



f you're reading this, it means you're a friend of POST—you've generously donated time, money or both to support the work we do. Or perhaps you're new to POST and are learning more about who we are.

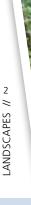
Either way, you probably know POST is a private, nonprofit land trust, and that our mission is to protect and care for open space, parks and farmland in and around Silicon Valley. But what does that mean? How does POST's work as a land trust benefit you, your family and your community? And what difference does it make in the face of so many challenges facing our local environment—from population pressures to climate change?

If you've ever driven down coastal Highway 1 and been awed at the sight of seemingly endless beaches and surf...if you've hiked in the cooling shade of a Santa Cruz Mountain redwood forest on a soft, needle-strewn trail...tasted fresh Brussels sprouts from a local farmer's market...or gazed up at Windy Hill from traffic-choked streets of the Peninsula...then you've experienced firsthand the benefits of the work POST has been doing for the past 36 years.

As your local land trust, POST purchases and receives donations of land under threat of development, then monitors and maintains these lands to safeguard their natural character. We work closely with private landowners, public agency partners, foundations and other land trusts to ensure that the lands we save today remain protected forever.

In the face of new and complicated challenges, including budget cuts and competing interests at federal, state, county and local levels, it is now up to POST to take the lead. By honoring the support of our donors, building trusted relationships and leveraging the expertise of our founders, Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and advisors, we are creating a legacy of local land conservation that benefits us all.



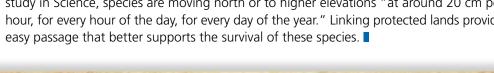


the Wild Side of Silicon Valley

Seven Ways Protected Land Improves Our Lives

Your support enables POST to save land that impacts our quality of life in many ways, including:

- MENTAL HEALTH A 2011 American Psychologist article notes that "therapeutic lifestyle changes"—including exercise, nutrition and spending time in nature—can be as effective as drugs or counseling for improving mental health. Some doctors now dispense "park prescriptions" to combat stress and depression.
- PHYSICAL HEALTH The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports 36 percent of adults and 17 percent of children in the U.S. are obese. A 2012 CDC fact sheet states, "People who are physically active live longer and have a lower risk for heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, depression, and some cancers." POST's work has helped create tens of thousands of acres of open space and hundreds of miles of trails, providing free or low-cost opportunities for health improvement.
- NUTRITION The U.S. Department of Agriculture's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative promotes familiarity with local food as a way to increase fresh food consumption. Of the more than 70,000 acres POST has protected, more than 15 percent is grazing or row-crop land, some of which provides fresh food for local farmers markets, stores and restaurants.
- CLEAN WATER AND AIR Plants and trees block runoff from paved areas and filter pollutants from local creeks and streams that provide drinking water. Trees also clean our air. A 2012 study by health product manufacturer Kaz listed the Bay Area in the top 25 regions nationwide for air quality. Factors considered include green initiatives, like limiting emissions and promoting greenbelts.
- LOCAL ECONOMY. According to the 2013 Silicon Valley Index, job growth in Silicon Valley from 2011 to 2012 was up 3.6 percent compared to the national rate of 1.7 percent. Nearby beaches, parks, trails and access to locally grown food are effective recruiting and retention tools for employers.
- **BIODIVERSITY** We live in one of Conservation International's 34 global biodiversity hot spots. More than 2,100 plants and nearly 20 animals exist only in the Bay Area. POSTprotected properties include some of these species, helping outdoor enthusiasts and researchers appreciate firsthand the role we all play in a healthy and balanced ecosystem.
- CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION As climate change affects temperature, rainfall, sea levels and growth cycles, plants and animals have started to migrate. According to a 2011 study in Science, species are moving north or to higher elevations "at around 20 cm per hour, for every hour of the day, for every day of the year." Linking protected lands provides easy passage that better supports the survival of these species.



Spread the Word!

Please share this newsletter with friends, family, coworkers and neighbors. Visit us online at www.openspacetrust.org and www.facebook.com/POSTfans.







POST AND MROSD: A Lasting Partnership

ometimes when we're at an event or out in the field we get a question or comment that reminds us that people can confuse POST with the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD, also known as "the District" or "Midpen"), and vice versa. That's understandable given POST's origins and decades of a highly effective conservation partnership with MROSD. That's why we thought we'd take a moment to set the record straight.

