

## When is “Green” not Green?



By Lennie Roberts

**S**o-called “green” developments are not at all “green” if they are out of scale, poorly designed, located in sensitive habitats such as wetlands, situated in hazardous locations such as floodplains, or consume precious prime agricultural land. In fact, such projects could well give the burgeoning green building movement a bad name.

On the coast, the 225,000 sq. ft. Big Wave Office Park and 70-unit Big Wave Wellness Center propose an impressive array of “green” features, including alternative energy systems, on-site wastewater treatment/recycling/disposal systems, and restoration of wetlands. Its sponsors are seeking LEED\* Platinum certification.

Yet Big Wave is hardly a green project. Its potential impacts on the site’s wetlands and endangered species at the adjacent Pillar Point Marsh, proximity to an Ohlone burial site, paving over of prime agricultural lands, and massive 50-foot high buildings make its touted green features problematic. Because the site is not served by convenient transit, the project will generate an estimated 2,200 daily vehicle trips, which must use substandard, narrow roads to access the site.

In Redwood City, Cargill/DMB’s proposed development of a sprawling mini-city on restorable Bay wetlands is hardly an example

of “green” thinking. This is not an infill site, and the “Saltworks” 30,000 new residents would add tremendous strain to an already gridlocked Highway 101 and Woodside Road. Extraordinary measures will be necessary to protect future residents from ordinary flooding, to say nothing of future sea level rise. The developer recently announced a deal to transfer water from the Kern River to Redwood City for this project. Such a transfer could potentially involve blending Delta water with the Bay Area’s pristine Hetch Hetchy water. This could be a significant adverse impact to all 2 million customers of the Hetch Hetchy system.

Big Wave and the Redwood City Saltworks mini-city are two huge projects located in the wrong places and it’s relatively easy to see their negative attributes. Less dramatic, but equally problematic, is the trend to build McMansions on country estates far from urban services. On a per capita basis, these supersize houses consume a disproportionate share of land, energy, and other resources, and require expensive and resource consuming service and maintenance throughout their usable lifetime.

To be truly green, we need to think about building in the right places and living sustainably. Location, design, and restraint are equally important components of the green universe. **CGF**

\* LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design



**COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS**

**Committee for Green Foothills** is a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Committee for Green Foothills mission is to protect the open space, farmlands, and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through advocacy, education and grassroots action.

**Committee for Green Foothills**  
3921 East Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

info@GreenFoothills.org  
www.GreenFoothills.org  
Phone: 650-968-7243  
Fax: 650-968-8431

**STAFF**

Cynthia D'Agosta  
**Executive Director**  
Lennie Roberts  
**Legislative Advocate, San Mateo County**  
Brian Schmidt  
**Legislative Advocate, Santa Clara County**  
Wendee Crofoot **Office Manager**  
Anthony Aerts, **Intern**  
Annika Christensen, **Intern**  
Camilo Delay, **Intern**  
Kelsey Wolfgram, **Intern**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Margaret MacNiven **President**  
Matthew Burrows **Vice President**  
Bill Whitmer **Treasurer**  
Helen Chapman **Secretary**  
Mary Davey  
Paul Davis  
Jim Foran  
Gail Kaiser  
Alex Kennett  
Jeff Segall  
Ashwin Sunder  
April Vargas

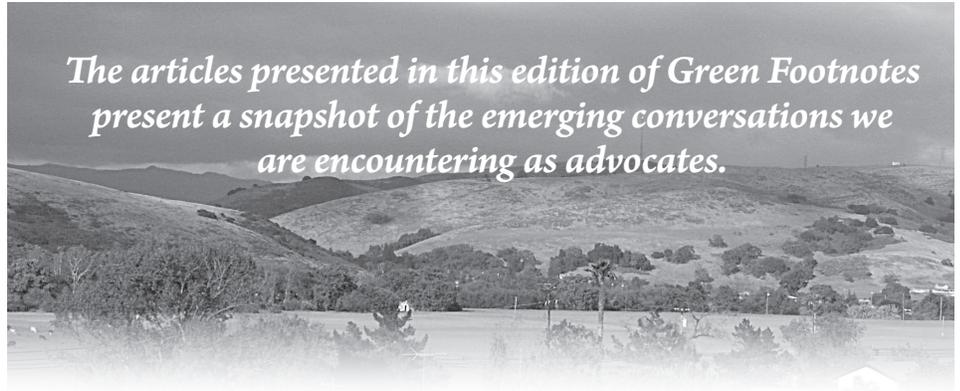
**Green Footnotes** is published three times a year by the Committee for Green Foothills for friends and supporters.

**EDITOR**

Mahlon Hubenthal

**LAYOUT**

Bill Murray



**A**fter some discussion, CGF staff and Board members decided to dedicate this edition of Green Footnotes to the topic, “green on green”. Our discussions left me reminiscing about the days when “going green” referred to heading to Yosemite, or hiking the green foothills of East San Jose, or simply going to the park to play. And when in college, I was green simply because I wore Earth shoes, ate vegetarian and organic food from the Ben Lomand Co-op, and drove a VW bus. The meaning of “being green” has undergone many changes since CGF was founded in 1962 and since the first Earth Day in 1970.

## From the Executive Director

Cynthia D'Agosta

The founders and early followers of CGF chose the word “green” to represent keeping the foothills open, free of development and in a natural state. They wrote and spoke passionately about land stewardship and preservation and fought hard for protection of open space. And they thought of themselves as being green. Today, we continue

the work of our founders to protect open space; however our fight becomes more difficult as the term “green”, applied to buildings and technology, is used to justify developing our precious lands.

The label “green” is so widely used now that people are confused about what is environmentally sound and what is truly green.

The articles presented in this edition of Green Footnotes present a snapshot of the emerging conversations we are encountering as advocates.

- Advocate Brian Schmidt questions local mine impacts, versus shipping massive materials long distances;
- Bob Power presents the trade offs in San Jose Water Treatment plant between habitat and funding sources for the improvements;
- Advocate Lennie Roberts looks at two important San Mateo County projects and asks the question, when is green not green?;
- Ron Erskine, who took a hike with CGF members, shares his experience and insights about why it’s important to save open space;

As the green movement continues to evolve, we at CGF continue to advocate for a truly “green” environment. 

# Thanks to our summer interns and welcome new board members

**O**ur capable and organized Executive Director, **Cynthia D'Agosta**, has so much energy. She has been with the Committee for Green Foothills for two years now, and in that time has moved the organization forward with vision, foresight and leadership. She approaches her work with clarity and is always willing to do the research and go that extra mile necessary to understand fully each new issue that crosses her desk. She is excited by and thrives on the work we do here at CGF. How she does it all mystifies me. So I am delighted to report that this summer CGF welcomes three young and motivated interns who are helping her as she maintains her busy schedule and expands the scope of our work.

**Kelsey Wolfgram** has just completed her junior year at Saint Francis High School in Mountain View. Volunteering has been a large part of Kelsey's life since 5th grade. Her hours of philanthropy earned her the Founder Award from the National Charity League's Heritage Oaks Chapter.

Kelsey is working this summer with former CGF Board member, **Tom Jordan**, on our History Project, sorting through and organizing 48 years of CGF memorabilia as we prepare for our 50th anniversary in 2012.

