



GREEN FOOTNOTES

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS www.GreenFootbills.org

FALL 2008



Matthew Burrows

Fog pouring over Santa Cruz Mountains in San Carlos.

An opportunity to be “local, vocal, and effective”



...is what brought Matt Burrows to the Committee for Green Foothills Board of Directors. As a way for our members to get to know us better — and for potential new members to consider why CGF is important to them and to the community — we will be offering an inside peek at who our Board members are through brief interviews. We begin our new series with Matt Burrows, Board Vice President and Chair of the Development Committee. He has been a CGF member since 2003.

Q: How did you come to be a Board member of CGF?

I grew up in Los Altos in a working class family, (which I know these days sounds like an oxymoron); my dad was a teacher and administrator in East Side Union High School District in East San Jose; my mother taught English as second language locally. We grew up playing in the parks, with the hills as a backdrop in both Los Altos and

East side. In part due to the sort of mystical effect of the hills that hover above us, I have always had an ardent environmental viewpoint with a particular passion toward issues of acting locally to have impact globally. As a lifelong resident of the local area, I would read about CGF in the news and its battles to save open lands locally and about people like Lennie Roberts leading the fights. I have always admired CGF as the quintessential

“think global, act local” organization.

In 2000, while working on dedicating a bench in my mother’s memory at Rancho San Antonio, I had been in contact POST, which started me on a path that lead to CGF. I became a CGF Foothills Millennium Fund member, and participated in CGF sponsored hikes to Coyote Ridge and Jasper

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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 San Mateo and Santa Clara County.

Founded in 1962, Committee for Green Foothills is leading the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo counties through advocacy, education and grassroots action.

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

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From the *President ...*

This year's *Nature's Inspiration* was an especially fitting occasion to reflect back on the Committee's accomplishments in land conservation on the peninsula and in the South Bay. *Celebrating Lennie Roberts: Nature's Inspiration* was so named because 2008 marked 40 years since the estimable Lennie Roberts joined the CGF Board and 30 years since she became CGF's full-time volunteer advocate in San Mateo County. The magnificent results of Lennie's decades with CGF are, quite literally, visible to millions of Bay Area inhabitants every single day. Her achievements also profoundly affect Bay Area residents in other ways, from the quality of the air we breathe, to the number of birds we see migrating overhead, to how we think about our environment and perhaps even how we relate to each other.

As knowledgeable, resourceful and all-around awesome as Lennie Roberts is, she would be the first to tell you that her accomplishments are possible only with the steady support from a community which shares her values and her vision for the future. Clearly, this support was critical in the '60's and '70's, when the prevailing vision of the future for our area was endless coast-to-bay urban sprawl.

At CGF, we know that our work, and the strong community support for it, remains as vital today as it was 40 years ago. Over time, the focus of our activity changes. Many of CGF's land use battles are now in southern Santa Clara County, where intense development pressures are building on some of the Bay Area's last remaining easily accessible tracts of agricultural and open space lands. Fortunately, CGF has a dedicated and effective Advocate in Santa Clara County, Brian Schmidt, who is quickly building an impressive résumé of success stories of his own. Crucially, Brian also understands as Lennie does that building relationships and local coalitions are essential for long-term success in environmental protection and sensible land use.

At CGF, we know the challenges of protecting the natural resources in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties requires dedication and long-term commitment. With your continued support, CGF will remain the local, vocal and effective voice for the environment for decades to come.

—Jeff Segall

The Importance of Growing Up with Gardens

By CYNTHIA D'AGOSTA

In early October I attended a conference in San Jose entitled “Planning and Policy for Healthy Environments”, a leadership summit sponsored by Healthy Silicon Valley. The event presented a fascinating combination and juxtaposition of issues about integrating agriculture into the urban environment, designing places for healthy living, and linking health care concerns with local land use decisions.

It was a stimulating two days, being amongst colleagues from different professions all focusing on how the interconnectedness of our professional efforts are working to provide a more sustainable, healthy urban environment. Many of the discussion topics were well presented but one talk relating children’s health to access to the environment — hit a personal cord with me and is directly related to some of CGF’s current work.