POST was founded in 1977 as a private nonprofit that acquires land with the goal of transferring it for permanent protection. At the time, our focus was on aiding the five-year-old MROSD, a public agency that acquires and manages land for conservation and public recreation. POST's role was to raise money and work with landowners who shied away from dealing with a public agency.

In the beginning, POST used its funds to quickly purchase properties and transfer them to MROSD for permanent care and, where appropriate, public access. We continue to share a strong and successful relationship with MROSD, but POST now works with many other public partners, as well, to move land into permanent protection.



	Peninsula Open Space Trust POST	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District MROSD
Founding	Founded in 1977 by a group of ten Silicon Valley visionaries as an outgrowth of MROSD.	Founded in 1972 by voter initiative.
Organization	Private nonprofit governed by a Board of Directors.	Public agency special district governed by an elected Board of Directors.
Staffing	Employs 32 permanent employees.	Employs 97 permanent employees and a dozen seasonal staff.
Funding	Funding comes from private donors and foundation grants, with additional grants from public conservation agencies.	Primary funding comes from property taxes. Secondary funding sources include government grants, rental income and donations.
Geographic Scope	San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties.	Covers an area of 550 square miles that includes 17 cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.
Land Management	Primarily, acquires land with the goal of transferring it for permanent protection to public agencies or to private ownership subject to use restrictions.	Acquires, manages and restores land for habitat, water- and viewshed protection and low-intensity recreational public uses such as hiking and biking.

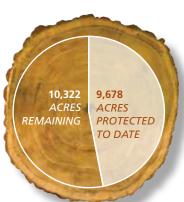
Heart of the Redwoods Campaign Hits Halfway Mark

early 9,700 acres of redwood forest have been saved through the generosity of donors like you. As POST continues the drive to reach the \$50 million Heart of the Redwoods Campaign goal, we are happy to report that we have raised \$5.3 million toward our \$10 million goal from individual supporters.

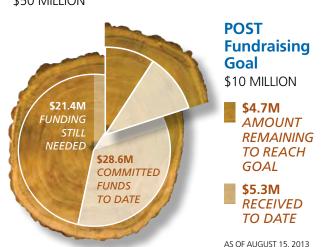
To learn how you can make a difference in protecting these irreplaceable forests, contact POST Director of Individual Gifts Kathleen Phan at kphan@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x303.



Land Protection Goal 20,000 ACRES



Campaign Goal \$50 MILLION



Take a Trip to the Redwoods with POST Videos



he trees in the Peters Creek Old-growth Forest in La Honda are hundreds of feet tall and true originals, having escaped the saws that turned many redwood trees into shingles and furniture centuries ago. Thanks to a new video by POST and Save the Redwoods League, you can see these ancient giants up close and appreciate the effort to save them and our other disappearing local redwood forests.

The two organizations recently partnered to protect the Peters Creek property adjacent to Portola Redwoods State Park. You can learn more about this project and other POST Heart of the Redwoods Campaign properties by visiting our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/POSTPaloAltoCA.



Student Verse Puts Redwoods First

n April, POST held a contest in honor of National Poetry Month. The theme was Redwood Rhymes (although poetry could be non-rhyming and in any form). We received the bulk of our entries from students, so it's no surprise they make up our finalists. Isabel Michael, Emmy Hicks Jablons and Chris Shigezumi were all in Michelle Yi-Martin's 8th grade humanities class at the San Francisco School when they learned about the contest. Rachel Rothberg of Palo Alto learned about the contest from her mom, who saw it on POST's Facebook page. We are pleased to share poems from these young writers who were inspired by and, in turn, inspired us with their redwood forest experiences.

First Place

A Bridge by Isabel Michael

He sits under my dense, cool shade.

My sturdy trunk scratches his back, and microscopic bugs whizz around his face.

He stares across the silvery waters of the river into the thick, mysterious forest.

What could be on the other side?

Interest, curiosity and fear tangle together.

I have begun to lean, lean, lean.

Once proud and indestructible, now growing old over the many years.

A strong, violent storm raged last night and I have fallen.

I stretch over the river, creating a bridge towards the unexplored territory.

He whispered to me about how his grandmother died last month.

I know he fears life without her reassuring presence.

She taught him the importance of curiosity, exploring and risk-taking.

"How will you learn anything new if you are never scared?"

He is unsure, but he will walk across the bridge I have made, to discover the other side.

He climbs onto my slippery bark, wobbly at first.