**Annika Christensen** has just completed her freshman year at Barnard College in New York where she is studying Spanish, Music and Biology. Not only is she Vice President of the Columbia Glee Club, she is also a member of the Barnard Emerging Leaders Program. At CGF this summer Annika will be drawing on both her leadership and bilingual skills as we work to make CGF a presence in East Palo Alto by extending our outreach to leaders in that community.

**Anthony Aerts** has just completed his B.A. from Stanford University in Public Policy, concentrating on Agricultural Policy and Law. He grew up in Nebraska on a farm that has been in his family for 5 generations and has a love for nature and agriculture as well as an awareness of the need to protect open space through public policy. Anthony's internship is sponsored by the Bill Lane Center for the American West where he is part of their Intern Program focusing on western water issues. At CGF he is documenting the history, landscape and ecology of the San Francisquito Creek watershed, as well as working with our Santa Clara advocate, **Brian Schmidt**, on agricultural and water issues in South County.

**Camilo Delay** is a senior at Sequoia High School who received an International Baccalaureate Internship award this summer. As his project, Camilo chose to create a virtual three-dimensional simulation of the proposed Saltworks project

*Our newest members add to an already illustrious group, a group which I am excited to be a part of, particularly as we move towards 50 productive and effective years as an environmental organization in the Bay Area.*

of Redwood City. Camilo plans to pursue Industrial Design in college and described the project as providing real world experience toward that goal. CGF provided the internship oversight; direct mentoring was conducted by Mr. Bryan Beck of Redwood City. The project will be shared with citizens to help visualize the potential impact of this impending project.

I want to thank **Norm Arslan**, a member of the Committee for Green Foothills, who is volunteering his time with us updating our media contact list, as well as the list of public officials in our sphere of influence. An arduous task indeed, but one which has streamlined our outreach, particularly for our annual Nature's Inspirations event.

I am honored to welcome three talented individuals to the Board of CGF.

We welcome **Jeff Segall** back to the Board after a year's hiatus. Jeff is past president of CGF and chair of the Stanford Open Space Alliance. He has a depth of knowledge of the history of environmental issues in the Bay Area that is invaluable to our organization.

**Paul Davis** lives in Los Altos, and is a former Executive Vice President for Semi, a not-for-profit company in the high tech industry. He is also a former trustee of the Chewonki Foundation, an environmental organization in Maine that runs educational programs for youth. Paul loves to hike and bike the Bay Area trails. He has jumped on board, already adding much to our planned member outreach program, our web site update, and Nature's Inspirations planning.

**Ashwin Sunder** has a deeply ingrained love of nature, and his future interests are in contributing to land stewardship and conservation. He lives in San Francisco and works for Google. Ashwin's understanding of environmental issues is both refreshing and encouraging to us, as we begin to pass the baton on to the next generation.

It is my pleasure to be President of the Board of Directors this year. Our newest members add to an already illustrious group, a group which I am excited to be a part of, particularly as we move towards 50 productive and effective years as an environmental organization in the Bay Area. **CGF**



Anthony Aerts



Annika Christensen



Kelsey Wolfgram

# Green versus Green at Byxbee Park

By Brian Schmidt

**A**s Committee for Green Foothills' advocate working to protect open space and natural resources in Santa Clara County, I usually have little difficulty determining the most environmentally-beneficial option when presented with two choices. However, the controversy over a proposed composting operation at Byxbee Park is the hardest choice I have faced in my seven years at CGF.

While not the largest land use decision ever, it's important. Some Palo Alto environmentalists want to take part of the Palo Alto Landfill that is dedicated to becoming natural open space at Byxbee Park, and convert it into a composting operation, as opposed to trucking compost significant distances. Other Palo Alto environmentalists are equally dedicated to preserving all the land at Byxbee Park. Both sides have excellent green credentials, and both sides feel passionately about their position.

The details are important and will determine which side has the best argument, and we won't know them all until environmental analyses and a feasibility study are completed. Committee for

Green Foothills will ultimately have to make a decision on this issue. At this point we can't delve into details or take a position, but I can discuss some of the issues and principles involved.

In many ways this issue pits the newest environmental ethic — save our climate! — against the oldest — save the land! Usually the two ethics complement rather than conflict with one another, something we emphasized in past Green Footnote articles. Our work to stop sprawl over the last half-century has done much to reduce emissions and keep California and the Bay Area emitting much less than the American average. Similarly, our emphasis on the negative impacts on climate from sprawl proposals has been a powerful argument to defeat proposals in Gilroy and to kill the disastrous Coyote Valley Specific Plan. But still, when principles conflict, they conflict.

As an open space organization, our priorities might seem clear-cut when saving land and saving climate come into conflict. On the other hand, one of the natural resources we are also dedicated to protect is a natural climate. It is Committee for Green Foothills'

*Continued on page 10*



*Byxbee Park is a unique area used in many different ways.*



Photo courtesy of Bob Power

Family of Burrowing Owls being raised in the shade of the freeway.

## Water Pollution Master Plan and the Burrowing Owl — An Opportunity

*The following is a guest article for Green Footnotes and does not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Committee for Green Footfills. The Committee gratefully thanks the author for contributing the article to this edition.*

**by Bob Power**

Executive Director, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

**A**ging infrastructure at the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant has created the need for an estimated \$1 billion in improvements, and new technology will allow a significantly smaller plant footprint. Thus, the 2,600-acre property adjacent to Coyote Creek, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and the Salt Pond Restoration Project is undergoing a three-year land-use planning process that will change the way the land is used and restore some of it to open space.

Additionally, this land provides an opportunity to expand the Coyote Creek riparian corridor and, as Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society suggests, to provide protected habitat for the Western Burrowing Owl.

The County's Burrowing Owl population has plummeted from hundreds of breeding pairs in the 1970's to an estimated forty pairs today. Burrowing Owl biologists believe that creating open space preserves for their protection is essential to their survival. Historic Burrowing Owl nesting locations stretch along the lands bordering the bay from Bayfront Park in Menlo Park to the NUMMI plant in

Fremont. This charismatic owl has disappeared from many locations and maintains a tenuous hold in buffer lands that surround the South Bay. This opportunity to set aside a significant portion of the newly available 2,600 acres represents an extraordinary opportunity to protect Burrowing Owls.

The Audubon Society wants all buffer lands turned into a combination of Burrowing Owl preserve, upland refugia, and expanded riparian corridors. But the city's planners are faced with the challenge of generating income from the property to offset costs. So development is on the table.

The three-year master plan process began in earnest for the public in August 2009 with a carnival-sized tent set up along the Plant's Parking lot on Los Esteros Rd. In that first public meeting, participants used a highly sophisticated, electronic polling system to click their preferences and 30 seconds later view the updated results.

Conservation gains are temporary, losses are permanent. It's important to speak up to help guide this master plan to the most intelligent long-term use of this extraordinary property. "We don't need to be sophisticated, we just need your voice to help guide this master plan to the most intelligent long-term use of this extraordinary property."

For more information on the county's Burrowing Owls and efforts to protect them, see:

<http://scvas.org/index.php?page=text&id=bowl>

Or contact Shani Kleinhaus at [shani@scvas.org](mailto:shani@scvas.org), to find out how to get involved. **CGF**

# Thank You!

Gifts Received April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010

## Foothills

### Millennium Fund

These generous major donors of \$1,000 or more in the past fiscal year have made an extraordinary commitment to local open space protection. We are pleased to recognize them as members of the Foothills Millennium Fund.