The first break out session I attended addressed how the trend in providing gardens for children at schools will help to combat two diseases that are on the rise in youth; obesity and diabetes. Amongst others, the panel included members of the Full Circle Farm (FCF) team which CGF was introduced to over the summer when the two organizations had been in competition to win a Voice Your Choice grant from Patagonia. (CGF took home the grant, but having such a strong commitment to the cause of FCF, CGF has since sponsored tree plantings in the orchard at FCF.) The panel passionately spoke about the need for kids to understand where food comes from, to promote healthy eating by making foods they have grown available in cafeterias, and about the challenges they face in trying to convert old school yards to gardens.

Listening to the panel talk about the importance of kids today needing to connect with nature through growing and preparing their own food at school took me back to my first gardening experiences as a child. I didn’t learn my love of nature or my understanding of where food came



Cynthia as a child with her grandparents in their backyard garden.

Courtesy Cynthia D'Agosta

from in school — school was someplace I would go to learn things like math and art. Unlike the experience of most kids today, food was very much linked to life lessons of the home for me. I learned about growing, cultivating and preparing food from my Italian immigrant grandparents, in their backyard in Vallejo. The importance of what the panel was saying became intimately clearer as I sat there remembering the aromas associated with the entire process — from the richness of the soil when we planted, to the sweet lingering of herbs on my fingers as we picked fresh from the backyard, followed by the crackle and scent of garlic and squash simmering in the pan. Then later in the summer, pungent odors would fill the cellar as activity turned to the harvesting and crushing of grapes to make wine, and tomatoes cooked for days in preparation of canning sauces for the winter. The reward came when we all gathered to eat together, and in the comfort of knowing there was plenty of fresh food in the cupboard.

This whole panel discussion led me

beyond my childhood garden and into memories of the colorful cascades of orchard blossoms I experienced as we drove over the hills and into “The Valley of Heart’s Delight” for the first time. It was 1962 and I was eight years old when my family moved from Vallejo to suburban San Jose; this is also the year CGF was started! I grew up playing and working in the fields of the valley — before it became known as “Silicon Valley”. Cutting apricots in Evergreen Valley was my teen-age summer job until the likes of Eastridge Mall swept over the orchards of the valley floor. Once this happened, our attention was turned to sprawl and the fields were considered disposable! It was a long time before I ate fresh stone fruit from the orchard again.

My fond memories and this panel discussion inspired me with a new dedication to the issue and importance of reaching today’s urban youth so that they too may grow up with gardens and share in some

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Building Partnerships and Saving Places

BY CYNTHIA D'AGOSTA

The concepts of building partnerships and saving places are core objectives employed by CGF staff and Board alike, with a great sense of importance. Every effort we undertake is about people and places, and the partnerships we build are with stakeholders of the places we work to protect. Over time these partnerships have proven to be a key foundation of our organization; they may have taken on different means and processes depending on the need and issue at hand – but regardless of the process, the successes are many!

Board President Jeff Segall, in his message in this edition, rightly commends CGF's Advocates for effectively building community relationships, and without a doubt it is these important initial connections that often result in long term partnerships for CGF. The importance of this face to face work brings to light the critical nature of having advocacy positions in

each county. The strength of our organizations ability to build partnerships is rooted in this unique association. Once the groundwork is set in place around a group, issue, or need — the full resources of CGF are stirred into action to inspire community members, assist with knowledge and resources, or help to get the word out on an issue.

Daily our efforts continue to grow on many fronts in both counties, and with a small staff of four, CGF covers a lot of territory! A few of the exciting efforts we are currently working on include:

■ Building a coalition in South Santa Clara County around environmental and conservation issues. CGF is helping to foster local leadership; bringing varied stakeholders to the table to discuss important issues facing agriculture, farming, and ranching; and debating urban growth issues. CGF will soon make available facilitation and outreach and educational

opportunities to build this important stakeholder community.

■ Making connections between local school gardens, access to outdoors, and fresh foods for youth, by exploring opportunities with Full Circle Farm in Sunnyvale, Pacifica Gardens, and Collective Roots in EPA.