Right foot, left foot, tentative, like a baby learning to walk.

Right, left, right, left, over the river, until his foot presses into the damp soil.

Second Place

Redwoods by Emmy Hicks Jablons

They stand—breathless.

Their loftiness overlooks the woods,

shadows drift across their brambly bark.

They watch—determined.

Loose fogs creep,

bathing their parched roots.

They rest—their bodies, still tense.

Their quiet lulls the world to sleep.



Third Place

Nature's Juggernaut by Chris Shigezumi

The wind swoops down as it tries to plow the trees.

Like a hurricane, it shakes the ground with fright.

Branches are ravaged and crack to the chaos.

Leaves tussle and tug as they try to grip an arm.

Plants and flowers are trampled by gusts of wind.

Life being launched, pitched, and heaved away by the cruel cyclone.

But the one that will never yield,
the one that stands stronger than a steel wall, higher than the black sky,
with roots more secure than a vault,
its trunk's skin tougher than a tank's iron shield.

For no matter the coming storm,
the wise redwood trees still stand tallest of all.

Honorable Mention

The Redwood Giant by Rachel Rothberg

I stand at the base of a large redwood tree in the middle of a clearing in the woods.

Eyes closed, I take a deep breath and my hands grip the bark's ancient wrinkles and crevices.

Tough bare feet clutch the tree as I inch higher towards the first branch on this red giant.

Finally, I stand on the first stair of the long spiral staircase, Staring in awe at the task that awaits me.

The wind swirls and dances in my hair as I take the smooth, cold branches step by step.

The sun's rays glimmer through the leaves and cast an emerald glow on my reaching hands.

Sitting on a branch forty feet off the ground, I look up the rest of the trunk to the sky above.

My feet occasionally bump the tree gently, and I wonder, Can the giant feel the vibrations my feet send, the slight movements, to its core?

Thick and sturdy, the layers have endured hundreds of years and more to come,

A tale to tell for each ring hidden like a secret inside the wood, Longer than I will ever live, more stories that I will never tell. The moment's silence is perfect, but it is broken

By the flutter of a deep blue bird's wings, who lands on the branch just above my head.

His feathers are like the deepest part of the ocean, though he has never glimpsed it before.

His home is the jade stone of the forest, not the sapphire stone of the sea.

The Stellar's Jay is my only companion here in the peaceful arms of the tree.

I want to remain in the redwood's embrace forever, with the clear summer sky around me,

But I know I will have to climb back down each and every limb that has taken me this far.

The wind tells me stories as I sway with the tree in its uppermost branches.

The bird and I exchanging meaningless sounds—cheerful chatter, chirps, chortles—

I pretend we are pondering life.

I realize life is related to the tree, with societies and structures that branch off into leaves, each an individual person.

I climb the tree of life as I age, discovering safe havens, comfortable places, and smooth branches without splinters to rest on.

Companions visit me along the way, but sometimes they leave and are replaced by new ones.

Once I get close enough to the top of the tree, I know I will be able to see the view and get the bigger picture.

I know I will learn to appreciate more as I scale each limb.

Some branches I will remember more than others.

Some companions I will miss more than others.

If I fall, it might take me longer to get back up again than other times, depending on how far the drop is.

The jay and I figure out this much,

And with that shared understanding, the jay flies away.

I am not sad or lonely, just hopeful for the next time we will meet again.

Satisfied with my time in the branches of the grand redwood, I start the journey back down to Earth, Ready for my next return.



POST Joins Alliance to Bolster the Future of Local Farming

he future of agriculture in San Mateo County is linked to a broad spectrum of stakeholders. That's why farmers, public agency representatives, landowners, land trusts and others with an interest in local food have been meeting regularly as participants in the San Mateo County Food System Alliance (FSA). POST has recently joined these meetings, where the different members exchange ideas about how to keep local farmland in production and economically viable.

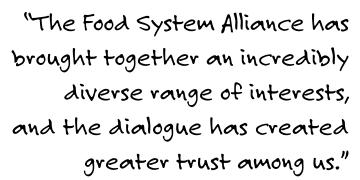
POST's long history of land protection has always included row-crop and grazing land. We have worked with farm bureaus, ranchers and farmers over the years to help agriculture remain an active part of our area. These lands and the centuries-old

tradition they represent are at an increased risk of disappearing, so POST is exploring new tools to help farmland remain in agricultural production and help new farmers find ways to buy land or build equity in the lands they're leasing.