Steve and Carlene Abbots  
Dr. Daniel Alegria and Dr. Mary Page Hufty  
Annette and Tom Ashton  
Craig Britton and Carleen Bruns  
Allan and Marilyn Brown  
Linda Brownrigg and Philip Lewis  
Matthew Burrows  
Elizabeth Chamberlain  
Robin Clark and Mary Mackieman  
Mary and Jack Davey  
Richard O. DeAtley  
Nancy Drapkin  
Sandy Emerson  
Carl H. Feldman  
Rob and Susan Flint  
Jim Foran  
Mark Bult and Velma Gentszsch  
Lucille and Steve Glassman  
Emilie Goldman  
Author Hofmayer  
Ruth and Ben Hammett  
Chuck and Christy Holloway  
Patricia L. Hooper  
Tom and Madge Jordan  
Gail Kaiser  
Ambassador Bill and Mrs. Jean Lane  
Susan Lang and Robert Levenson  
Peter and Sue LaTourrette  
Sue and Dick Levy  
Sidney and Linda Liebes  
Jamis and Margaret MacNiven  
Dean and LaVon Morton  
Jeanie Nieri Treichel  
Paul Perkovic  
Jane and Dave Pine  
Carolyn and William Reller  
Lennie and Mike Roberts  
Katie Sanborn and Barbara Wright  
Brian Schmidt and Karen Coppock  
Albert and Jo Schreck  
Karen Scussel and Curt Riffle  
Jeff and Meredith Segall  
Nancy and Greg Serrurier  
Leonard J. Shustek and Donna Dubinsky  
Kathryn Slater-Carter  
Tanya Slesnick and Ted Mitchell  
Geoff and Colleen Tate  
David and Karie Thomsson  
Nancy and Ted Vian  
Jamie and Joe Wang  
Bill and Jan Whitmer

## Individual Donors

Gifts of all sizes help ensure the future of local open space. We'd like to thank the following donors for their gifts of \$1 – \$999

Donald and Barbara Aitken  
Judy Alessandri  
Rhoda Alexander  
John Allen  
Matthew and Marcia Allen  
Marjorie J. Anderson  
Gametta Annable  
Nancy Ar buckle and Cedric Crocker  
Margalynne Armstrong and Andrew Pierce  
Michael Aronson and Jody London  
Norman Arslan  
Charles R. Bacon and Cynthia Dusel-Bacon  
Joan Baez  
Nancy and Donald Bamby  
Cliff and Zelda Barnett  
Robert Barrett and Linda Atkinson  
Jennifer Basijj  
Larry and Susan Basso  
Marilyn and William Bauriedel  
Duane Bay and  
Barbara Noparstak  
Bob Baylor and Mary Morris  
Irene Beardsley and Dan Bloomberg  
Betsy and George Bechtel  
Rolf and Florence Beier  
Helene F. Belz  
Jeanne Benioff  
Atsuko and Keith Bennett  
Fred D. Benz  
David Bergen  
Caroline H. Bergh  
David and Anne Bernstein  
Janet Bertaina  
Ann C. Beyer  
Edgar Bierdeman  
Shirley Biggerstaff  
Paul Billig  
Roger and Millicent Bishop  
Jim Blanchard and Terry Sweeney  
Nadia Bledsoe  
Noel and Frances Blincoe  
Jeffrey Blohm and Lovinda Beal  
Marsden and Elizabeth Blois  
Arnold and Barbara Bloom  
Jane Blumberg-Goldberg  
Phil and Mary Bobel  
Mr. and Mrs. John Boice  
Nancy S. Borgeson  
Christopher A. Botsford  
Julia Bott and Paul Acklin  
Penelope Bowen  
Patricia Boyle  
Mary Ashley Brayton  
Lawrence M. Breed  
Sabrina Brennan  
Scott Brennerman  
David and Sally Brew  
Edith Bridges and David Cone  
Winslow and Ann Briggs  
Cynthia Bright  
Dianne Brinson  
Jonathan Brown  
Robert D. Brown, Jr.  
Phyllis Browning  
Joanne E. Bruggemann  
Robert Buell  
Jim and Willeta Burch  
Gretchen Burke  
Kerry L. Burke  
Patrick Burt  
Gail and Robert Buschini  
William and Barbara Busse  
Magdalena Cabrera  
Gordon and Joan Campbell  
A. R. and C.M. Carlson

Jerry Carlson  
Frank and Margaret Carney  
Betsy and Alan Carpenter  
Brian Carr  
Eric Carruthers  
Phyllis and Richard Cassel  
Nancy and John Cassidy  
Nancy and George Cator  
Lyn Chambers and Greg Lee  
Carol Chapman and Michael Kelly  
Helen and Dan Chapman  
Cindy Chavez  
Doug and Gail Cheeseman  
Paul and Marjane Chestnut  
Ellen Christensen  
David Chu and Irene Lawrence  
Kansen and Daisy Chu  
Bertina Clare  
Thomas S. and Sarah Clark  
Tim and Mia Clark  
Dr. and Mrs. William H. Clark  
Ron and Carol Clazie  
George and Trish Clifford  
Tom Coates and Kristine Bobier  
Philippe Cohen  
Patrick Colgan  
Matt and Jennifer Collins  
Robert and Doreene Compton  
Dorothy and Kirke Comstock  
Kevin Cooke  
Ann and Clyde Coombs  
Ken and Sally Cooper  
Mary and Tom Cooper  
Harry Combleet  
Jeannette Cosby  
Joseph Cotchett  
Jen Couperus  
Nancy and Jitze Couperus  
Linda Craig and Evan Hughes  
Constance Crawford  
Carolyn Curtis and Don Mayall  
Cynthia K. D'Agosta  
Mike and Carol Danaher  
Maryann Danielson  
J. Mike Danzenbaker and Lee Hung  
John and MJ Davey  
Nicole David  
Gordon K. and Carolyn S. Davidson  
Michael Davis  
Dexter and Jean Dawes  
Paul and Anne De Carli  
Victoria De Martini  
Rob Decker  
Arline and Peter Dehlinger  
Shirley and Felix Demartis  
Karen DeMello  
Rodney Derbyshire and Mary Ann Carmack  
L. Peter Deutsch  
Frances Marie Devlin  
Craig and Joni Diserens  
Mary and Bob Dodge  
Ruth G. Doell  
Kathleen Dolan  
Maura Donohue  
Rita Donovan  
Laurence (Baron) Dorcy  
Sharon Doyle  
Paul and Maureen Draper  
Charles Drekmeier  
Peter Drekmeier and Amy Adams  
Dianne Dryer  
Richard and Jean Duda  
Malcolm and Cosette Dudley  
Timothy Duff  
Diana B. Dutton  
Lester D. Earnest  
Francesca Eastman and  
Ed Goodstein  
Joseph S. Eckerle  
Edith and Jeb Eddy  
Craig Edgerton  
Robert and Diana Ekedahl  
Ben Encisco and Judith Dean  
Jan and Ernst Epstein  
Lyndall F. Erb  
Len and Gael Erickson  
Barbara Emy, M.D.