■ In the Baylands of East Menlo Park & East Palo Alto we have begun to build partnerships to provide community awareness and access, and to help protect these treasured open spaces.

■ CGF is a co-sponsor of the Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition which will strengthen the community voice for creek and river restoration throughout the county.

We invite you to join us in building these important partnerships! Contact staff or Board members of CGF to learn more about these and other efforts we have underway – or to talk with us about what's going on in your community. 

WEBSITE UPDATE

¡Puedes visitar nuestro sitio del web en español!

La misión de Committee for Green Foothills es proteger el aire libre, las tierras agriculturas, y los recursos naturales de los condados de San Mateo y Santa Clara por el apoyo legislativo, la educación, y la acción del nivel local.

En un tiempo crítico y cambiante, nosotros hemos empezado a expandir nuestros esfuerzos de alcance para que podamos ponernos en contacto con nuestra comunidad entera e inspirar los esfuerzos de una audiencia más ancha. El Committee for Green Foothills es complacido para anunciar que nuestro sitio del web incluye una página introductoria en español. Esta página contiene una historia breve acerca de algunas de nuestras victorias pasadas, nuestra declaración de objetivos, información en cómo puedes tomar acción y lo que debes hacer cuando hay un problema ambiental en su área, y cómo contactarnos. Para conseguir acceso a esta parte de nuestro sitio del web, va a greenfoothills.org, y haga un clic en "introducción en español" (debajo de "En Español") en el lado izquierdo de nuestra página principal. ¡Esperamos verle allí!

The Committee for Green Foothills special Spanish introduction website

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

In such a critical and changing time, we have begun expanding our outreach efforts so that we can get in touch with our entire community and inspire the efforts of a wider audience. The Committee for Green Foothills is pleased to announce that our website now includes a special introductory page in Spanish. This introduction contains a brief history about some of our past victories, our mission statement, information on how to take action and what do when faced with an environmental problem in your area, and how to contact us. To access this part of our website, go to greenfoothills.org, and click on "introducción en español" (under "En Español") on the left side of our homepage. We hope to see you there!

Santa Clara County Redwoods Preserved

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging (NAIL) and many other environmental groups including Committee for Green Foothills celebrated a great victory in October, when the California Board of Forestry denied the appeal by San Jose Water Company of a rejected logging permit. As is often the case with dramatic decisions like these, the outcome turned on the narrow technical issue of whether the company was even eligible for the type of permit it requested, but since that permit would grant perpetual logging rights, it was critical. Forestry staff, NAIL, we at the Committee, and virtually everyone else denied the company's position that it was eligible for a permit meant for small landowners, and the Forestry Board agreed with the rest of us.

Committee for Green Foothills had been active on this issue over the years, meeting multiple times with NAIL, government officials, government agencies and committees to emphasize the problems the logging proposal created. We publicized the issue multiple times to Committee members, on our website, and in this newsletter. Like our work with the De Anza Stewardship Team (see page 6), working with local partners is a very effective means of moving forward. We can provide affirmation that neighbor concerns are not a parochial bias but reflect the judgment of the broader environmental community. Our involvement with government agencies also helped solidify the strong resistance by local governments and representatives to the project.

The logging proposal provides a cautionary warning about how anti-environmental projects will use pro-environment message. The company suggested its proposal would reduce fire risk, when its proposal to log mature trees and introduce sunlight to the forest floor would actually have the opposite effect. NAIL's effective use of scientific experts helped refute this message.

Too often, though, our victories are temporary while our defeats are permanent. More proposals to log the redwood trees and Douglas firs may come along. We hope that efforts to stop irresponsible logging can ultimately result in a reasonable proposal for permanent protection of this vital resource: a mature, second-growth redwood forest that will increasingly take on the qualities of rare old growth. 

Big Money Buys Confusion, Drags Measure W to Defeat

By LENNIE ROBERTS

With the facts and issues buried under an obscene amount of money spent by developers opposing Measure W, the citizen's initiative to protect open space in Redwood City, voters turned down the measure by a 62.9% margin on November 4.

