for a long time to come.

As POST wraps up its 30th anniversary year, we extend to you, our donors, our deepest thanks for your steadfast commitment and support. With you by POST's side, there is nothing we can't accomplish.

Karie Thomson
Chair, POST Board of Directors

Audrey C. Rust
President, POST

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following is a report of POST's revenues and expenses during the fiscal year from July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Contributions and grants	\$ 3,900,999
Land contributed for conservation	\$ 15,053,000
Investment income	\$ 14,216,346
Rental and other income	\$ 1,154,598
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 34,324,943

EXPENSES

Purchases of conservation easements and gifts of land to public agencies	\$ 25,759,203
Conservation program	\$ 2,685,091
Interest paid on land transactions	\$ 82,308
Total conservation expenses	\$ 28,526,602
Fundraising and communication	\$ 1,490,039
General and administrative	\$ 846,175
Total fundraising and administrative	\$ 2,336,214
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 30,862,816

Land acquisitions	\$ 5,700,000
Total	\$ 5,700,000



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.

Bluebrush Canyon © 2006 Robert Buelteman

Gifts of Stock

Stock gifts are a wonderful way to make a gift to POST. A gift of securities is fully tax-deductible at its market value at the time of your contribution. An added benefit is that by contributing your stock directly to POST, you avoid the capital gains tax. POST can sell stocks tax-free and use 100 percent of your gift to support our land-saving work. To make a gift of stock to POST, please do the following:

Step 1: Contact your stockbroker, who can make a direct electronic transfer of your stock certificates to POST's account with the following information:

DTC #226 National Financial Services
Account name: Peninsula Open Space Trust
Account number: P61-045870

Banc of America Investment Services
555 California Street, 7th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104
Mail code: CA5-705-07-41
Attention: Tammy Lilliston (415) 627-2750
or Tom Katilius (415) 627-2749
Fax: (415) 835-2875

Step 2: Give your stockbroker POST's taxpayer identification number: 94-2392007.

Step 3: Notify POST as soon as the transfer instructions have been given so that we can alert our stockbroker. Please provide POST with the name of the security, the number of shares to be donated, and the name and phone number of your stockbroker. To notify POST, please call:

Kathleen Ward, Development Associate
Peninsula Open Space Trust
222 High Street
Palo Alto, CA 94301
Tel: (650) 854-7696

Thank you for your support of POST and for your commitment to the San Francisco Peninsula's open space lands! ■



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Introducing POST's New Look at www.openspacetrust.org



POST has a new face online! We've redesigned our Web site to feature stunning new property images, a clickable interactive property map, more frequent content updates, easier ways to give online, and more!

We invite you to explore www.openspacetrust.org and share your feedback as we continue to improve and enhance the site.

We welcome your comments at post@openspacetrust.org.



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WINTER 2007

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