Gail Erwin  
Ralph Eschenbach and Carol Provan  
Sid Espinosa  
Stanley and Betty Evans  
Dean A. Eyre, III  
Geraldine Farber  
John Farrow and Rebecca Fewkes  
Lyn and Steve Faust  
Gary and Annette Fazzino  
Nancy Federspiel  
Harold Feeney  
Anita and Sol Feferman  
Jan and Bob Fenwick  
Kim Fern  
Dante and Betty Fernandez  
Eleanor Ferrari  
Tom and Pauline Ferrito  
Thomas and Nancy Fiene  
Peter Fingerhut  
First Presbyterian Church  
The Social Justice Committee  
Doris Fischer-Colbrie  
Mark and Lisa Fischer-Colbrie  
Herbert and Alice Fischgrund  
Ken and Sherri Fisher  
Chris Fleming  
Christel Fliss  
Alexander L. Florence  
Albert Fong  
Jan Fong  
Marie E. Forster  
Oliver and Lolita Frank  
Bill and Louise Freedman  
Sarah and Robert Freedman  
Audrey Freeman  
Steve and Sofia Freer  
Julianne Adams Frizzell  
Hugh F. and Loraine Frohbach  
Monty and Judy Frost  
Steve and Leslie Furney-Howe  
Ann Ganesan  
Linda Gass  
Albert and Barbara Gelpi  
Betty W. Gerard  
John and Jim Gibbons  
David K. Ginsborg  
Mark R. Gion  
Jonathan Glick  
Ernie Goitein and Claire Feder  
Mark J. Goldberg  
Dr. Chip and Linda Goldstein  
Kit Gordon  
Leslie C. Gordon  
Mary Gordon  
Supervisor Richard Gordon  
Joan and Dan Gray  
Janet Gray Hayes  
John and Mariam Graham  
Kathy Graham  
Joan Grammar  
Barbara Green  
Matthew Greenberg  
David Greene  
Robert C. Greene  
Peter B. and Ann M. Gregory  
Herbert and Norma Grench  
Grace and Michael Griffin  
Bill and Nancy Grove  
Carl Guardino  
James and Linda Hagan  
Gerhard E. Hahne  
Carol and Dexter Hake  
Jean Halloran  
Stephen and Diana Halprin  
Samuel H. Halsted and Siddy Flynn  
Michael Hammes  
Nonette Hanko  
Audrey E. Hargis  
Kathryn Hargrove  
Jonathan Harman  
Richard Harris  
William Harris  
Margaret and Van Harvey  
Nancy L. Hay  
Walter and Katherine Hays  
Jerry Hearn  
Gary and Patricia Hedden

Susan Heimans  
Albert and Hertha Hemel  
Mary W. Henderson  
Teena Henshaw  
Karen Herrel  
Davis Hershey  
John and Nancy Hewitt  
Jane Hiatt  
Kenneth Himes  
Jan Hintermeister  
Melissa Hppard  
Carroll Ann Hodges  
Virginia Holmes  
Helen Holmgren  
Kirsten Holmquist  
William Homan and Thomas Griglock  
Don and Elaine Horsley  
Cay and Sarah Horstmann  
Anne Houghteling  
Lyndal Hubbard  
Carol and Mahlon Hubenthal  
Joseph and Nancy Huber  
Ellie Huggins and Dan Wendin  
Barbara Hunter  
Carol Jacobs  
Yvonne and William Jacobson  
Adaline Jessup  
Earl and Janet Jezek  
Barbara M. Johnson  
Cathie and Pitch Johnson  
Jane Johnson  
Mick Jordan  
Rudy Jurgensen  
Barbara Kaiser  
Bruce Kaiser  
Robert Katz  
Judith Kays  
Francie, Pat and Katie Kelley  
Mary Kenney and Joseph Pasqua  
Steven and Barbara Kerckhoff  
Sylvia T. Kershaw  
Lisa Ketcham  
Karen Kidwell and Rodney Farrow  
Carl and Joanie King  
Kenneth King and Rosemary Malvey  
Muriel J. King  
Suzi King  
Mark and Paulette Kirshner  
Burt and Teresa Kirson  
Larry Klein  
Shani Kleinhaus  
James Kleinrath, D.D.S.  
J. Burke Knapp  
Liz Kniss  
Kathy and Bill Korbholz  
Carol Komfeld  
Judy and Stew Krakauer  
Anthony and Judy Kramer  
Charles Krenz and Karen Tate-Krenz  
Julia Kringle  
Ginny Laibl  
Ann V. Lambrecht  
Julie Lancelli  
Nils and Marie Lang-Reg  
Kevin Lansing and Sonja Myhre  
James and Annie Laplante  
Deborah Lardie  
Mary and Edmund Larenas  
Jeanne Larkin  
Jeff and Maureen LaTourrette  
Hartley Laughead  
Jody and Roger Lawler  
Barbara W. Lawson  
Aldora Lee  
Stuart Leeb  
Rosalie Lefkowitz  
Greg Leonard and Susan Mason  
Joyce and Bob Leonard  
Benjamin Lerner  
Morton and Elaine Levine  
Jane and Howard Lewis  
Sam Liccardo  
Sally Lieber  
George and Ann Limbach  
David and Jane Lintott  
Peter and Beverly Lipman  
Sonja and Peter Lobban

Tom Lockard and Alix Marduel  
Franklin Lockfeld  
Linda Locklin  
David Loeb  
Anne and John Loftis  
Dr. and Mrs. David London  
Pauline Lord  
Carol and Hal Louchheim  
Tor and Nancy Lund  
Judith D. Lurie  
Janet Lyman  
Rene Lynch  
Judith A. and Mois Macias  
Chris MacIntosh  
Hugh MacMillan  
John F. Malloy  
Elie Mansfield  
Elizabeth A. Maroder  
Janet Martin  
Alice Anne Martineau and Olivia Bartlett  
Olive Mayer  
John and Valerie Metcalfe  
Mary Jane McCarthy and James Lyons  
Pete and Helen McCloskey  
Marshall B. McDonald  
Hugh McDevitt  
Arthur and Annette McGarr  
Laura J. McIntosh  
Robin McKnight and Allen Olivo  
Susan and Ralph McKuhen  
Eileen P. McLaughlin  
Clysta Seney McLemore  
Mary McVey Gill  
Betsy and Bill Meehan  
Ernst O. Meissner  
John and Eve Melton  
Frank Menke  
Don Mendel  
Nancy L. Merritt  
Amy Meyer  
Pat Millar  
H. Lyman Miller and Avis Boutell  
Kati Miller and Mike Shea  
Kristine D. Miller  
Micki Miller  
Joyce and Pat Milligan  
Barbara Millin  
Mary and Peter Mills  
David and Lynn Mitchell  
Robert Moline  
James Montgomery and Gale Snow  
Mrs. Albert Mooman  
Kelly Moran and Mark Eliot  
Jack Morton and Mary Ellen White  
Anne G. Moser  
Robert Moss  
Thomas Moutoux  
Maureen Muckle  
Edward S. Munyak  
Leslie Airola Murveit and Hy Murveit  
Jean Myers  
Karen Myers  
Jack Nadeau  
Terry Nagel  
Karen and Sam C. Naifeh, M.D.  
Richard A. Navarro  
Liz and Gary Nielsen  
Ann P. Nelson  
Walter Nelson  
Paul and Antje Newhagen  
Merrill and Lee Newman  
Bob Niederman  
Susan Nightingale  
William K. Nisbet  
Ken Nitz  
Timothy and Virginia Norman  
Dorothy Norris  
Joan Norton  
Tim O'Brien  
Brigid O'Farrell and TJ Glauthier  
Margaret Okuzumi  
William and Beverly Oldfield  
Jean Olmsted  
Sue and Kurt Oppenheimer  
Frances Orr Nitzberg  
Michael Pacelli  
Virginia Page