"As POST expands its role in protection of local farmland, it's important to hear the concerns of tenants, landowners, market owners, health officials, the farm bureau—in short, everyone with an interest in food from seed to table," says Paul Ringgold, POST's vice president of stewardship. "FSA has brought together an incredibly diverse range of interests, and the dialogue has created greater trust among us."

Several FSA organizations are conducting studies on the economics of agriculture in San Mateo County, with the results expected over the next several months. This includes a survey by POST examining the viability of agricultural production in the county. That work is being done in stages, with full results expected in spring 2014. Sharing the results of the various studies will strengthen the ability of all FSA partners to make informed decisions as they collaborate on the future of local agriculture.

TOP Rancho Corral de Tierra // JOHN WHITE 10,
LEFT Blue House Farms // PAOLO VESCIA 08. RIGHT // STEVE SCHECTER 10







Get online to get the latest!

Visit www.openspacetrust.org for POST news, events and campaign updates.









Find activities, photos and more fun when you connect with us via Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and Pinterest.

Ridgeline Donors Help POST Reach for the Sky(line)!

kyline Ridge is a source of inspiration to many, including POST. This local landscape gave rise to the name for our Skyline Society, recognizing donors who contribute \$1,000 or more to POST annually. It also inspired Skyline Society's newest giving group, called Ridgeline. Through this designation, POST recognizes annual donors whose gifts of \$5,000 or more provide essential generous support for our land-saving work. Ridgeline donors receive all the benefits of Skyline Society membership plus the opportunity to participate in a special Ridgeline spring outing on a POST-protected property.

This April, Ridgeline donors were invited to a "Signs of Wildlife" workshop at POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches. Participants learned to identify signs of wildlife by observing animal tracks, plant and bird life. Seeing the diversity of animal tracks on Cloverdale—in addition to the rich bird, plant and snake life—illustrated the importance of protecting corridors of land to preserve valuable habitat and landscapes in the Bay Area.

To learn more about the Skyline Society and the Ridgeline giving level, contact POST Director of Donor Engagement Linda Chin at Ichin@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x338.





PHOTOS 1 Getting warmed up for a day out on the land. 2 A variety of tracks highlighted the diverse population of local wildlife.
3 Participants learned to look for signs of animal passage. // PAOLO VESCIA 13

Leave a Legacy of Protected Land

Planned gifts are one of the most meaningful ways to express your commitment to protecting beautiful landscapes. You can include POST in your will or trust or make POST a beneficiary of retirement accounts and life insurance. POST's tax ID number is 94-2392007.

If you have already included POST in your long-term plans, please let us know so we may acknowledge you as a member of our Open Space Legacy Society.

For more information, contact POST Director of Planned Giving Jeanine Crider at jcrider@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x312.



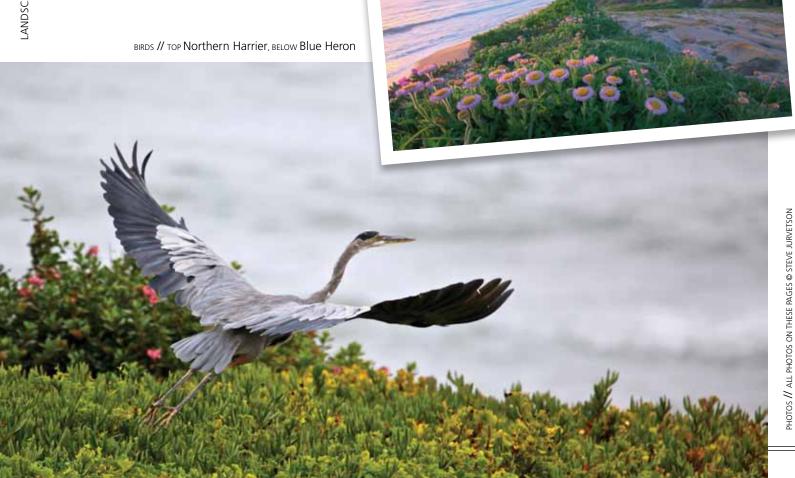
Walking on Air at Wavecrest

Inding a peaceful place to watch and photograph nature and take a break from the hectic pace of Silicon Valley is important to POST donor Steve Jurvetson. He and his wife, Karla, a former POST Board member, know how important it is to protect land in order to achieve that serenity. Steve is a partner in the venture capital firm of Draper Fisher Jurvetson in Menlo Park. Karla is a psychiatrist in private practice in Los Altos. For an easy escape, the couple frequently visits POST-protected Wavecrest in Half Moon Bay.