Cargill developer DMB Associates, the Arizona-based luxury housing builder, spent over \$1.5 million as of mid-October to mislead and confuse Redwood City voters. Final results will likely show \$2 million — or well over \$100 per vote — spent on a tidal wave of mailers, flyers and advertising in an underhanded campaign designed to scare voters.

Measure W was designed to provide strong protection to ensure that voters have the final say on any development on open space lands in Redwood City. Opposition to Measure W, despite being overwhelmingly funded by DMB, turned almost exclusively on misleading claims of “unintended consequences” for individual homeowners rather than the future of Cargill's lands.

Save The Bay, Sierra Club, Friends of Redwood City, Sequoia Audubon, Committee for Green Foothills, and hundreds of supporters will continue to fight against any development on the Cargill's 1433 acres of retired salt ponds. These ponds were once thriving wetlands and they can be again. They should be restored to protect water quality, combat global warming, offer flood control and provide essential wildlife habitat. As Ralph Nobles told the San Francisco Chronicle “This is just the battle, it's not the war. We'll be back”. 



De Anza College Team Plays Critical Role in Protecting Coyote Valley Wildlife Corridor

By BRIAN SCHMIDT

Bobcats. American badger. Deer, even Tule Elk. And yes, within official San Jose city jurisdiction, even mountain lions (but not where they pose a danger to suburbs).

These animals all benefit from and use, to varying degrees, Coyote Valley as a wildlife corridor that connects the Santa Cruz Mountains and Mount Hamilton Range. To a great extent their future has been preserved by the students and instructors at the De Anza College Stewardship Team. A wildlife corridor is not (normally) a narrow pathway; it is a diffuse area which in Coyote Valley has some vulnerabilities that have to be carefully studied and protected.

We at Committee for Green Foothills specialize in working with local partners to protect open spaces, and the De Anza community brings a unique, ongoing level of scientific quality to their activity, rivaled only by the Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging (see page 5). The students and wildlife biologists at De Anza's Kirsch Environmental Center have been carefully documenting wildlife movement and use of Coyote Valley through camera traps and scat studies. They've found many animals, particularly badgers and deer, that have died on the busy roads of Highway 101 and Monterey Highway, but also much evidence of successful crossing through stream culverts and late at night when traffic diminishes.

We have repeatedly worked with the Stewardship Team, operating as a separate group from the official De Anza College, to help them understand the legal and political context of the development threats to Coyote Valley. The information they contributed played a key role in stopping the momentum to pave over Coyote Valley with a city-created plan. It should have stopped the proposed Gavilan College campus on sensitive wildlife habitat with no nearby community to serve, but unfortunately was disregarded. We will continue to work with the students and biologists from De Anza and other institutions to make the best of the situation, and to eliminate other damaging actions that may occur. **CGF**



Megan Lorenz

Bobcat



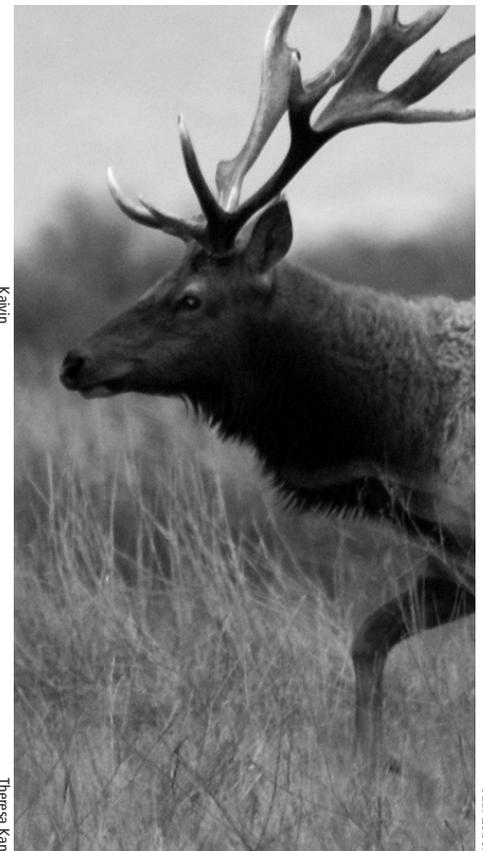
Kajin

Deer



Theresa Kane

Mountain Lion



Judi Zobol

Tule Elk Bull

The Committee is watching...