Mary and Ward Paine  
Mr. Richard W. Palthe  
G. Lyndall Parsons  
Peter Parham  
Ragni Pasturel  
Pam Patek  
Gary Patton  
Joan Paulin  
Lynne Paulson  
Enid Pearson  
Elena Pemasgiz-Battles and  
Matt Battles  
David and Jocelyn Perrone  
Courtney and Andy Pflaum  
Merry Phillips  
Helen and Joe Pickering  
Robert Piper and Pat Boyd  
Pillar Ridge Manufactured Home Community  
Fran Pollard  
Eric Ponteri and Jane Anderson  
Nadia and George Popyack  
Chris Powell and Bern Smith  
Margot and Vaughan Pratt  
Thomas T. Pressburger  
Duffy Price  
Nan Prince  
Susan and Simon Prutton  
Bruce Purdie  
Daniel and Helen Quinn  
Ted Raczek  
Sheila Raleigh  
Laura and Carroll Rankin  
Bert and Anne Raphael  
Marcy Ratliff  
Jo Rawlins Gilbert  
Eleanor Rakonitz  
Kate H. Reimnitz  
David and Frances Reneau  
Emily Renzel  
Virginia Rhodas  
Eric Richert  
Barbara Rigney  
Jeannette Ringold  
David Ritson  
Lynn and Ray Roberts  
Jennifer A. Roberts  
Myrna and Leon Rochester  
Stephen and Judy Rock  
Dobbie Roisen  
Deborah Rose, M.D.  
Dick and Ruth Rosenbaum  
Annemarie Rosengreen  
Howard Rosenthal, MD  
Bob and Aileen Roth  
Jim and Claudia Rourke  
Cindy Rubin and tBrian Rosenthal  
Hon. Cindy Ruby and Allen Ruby  
Mary Ann Ruiz  
Audrey C. Rust  
Leonard Rush  
Jean Rasmusore  
Cindy Russell and David Smernoff  
Bruce Russell  
Carol and Ron Ruth  
Nancy L. Sailor  
Ralph D. Samuelson  
Dolly Sandoval  
David Sanguinetti  
George and Dorothy Saxe  
Roberta P. Saxon  
Karl E. Schabinger  
Jan and Vic Schachter  
Suzanne Schauwecker  
Dianne Schilling  
Cynthia Schmidt  
Kathy Schmidt  
Charles Schmuck  
Nancy Schneider  
Dot and Robert Schreiner  
Charles G. Schulz and Claire Taylor  
Janet Schwind  
Robert Scruggs  
Barbara Seaney  
Walter and Janice Sedriks  
Paul Segall and Joan Berman Segall  
Bruce Seidel  
Elizabeth C. Seike

Margo Sensenbrenner  
Carolyn Shaw  
Howard and Barbara Shaw  
Gerard and Joyce Sheffren  
Patt Sheldon and Matthew Clark  
Drew Shell  
Julia and Fred Shepardson  
Joan Sherlock  
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard A. Shoor  
Jeffrey Shore  
Pat Showalter and Steve Longcor  
Wendy and Steven Shray  
Barbara and Robert Simpson  
Marjorie and Emma Siverson  
Joy Sleizer  
Charles and Lydia Sloan  
Gail Slocum and Jordan Gruber  
Jerry and Dick Smallwood  
Virginia Smedberg  
Ann Warren Smith  
Elizabeth Bowden-Smith and Randall Smith  
Larry W. Smith  
Rey and Susie Smith  
Marion Softky  
Keith C. Sorenson  
Nita Spangler  
Samuel Sparck  
Albert and Jeanne Spaulding, Jr.  
Lucile and Gene Spurlock  
Peter Stansky  
James W. and Nina L. Steiner  
Judith and Hans Steiner  
Camas and Jim Steinmetz  
Cynthia R. Stern  
Julie Steury-Reynolds  
Carol and Noel Stevens  
Sarah D. Stewart  
Robert Stiff  
Jean M. Stockett  
George and Helge Stoepfel  
Carolyn Straub and Stephen McHenry  
David and Jean Struthers  
Bob Stutz  
Ginger and Roger Summit  
Beth and Phil Sunshine  
Robin Ann Sutton  
Lina Swisher and Dan Rubin  
Kathy and Andy Switky  
Rowland Tabor  
Roger and Sherry Taylor  
Nancy Teater  
Laura and Boris Teksler  
Christy Telch  
Daniel Tellep  
Sue Thiemann and William Faustman  
Jim and Emily Thurber  
Sara Timby  
Joyce Todd  
Carolyn Tognetti  
Lynn and David Torin  
Jerry Torrance and Carmen Ortiz  
Elizabeth Touma  
Tony and Carolyn Tucher  
Zoe Kersteen-Tucker and George Tucker  
Ellen and Mike Turbow  
Robert G. Turner, M.D.  
Tom Turner  
John Tyler  
Richard and Dana Tywniak  
Lynn Ubhaus  
Mary Urbach  
Joan van Gelder  
Holly Van Houten and Patrick Laprocina  
Barbara B. Varenhorst  
April Vargas  
Chris and Marita Vargas  
Brent and Sandra Ventura  
Dinah Verby  
Jessica Vemon  
Mark and Dianne Vemon  
Darlene P. Vian and Brian P. McCune  
Timothy Vine  
K. Christie Vogel  
John and Mary Wachtel  
Karen H. Wagstaffe  
Darien and Doug Walker  
Erika and Loren Walden

Richard Walker  
Teresa Walker  
Louis S. Wall  
Dieter and Susan Walz  
Gretchen and Douglass Warner  
Patricia Watters  
Don and Kim Weden  
Mark S. Wegehaupt  
Samuel Weinberg  
Grace Weisser  
David Weissman  
Joan Welch Morris  
Sue Welch  
Dalyn Wells  
William Wendin  
Mariquita West  
Anne M. and Putney Westerfield  
David and Helene Wheeler  
Benjamin White  
Karen White  
Randall A. White and Marcia Smythe  
Donald J. Wilhelm  
Forrest Williams  
Hope Duveneck Williams  
Mike and Margaret Williams  
Elinor and Bruce Wilner  
Howard Wishire and Jane Nielson  
Ron and Sue Wilson  
Stephen Wilson  
Jonathan and Susan Wittwer  
Osa and Gregory Wolff  
Eleanor J. Wood  
Patricia Wood  
Ciddy and Bob Wordell  
Rose Wright  
Thomas and Ellen Wyman  
Atsushi Yamazaki  
Charles Yanofsky  
Betsy York  
Jeff and Sophie Yost  
Robert and Dorothy Young  
Andrea Zafer Evans  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Zoback

## In Memory of

We are grateful for the following remembrance gifts made this year.