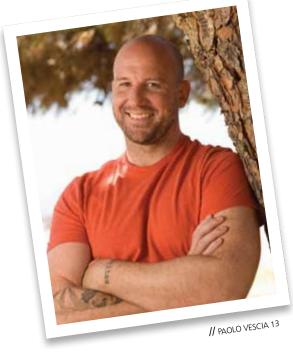
Wavecrest is a 206-acre property acquired by POST in 2008. It was Half Moon Bay's last undeveloped land bridge from Highway 1 to the sea, and repeatedly at risk for development. You can hike, jog, walk your dog or do some bird-watching, all with a spectacular view of the Pacific Ocean, making Wavecrest ideally situated to provide a key link along the California Coastal Trail. Leadership gifts from the Jurvetsons and former POST board member Steve Blank and his wife, Alison Elliot, helped make the protection of Wavecrest possible.

"We appreciate how accessible the San Mateo oceanside bluffs are," says Karla. "There are many herons and red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks in the air, and seals and the occasional spinner dolphin in the sea."

POST is working with the Coastside Land Trust to establish a "Bird Trail" along Wavecrest as part of the Coastal Trail to highlight the importance of the landscape and acknowledge how people have partnered to protect wildlife habitat.







Facebook Executive Andrew Bosworth Joins POST Board of Directors

s director of advertising at Facebook, Andrew Bosworth's professional life may revolve around online innovations, but his feet are planted firmly on the ground. He currently oversees Facebook ad engineering, product management and design, but grew up on his family's farmland in Saratoga. He has a great passion for finding that balance between business, agriculture and conservation, particularly in Silicon Valley, where those interests are increasingly colliding. Andrew believes POST can make a difference.

"My late grandfather, Vince Garrod, was on POST's Board for many years, and my uncle, Jan Garrod, is on the Board now. I want to continue my family's legacy and bring my personal and professional experiences full-circle. I want people to know POST is the environmental conservancy of note in the Bay Area. If you care about the local environment, this is the place you need to be giving," he says.

As the creator of Facebook's now-standard News Feed and Groups features, Andrew appreciates the impact of innovation on the way people receive and share information. "The rise of digital technology and the industry surrounding it has altered the natural and cultural landscapes of Silicon Valley," he says. "I believe I can bring some insight into how POST can take advantage of digital tools to reach a new generation of supporters."

POST President Walter T. Moore agrees: "Andrew possesses a powerful blend of high-tech savvy and down-to-earth know-how. He recognizes the complex threats facing the remaining open spaces in and around Silicon Valley, and the need to weigh urban development pressures against preserving landscapes that benefit us in so many ways. We feel fortunate to have Andrew on our Board."



Daniel Olstein Becomes POST's New Director of Land Stewardship

OST is pleased to welcome Daniel Olstein as our new director of land stewardship. For the past two years, Dan served as the executive director of the River Exchange, a nonprofit that promotes healthy watersheds in the headwaters of the Sacramento River. Before that, he spent a decade with The Nature Conservancy in Florida, North Carolina and here in California, where he was director of the Conservancy's 1.5 million-acre Mount Hamilton Project.

"Dan brings an incredible amount of experience and passion to what we do," says POST Vice President of Land Stewardship Paul Ringgold. "He understands the day-to-day challenges of maintaining and restoring the lands we protect, as well as the big-picture strategies around linking protected lands for maximum impact."

Dan is excited about the variety of opportunities the role provides. "POST has a diverse suite of properties—from redwoods to open space to agricultural land—each with its own challenges and rewards," he says. "It's a great chance to promote protection and stewardship of these different landscapes and help shape a compelling vision of conservation throughout our area."

// PAOLO VESCIA 13

New Scientific Advisory Council Provides Expert Guidance to POST

hrough a newly created Scientific Advisory Council, POST is linking its local land conservation to thinkers who are at the forefront of environmental science and research. The council will offer knowledge and advice as POST addresses the increasing challenges of preserving land for sustainable agriculture, creating linkages that help wildlife and vegetation adapt to climate change, and managing landscapes that impact water quality and supply.