Peter Latourrette

The Committee Applauds ...

Supervisor Ken Yeager and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for supporting the Committee's suggestion that extremely large, proposed homes be held to higher Green Building standards than "merely" large proposed homes.

Ross Creek Neighbors, for their victory (and the Committee's victory as a co-plaintiff) in a lawsuit challenging Los Gatos' failure to protect the creek from inappropriate development.

The California Coastal Commission, which approved a scaled back housing project (Pacific Ridge) that fully protects endangered species and wetland habitats, and implements major traffic mitigation measures, while allowing 63 homes instead of 197 originally proposed.

The Committee is Watching ...

Permanente Quarry, now controlled by a German company, Heidelberg Cement, which is proposing a quarry expansion and has other environmental issues regarding its operation.

San Jose, which is proposing its own Green Building standards that are a significant improvement over current requirements but fall short of Santa Clara County's proposals.

Palo Alto, whose proposed rezoning for its foothills should update requirements

to protect against inappropriate development.

Santa Clara County Habitat Plan, which has potentially dramatic benefits to wildlife but would also let the County Roads Department take mitigation credit for wildlife habitat purchased by the County Parks Department

The federal government's proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act, for proposals to weaken species protection by reducing consultation with the government's own biological experts.

The California Coastal Commission, which is reviewing the San Mateo County Mid-Coast Local Coastal Program (LCP) Update and may be scheduling a public hearing in December.

Half Moon Bay, which faces a deadline in June, 2009, to come up with \$18 million as payment to developer Chop Keenan instead of appealing a controversial federal court decision regarding wetlands on the "Beachwood" property.

NASA/Moffett Field, Google and a UC Santa Cruz-led consortium with plans for Moffett Field development, proposals that may attempt environmental sustainability but currently raise questions of impacts to open space, to the Stevens Creek riparian corridor, and to the already-inadequate housing-to-jobs ratio that could cause increased commute traffic and sprawl.

Feeling Friendly to Saratoga Creek?

The Committee for Green Foothills knows of some current environmental problems for Saratoga Creek, particularly a landslide from a winery in the upper watershed. We hope to get some residents together to befriend the creek and help resolve environmental problems.

If you're interested in helping or being part of a group to protect Saratoga Creek, please contact Brian Schmidt, the Committee's Santa Clara County Advocate, at (650) 968-7243x313 or brian@greenfoothills.org.

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of nature's enchantment I was fortunate enough to have. The work of ensuring garden experiences at schools is obviously critical on the smaller personal scale to reach our youth, but it must also be paired with managing the continual threat and removal of our heritage orchards, vineyards, ranch lands, and agricultural fields — which results in losses on the commercial scale of jobs as well as loss of control of our fresh food supplies.

I left the first day of the conference reflecting on how the experiences of my youth have influenced my professional choices as an adult. As it turns out, I have spent the better part of my career in the field of landscape architecture, a profession I came upon serendipitously as a young installation artist. What I appreciate most about the profession is similar to what I was hearing at the conference — the importance of inter-disciplinary solutions which combine science, community, and art when planning or designing for health and public places.

It was a very pleasant surprise indeed when the guest speaker, Mr. Richard Jackson, referred to this coming together of health and land use industries as an approach that had not been used since the founding father of landscape architecture, Fredrick Law Olmsted, promoted it in the late 1800's! This was no doubt a conference that I felt presented the issues holistically, and left me inspired to share the message. I highly recommend review of the event presentations at: www.healthysiliconvalley.org/events. And stay tuned to CGF for follow up as we have invited Mr. Jackson to be a literary forum speaker, at which time we will feature a book he co-authored on "Urban Sprawl and Public Health", Island Press, 2004. The talk is tentatively scheduled for March 5th. Watch for details to follow — we hope you will join us in continuing the conversation! 