In Memory of Peter Kornfeld

Carol Kornfeld

In memory of Sylvia Scholtz

Judith Kays

In memory of Wallace Stegner

Ron and Sue Wilson

## In Honor of

CGF thanks these donors for their gifts in honor of special people and special occasions.

In Honor of Matt Burrows

Patricia Cherry

In honor of Mary Davey

Carolyn Caddes

Ruth and Eugene Troetschler

In honor of Margaret MacNiven

Karen S. Arimoto-Peterson

In Honor of Brian Schmidt

Dana and Alice Schmidt

In Honor of Daine Talbert

Karen S. Arimoto-Peterson

In Honor of Ellen Zeff and Jeff Blaney's 20th

Anniversary

Ellen Zeff and Jeff Blaney

Fifi Zeff

## Foundations

We would like to thank the following foundations for their generous support of our work.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

Cinco Hermanos Fund

James M. Cox, Jr. Foundation

David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Matching Gifts Program

Elkind Family Foundation

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

The Chuck and Nan Geschke Foundation

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Jewish Community

Endowment Fund

Michael Lee Environmental Foundation

Los Altos Community Foundation

Merrill Lynch Community Charitable Fund

Philanthropic Ventures Foundation

San Francisco Foundation

City of San Jose

Schwab Charitable Fund

Silicon Valley Community Foundation

## Corporations and Organizations

The following corporations have made grants, or matching gifts to CGF.

Artifex Software Inc

Borel Private Bank & Trust Company

GE Foundation Matching Gifts

IBM Corporation Matching Grants Program

Levi Strauss Foundation

Microsoft Matching Gift Program

Motorola Foundation

Pacific Gas and Electric

Sprinkles Cupcakes

SRT Consultants

Sun Microsystems Matching Grants Program

Unilever United States, Inc. Matching Gifts

Program

Viewpoints Gallery

## In-kind

The following members and corporations and organizations for making in-kind donations to CGF.

Matt Burrows

Saul Chaikin and Beth Johnson

Catherine Davey and Tom Podoll

Mary and Jack Davey

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo

Thomas Fogarty Winery

Jennifer Hagan

Donald Herzog

Hobee's

Carol and Mahlon Hubenthal

Cait Hutnik

Alex Kennett

Kepler's Books and Magazines

Thomas Kruse Winery

Lizarran Tapas

Los Altos History Museum

Margaret and Jamis MacNiven

Milk Pail Market

Oak City Bar & Grill

Orchard Hills Winery

Patagonia

Peet's Coffee

Picchetti Winery

Ridge Vineyards

Lennie and Mike Roberts

Henry Roux

Sequoia Hall

Sonoma Chicken Coop

Sprinkles Cupcakes

Village Harvest

Whole Foods Market

Woodside Vineyards LLC

John Wunderling

**CGF would especially like to remember Joan Bruce who invested in CGF's work beyond her lifetime.**

## Learning about Coyote Valley

**O**n June 19th CGF members toured Coyote Valley and learned about the area's important role as a wildlife corridor between the Diablo and Santa Cruz Mountain ranges, and about the many development pressures on this area.

DeAnza Professor Ryan Phillips shared information on wildlife tracking, counts, and sightings within the Coyote Corridor. Craig Edgerton of the Silicon Valley Land Conservancy discussed their role with conservation easements on parcels throughout Coyote Valley. The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority provided a tour and talked about plans for their newest acquisition. The Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition described the fish migration patterns and habitat on Coyote Creek. Assembly member Ira Ruskin joined us at the Kirsch Environmental Center to discuss his bill AB2785 (2008) which documented Coyote Valley as a critical wildlife corridor within the State Connectivity Project.



*Ryan Philips of De Anza Environmental Studies discusses the Coyote Valley Wildlife Corridor.*



*Tour participants getting a good look at a raptor's nest.*



*Coyote Valley offers some beautiful views of surrounding hills.*



*Brian Schmidt discussing the impact of Coyote Valley development on Wildlife Corridors.*



*Craig Edgerton talks of the easements Silicon Valley Land Conservancy holds on local parcels.*



*Mary Davey enjoying Mondy Lariz's creek talk.*



*Mondy Lariz discussing fish habitat.*

*Continued from page 4*

job to save our climate, or at least limit the damage our region does to it, along with saving the working farms, ranches, and natural habitats.

So what principles apply to resolving this conflict? One principle that I think applies is that, however crucial it may be, climate change doesn't always win. For example, we could not support covering all of Henry Coe State Park in solar panels, or even half of it, or even seven percent of it. Sometimes other environmental principles need to prevail over reducing climate impacts.

Second, we should recognize that a compromise has already occurred at Byxbee Park between protecting open space and the other uses that society desires. Forty

***Some issues truly are hard questions, and I find Byxbee to be the one that's hardest to resolve.***

years ago, protectors of open space fought valiantly against filling part of San Francisco Bay with a landfill. While they did not win, they did achieve a compromise — the landfill was created with a promise that eventually, nature would get something back. Not what we had before, but something with real ecological and recreational open space value.

Third, this existing compromise at Byxbee has been beneficial for the climate. The same reason stated for putting compost operations at the park — reducing travel emissions — applies to the current landfill operations that keep disposal of garbage as a local practice instead of shipping it long distances. It may not have been the original intent, when few people were aware of climate risks, but the effect has been an already-existing compromise between climate change and open space.

One can easily understand the frustration of the environmental leaders who were there at the creation of the compromise, shouting out, "a deal is a deal." Not incidentally, these leaders can speak with the authority of being responsible for many of the environmental protections in Palo Alto. However, one more principle applies — that a deal can be changed. The compromise that Palo Alto struck was not with environmental leaders, however important



## A day to celebrate

*Chrisi Fleming and Kay Philips at Joan Bruce Bench Dedication on May 1st 2010.*

they may be, but an internal compromise the people of Palo Alto struck with themselves, and one they can choose to alter.

The question then, is whether the current compromise between climate and open space priorities is enough, or whether more should be taken from open space. Even stated that simply, many details keep the answer unclear — for example, what if compensating land could be added to the park? And would adding that land be a paper exercise, or something of real value? Should "undedicating" parkland mean it should be valued at its free-market price? Could the revenue stream from a composting operation be dedicated to restoring the rest of the landfill to park status, or could other money be found to do the same thing? Just how much reduction would there be in carbon emissions, anyway?

By contrast, some alleged green-versus-green controversies aren't truly controversial and can be easily resolved. For example,

a developer slaps some solar panels and recycled wood on a monster mansion in the hills, and thinks their "green building" is justification for sprawl. We don't.

Other issues can be difficult. The valuable open space and endangered species habitat in Panoche Valley in San Benito County is now at issue, set up against the possibility of impressive solar power production in the same location. The High Speed Rail proposal running through our counties also sets up a confrontation between land use impacts and an opportunity to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Some issues truly are hard questions, and I find Byxbee to be the one that's hardest to resolve. We won't resolve this question now, but we hope the next six months to a year will bring additional information that will help us understand it, and Committee for Green Foothills will continue to monitor information as it develops. **CGF**



*Annika Christensen, Wendee Crofoot and Norm Arslan spread the word about all that CGF does.*

*Picture  
yourself in  
one of these  
important  
positions!*

## **We need your help!** Volunteer opportunities at CGF

### **Program Planning and Implementation:**

We love having a good time with friends, and we know it takes a team to host high quality events — so come have a good time and help us pull off an ambitious schedule of fun events this year! There's always plenty to do!