The advisory council's members are all eminent practitioners in their respective fields. You can find their short biographies at www.openspacetrust.org under "Who We Are."



Will Allen Urban farming pioneer and CEO, Growing Power



David Mas MasumotoAuthor and thirdgeneration farmer



Bob Berner Former executive director, Marin Agricultural Land Trust



Reed Noss President, Florida Institute for Conservation Science



Meg Caldwell Executive director, Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University



Rebecca Shaw Associate vice president, Environmental Defense Fund



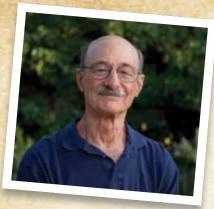
Gretchen Daily Director, Center for Conservation Biology, Stanford University



Chris Wilmers
Associate Professor
of Environmental
Studies,
UC Santa Cruz



Jerry F. Franklin Professor of Ecosystem Analysis, University of Washington



POST 2013 Volunteer of the Year: Don Savant

or the past 20 years, Don Savant has served as one of POST's conservation easement monitors, leading the team responsible for the 640-acre, privately owned Pesky Ranch in Pescadero. This year he was named POST's Volunteer of the Year.

Conservation easements are legal agreements between a property owner and a conservation organization, like POST, that restrict the activities that may take place on easement-protected land. POST currently holds 27 conservation easements.

"Without our volunteers, POST would be hard-pressed to keep an eye on so many different conditions and so many properties," says POST President Walter T. Moore. "Volunteers help stretch donor dollars to protect as much threatened open space as possible. We are extremely grateful for the positive impact Don's volunteer work has on fellow volunteers, landowners and the community."

Don and his wife, Mary, have been POST donors since 1984. "Being a land volunteer at POST gives you access to gorgeous, private land that is not open to the public," Don says. "You have the joy of discovering its hidden beauties—a waterfall, a grove of ancient redwood trees, wonderful views from the land's high points. It's satisfying to build relationships with people who care about the land."

Joint Hikes with POST and MROSD

POST and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) held two hikes this spring on land saved by POST and later transferred to MROSD. The "Head Honchos Hike" on May 17 at Windy Hill featured POST President Walter T. Moore and MROSD General Manager Stephen E. Abbors. On June 1, POST Vice President for Land Stewardship Paul Ringgold and MROSD Natural Resource Manager Kirk Lenington led a "Walk Among the Tall Trees" at Bear Creek Redwoods. The purpose of the hikes was to highlight the long relationship and shared accomplishments of POST and MROSD. More joint hikes are being planned for the future.

POST Sponsors Tour de Peninsula

On August 4, more than 1,400 cyclists took a ride around the San Francisco Peninsula, and POST helped cheer them along. Now in its 22nd year, the Tour de Peninsula, hosted by the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Foundation, featured food, music and family fun with bike trails for kids and road courses ranging from 20 to 63 miles. POST was an event sponsor and participated onsite to let riders know about the protected lands along the route.

Volunteers at Home on the Range

POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property has been home to farming and grazing operations for generations. On June 20, POST volunteers witnessed firsthand how agriculture and conservation can work together. This year's volunteer training event featured Doniga Markegard, of Markegard Family Grass-Fed, speaking about planned grazing and the benefits it provides to livestock and the landscape on which they live.



Outreach Volunteers Needed

POST is looking for Outreach Volunteers to help staff fairs, festivals, presentations and hikes. Please contact POST Conservation Easement Program Manager Abigail Adams at aadams@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x330 for more information and application materials.

RIGHT // POST 13



POST // Tribute Gifts

Gifts received March 1-June 30, 2013.

IN MEMORY OF

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Tall, healthy trees
The amazing POST team
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Bruce and Paula Tomlinson

Fernando Torres Ted and Nancy Vian Heather Wakelee Margaret Wallace Marilyn Walter Del and Donna Wilbanks POST

LANDSCAPES

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Join Us for Our Annual All Donor Hike

Saturday, November 2, 10am-12pm Butano Farms, Pescadero

ome see the lands you help save by joining POST for our annual All Donor Hike at Butano Farms. This recently protected 903-acre working ranch and farm is part of POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property and overlooks the town of Pescadero, the Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve and the Pacific Ocean. In addition to incredible views, you'll enjoy learning about the colorful history of this stunning property and how it fits into POST's ongoing protection of local farmland.

To reserve your spot and receive directions, please contact us at walks@openspacetrust.org or (650) 854-7696 x310.