**Scanning:** At almost 50 years old, CGF began before there were computers! Therefore, we have many years of hard copy files to move to electronic formats.

**Tabling:** We need people to help CGF spread the word about environmental advocacy, open space preservation, and the good work we do at CGF. Each year around Earth Day, CGF 'tables' at several events; we could use a few members that like to talk and meet new folks to work these events with our Board members!

## **The Green Foothills Legacy Society**

Since 1962, your generosity has made the Committee for Green Foothills' advocacy work possible. Your gifts ensure that we will be able to continue to protect open space farmlands and natural resources for future generations.

For those who care deeply about our local environment, estate planning offers a unique opportunity to acknowledge a thoughtful life by helping future generations. Establishing a bequest can ensure your legacy and that of Committee for Green Foothills.

If you have included CGF in estate planning or would like more information about the planned giving program, please contact Cynthia D'Agosta at (650) 968-7243 x 360 or [cynthia@greenfoothills.org](mailto:cynthia@greenfoothills.org).



Cait Hurrik

A Bay Checkerspot butterfly observed at Coyote Ridge.

## GETTING OUT: **'More-than-meets-the-eye'** lessons from Coyote Ridge

**By Ron Erskine**  
Staff Writer, Gilroy Dispatch

*This column is reprinted from The Gilroy Dispatch with permission of the Gilroy Dispatch and Ron Erskine. More of Ron Erskine's columns can be found at [www.gilroydispatch.com](http://www.gilroydispatch.com).*

**N**atural landscapes can be tricky. We all agree that the gaudy ones are important and need to be protected. Grand mountains, ancient forests and mile-deep canyons are sights that even the most barren soul is willing to protect from exploitation.

But when a landscape lacks the spectator value, the matter becomes a little dicey. As our understanding of ecology has grown, so has our belief that less picturesque regions are important as well. Not long ago, the Mojave Desert was dismissed as a wasteland. Now that we have learned about this delicate environment, its diverse residents and unique geology, we have chosen to protect it as a 1.6 million-acre national park. Good for us. We're learning.

Last weekend, I was reminded of this there's-more-there-than-meets-the-eye lesson here in my own back yard.

We drive past Coyote Ridge, east of U.S. Highway 101 between Morgan Hill and San Jose, giving it little notice. Except



Cait Hurrik

Beautiful blossoms of the Butter Popcorn flower.

for an occasional splash of bright yellow goldfields, this naked 1400-foot high ridge rolls and folds its humble way from Morgan Hill to San Jose offering no attractions to distract you. If I paid you a dollar for every tree you saw on that 10-mile ridge, you would have to reach into your own pocket to buy a hamburger.

How many times does mom need to remind us that the charms of a person or a place may not be evident at first glance?

*Continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

Our guided walk up Coyote Ridge was a reminder that mom knows what she is talking about. A number of phenomena converge here to create a community of rare and unusual interest.

The ridge is underlain by a large deposit of serpentine, which is toxic to many plants but sustains other uncommon species that tolerate these conditions. Santa Clara Valley dudleya, Mount Hamilton thistle, San Francisco wallflower and the most beautiful jewelflower are a few of the rare or endemic species our guide pointed out on our climb up the ridge. But the tiny California plantain (*Plantago erecta*) is perhaps the most important plant on the ridge. This inconspicuous orb is the main food source for the larvae of the endangered bay checkerspot butterfly, a threatened species that clings to existence in only a handful of remaining habitats in the bay area.

On the climb, docents focused on the nature of this unusual community and its various residents. But at the crest, the center of attention shifted from the academic to scenic extravagance. The rolling ridge top was carpeted with tidy tips, goldfields and purple owl's clover in gaudy concentrations. The contrast between the west side and the east side of Coyote Ridge could not have been greater. A bustling Santa Clara Valley was replaced on the far side by huge green reaches of open space stretching toward distant Mount Hamilton and Henry Coe State Park.

We lunched among the flowers, taking in the beauty near and far. A small herd of tule elk lounged on the ridge below. A prairie falcon darted overhead. A golden eagle drifted across the face of the ridge below.

In 1868, John Muir, in California for only a matter of days and on his way to Yosemite, walked along this very ridge and later wrote, "the landscapes of Santa Clara Valley were fairly drenched with sunshine. All the air was quivering with the songs of the meadow-larks, and the hills were so covered with flowers that they seemed to be painted."

The work of good people at the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority ([www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org)), the Silicon Valley Land Conservancy ([www.siliconvalleylc.org](http://www.siliconvalleylc.org)) and the Committee for Green Foothills ([www.greenfoothills.org](http://www.greenfoothills.org)) have allowed us to enjoy this setting much as John Muir did 140 years ago.

Hikes offered by these agencies are the only opportunity to visit Coyote Ridge. They have concluded for spring, but make a note to check their websites as next spring approaches. There's more there than meets the eye. **CGF**

| SAN MATEO COUNTY |

## Why we don't have oil wells off the San Mateo Coast, and lessons from the Gulf oil disaster

By Lennie Roberts

In January, 1969, an oil well being drilled by Union Oil Company off the Santa Barbara coast suffered a blowout. By the time the well was plugged ten days later, an estimated hundred thousand barrels of oil had spewed into the Santa Barbara channel, blackening beaches, killing sea life, and changing the way Americans felt about oil drilling.

The devastating blowout of BP's Deepwater Horizon well this spring makes the Santa Barbara spill look like a mere mud puddle. By some estimates, Deepwater Horizon has been spewing forth as much oil in one day as the total spilled in Santa Barbara. The damage from Deepwater Horizon is inestimable, as miles and miles of sensitive wetlands are impacted. It may be decades before we learn the totality of the devastation; much may never be cleaned up.

On the Central Coast, including San Mateo County, there has been a happier outcome. Despite the best efforts of the federal government through the Minerals Management Service (MMS), several lease sales have been turned back, some due to insufficient oil and gas resources to make drilling worth while, and some due to overwhelming citizen opposition.

In 1986, the voters of San Mateo County approved Measure A, the Coastal Protection Initiative, despite unanimous opposition by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. Measure A mandated that no onshore oil facilities could be built in support of offshore oil drilling, among other provisions. Other coastal counties and cities up and down the State passed similar ballot measures that

same year. These land use prohibitions did not mean that drilling was impossible, but any offshore platforms would depend upon tankers to deliver oil to refineries. Subsequently, Congress and our state legislature established moratoria and outright prohibitions along California's coast, but these measures can always be repealed. "Drill, Baby, Drill!" has been stifled at least for now by the devastation in the Gulf.

### *Can we humans correct our destructive ways before it is too late?*

The technical difficulties of drilling deep wells (Horizon was 18,000 feet deep) at great ocean depths (a mile or more) vastly increase the chances of another disaster. There is no such thing as accident-free oil exploration, production and transport. The sooner we get off our oil addiction, the better. No matter where oil comes from or how it has been extracted, burning it accounts for nearly a third of the greenhouse-gas emissions in the United States. As the world's reserves diminish, we will all be forced into conserving energy as well as developing less polluting alternatives.

In "The Sea Around Us" (1951), Rachel Carson wrote:

"It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose, should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself."

Carson's caution has come to pass. Can we humans correct our destructive ways before it is too late? **CGF**

# Monitoring and waiting at Lehigh Hanson Quarry above Cupertino

by Brian Schmidt

For years, Committee for Green Foothills has monitored a variety of environmental issues at Lehigh Hanson Quarry (formerly Kaiser Permanente Quarry) at the headwaters of Permanente Creek. This massive quarry of limestone and rock aggregate, together with a large cement plant and concrete-crushing operation, has a long history of environmental impacts — including landslides, quarry incursions that crossed

property lines and violated easements, water quality violations, and passionate complaints about air quality. Many of these issues have been partially or completely addressed and others remain unresolved.

One argument made by quarry operators is that, absent a complete freeze on construction and redevelopment, their products will have to be made somewhere — do we really want them made far away and shipped in? Our response has been that even though there are arguments for doing something locally, it still needs to be done right.

A gigantic scar of waste rock on a ridgeline above Los Altos and Cupertino has been a long-running bone of contention that Committee for Green Foothills wants resolved. The former quarry owners promised that waste rock deposits would be

finished years ago (so plants could begin recovering) and now the current owners say the visible portions will be finished this year, allowing native-plant landscaping and recovery to proceed within a year or two afterwards. Replanting has not gone well in the waste rock area. Current experimental efforts to add actual soil and compost, rather than trying to simply reseed crushed rock, show much more promise.

Highly visible night time lighting has been a long-term problem. Current quarry officials assure us the problem has been greatly reduced, at a significant expense in rewiring, and while that may be true, many of the lights remain bright.

A proposal to extend a reclamation plan permit to a second waste rock storage area, an area that had been ignored by both the quarry and the County for decades, is moving forward. Plans to revegetate the area, to obscure the visual impacts of the cement plant, seem promising, but details matter.

The quarry also plans a major expansion and is considering an alternative location on the site that would be more distant from neighbors, to address concerns about noise, but would destroy much more habitat.

The issues clearly are complicated. Neighbors are concerned, and we have to do our job as environmental watchdogs. We should also note that the current and even former quarry operators have been responsive to our requests for information and site visits. The only approach that can work is to handle each issue, decide whether it is a matter for negotiation, agreement, or opposition, and keep moving forward. **CGF**

*Our response has been that even though there are arguments for doing something locally, it still needs to be done right.*

*Since our last publication, CGF and the environmental community have lost two dearly beloved friends and long time supporters. In saying goodbye, we honor all that they stood for and accomplished.*

## In Memory of Mary Page Stegner

**Mary Page Stegner**, widow of CGF's founding President Wallace Stegner, long time supporter and friend to many of our members, passed away on May 15, 2010.

Those that knew her speak of Mary's attentions being focused on supporting her husband of nearly 60 years, Wallace Stegner, world renowned author. Mary was also an accomplished artist in several mediums. She was a licensed interior decorator, a West Coast editor for Houghton Mifflin publishers, an accomplished pianist and was a violinist with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra.

In addition Mary was a kind and thoughtful friend to many; the sketch shown here from CGF archives was done by Mary Page Stegner on a note card sent to CGF Director and close friend, Mary Davey in 1983. Together the Stegner's left a legacy of fighting the good fight for the environment while sharing many kind words and good times with CGF.



One of Mary Page Stegner's drawings.



## The Committee is watching ...

---

### **SAN MATEO COUNTY**

**Redwood City** — which has taken the first step to produce an Environmental Impact Report for the controversial Saltworks mini-city of 30,000 people on restorable Baylands, despite calls from over 140 elected officials to reject the Bay Marshlands project out of hand

**San Mateo County Board of Supervisors** — who have requested an extension of time from the Coastal Commission to work out differences on limits to growth in the urban Midcoast area

**San Mateo County Planning** — which decided to allow the Big Wave developers to draft and County Planners to “peer review” responses to some 250 comments on the Environmental Impact Report for this huge project adjacent to the Pillar Point Marsh

**San Mateo and Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation Districts** — which are adopting a two-county, Community Wildfire Protection Plan that prioritizes areas for fuel reduction projects, especially in the Wildland-Urban Interface areas

### **SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**Mission College** — where an active student environmental group may be interested in protecting the local region just as the students at De Anza College have done

**Morgan Hill** — which should consider separately two different proposals that are being inappropriately

combined: an agricultural preservation proposal, and a doomed and destructive suggestion to sprawl the city outward into the “Southeast Quadrant”

**Palo Alto** — where the Planning Commission has all but ignored City Council’s direction that they propose options for house size limits in the Palo Alto Foothills

**Plastic Bag bans** — San Jose has produced one environmental review correctly concluding the impacts of the bans are all beneficial, and the California legislature is considering statewide bans

**San Jose** — to see if the City will follow up on planning options for protecting North Coyote and east Evergreen, and on their promises to consider ways to remove developer control over initial environmental review documents

**Santa Clara** — which is revising its General Plan and can take advantage of the opportunity to promote native plants and native habitats

**Santa Clara Valley Water District** — which is undergoing a long process to increase its emphasis on environmental improvements to complement efforts on water supply and flood control

**Stanford** — which is proposing a large Habitat Conservation Plan that needs to acknowledge Stanford’s own studies show no need for significant development on endangered species habitats before 2035

---

## *In Memory of Bill Lane*



The passing of **Bill Lane** on July 31, 2010 touched many on the Peninsula, throughout the state, and around the world. Bill’s good will and unyielding firmness on issues of concern to him, was not only highly effective, but enormously inspirational.

As a lifetime environmentalist he was able to share his love of nature and expressed this in much of the work he did. He began working in Yosemite as a youth, and continued throughout his life to support preservation of the park. Bill served on the Secretary of the Interior’s Advisory Board and Council on National Parks; was Chair of the President’s National Parks Centennial Commission; and served as a member on the Park Service’s 75th Anniversary Steering Committee.

Bringing dedication to the local environment, he would often speak on issues at council meetings and was a major supporter to many local and regional organizations, including CGF. The founding of the Bill Lane Center for American West at Stanford (CGF currently has an intern from this esteemed organization on staff) and Sunset Magazine encouraged generations to have new dialogs about our environment. His legacy will live on through this body of good work. Thank you Bill, we will miss you.



COMMITTEE FOR  
GREEN FOOTHILLS

3921 E. Bayshore Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Palo Alto, CA  
Permit No. 284

# Nature's Inspirations

CELEBRATING ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY  
& HONORING PETE MCCLOSKEY

**Sunday, October 3, 2010 • 4:30 – 6:30pm**  
**220 University Avenue, Los Altos, CA**

*Join other environmental leaders, open space supporters, and friends for an afternoon celebrating the enduring nature of our work — past, present, and future — and honoring one of CGF's early leaders, Pete McCloskey with delectable food and wines at the elegant home of CGF members Nan and Chuck Geschke.*

Introductory remarks by Congresswoman Jackie Speier

*Advance ticket sales only. We do expect the event to sell out.  
Please invite your friends – tickets available at [www.GreenFoothills.org](http://www.GreenFoothills.org)*