NATURE'S INSPIRATION

CGF thanks:



Carol Jacobs and Ollie Mayer

Judy Baldwin
 Barbara Blissert
 Buck's Restaurant
 Cloudstone Vineyards
 Emilio Guglielmo Winery
 Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
 Thomas Fogarty Winery
 Kruse Winery
 Assemblymember Sally Lieber
 Jamis and Margaret MacNiven
 Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve
 Nancee Knutson
 Maltby's Restaurant
 Kelly Porter
 Pi Mobility
 Picchetti Winery
 Pinder Winery
 POST
 Ridge Vineyards
 Assemblymember Ira Ruskin
 Stroh - Hall Cellars
 Whole Foods
 Woodside Winery



Jeff Olson, April Vargas, Lennie and Jennier Roberts



Chris Vogle, Sandy Emerson, Helen Quinn, Barbara Wright and Katie Sanborn



Devon Davey and John Davey

Photographs by Cait Hutnik



Craig Britton, Karen Scussle, Curt Riffle and Holly Van Houten



Jed Cyr and Ken Nitz



Judy Kleinberg, Lynn Torin and Peter Drekmeier



Karma Lama, Holly Mitten and Katie Sanborn



Marcus Hays and Kathryn Pumal and the Pi Mobility Bike



Kansen and Daisy Chu

N A T U R E ' S I N S P I R A T I O N

Lennie Roberts' Message

CGF was delighted to celebrate Lennie Roberts' many years of volunteer leadership on September 28th. She gave a short speech that was a Call To Action. We hope that you enjoy this speech as much as we did and continue to join us in the work for these special places.

Thank you all so very much for being here, and for the wonderful tribute.

It's a great privilege to work for Committee for Green Foothills. Our accomplishments are due to so many good people's work, and I'm just one person who happened to have had the good fortune to be in the right place at the right time and hung in there to see incredible changes in both public attitudes and great results in land protection.

There are so many fabulous and dedicated people who have been part of this story. I want to specially recognize Ollie and Hank Mayer who are here today – Ollie, working with CGF and Sierra Club, stopped the environmentally destructive Devil's Slide Bypass back in the early 1970's. Two days ago, Rich Gordon and I were at a great celebration of the completion of the Bridges across Shamrock Valley. In a little over two years, we will all hopefully celebrate the opening of the Tunnel – what a joyous celebration that will be. Ollie, thank you for all you have done for the coast of California.

At this fateful time in our country's history, when we are about to elect new leaders, and hopefully change our course for the better, I would like us all to think about the future.

Global climate change is the great-

est single challenge facing our planet. Here's something we can all do about it. We all urgently need to come together and address how better to use our land. Rather than sprawling ever out beyond our urban centers, gobbling up agricultural land, and putting people onto freeways for two



or three hours a day, we need to rethink how we can locate new jobs and new housing where our infrastructure already exists. We need transit systems that are efficient and convenient. We need to protect and enhance our forests, particularly old growth and mature second growth trees which sequester more carbon than young forests. We need to ensure that our streams are restored and

enhanced for habitat. We need to protect our agricultural lands, and create a new imperative of buying local, fresh produce. We need to keep oil rigs off our coast. We need to turn back the past, and restore our diked off salt ponds to marshes around the Bay, both as part of the Salt Pond Restoration project of the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, but also Cargill's 1400 acres in Redwood City. We need to ensure that already developed areas are adequately protected from sea level rise, or in some cases, we may need to move out of the way of flood and other hazards. Certainly we should not decide to develop in new areas where the risk of flooding will continue to grow.

Every day decisions are made at every level of government that can work for – or against – the betterment of the land upon which we depend. These decisions, large and small, all add up. The future of our planet, the future of our human population, depends upon each person understanding – and adopting – an ethic that includes conservation of our irreplaceable natural resources along with social justice, and economic growth. What better place to do this than right here in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. CGF

Slow, Forward Progress to Fight Paving Over the Bay Area (and California)

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

Several years ago, Committee for Green Foothills won a competitive grant from the Santa Clara Valley Water District for watershed protection activities. We won on the basis of our proposal to conduct a legal research white paper on the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding development that increases impervious surfaces through bigger homes, wider roads, and more parking lots.

The resulting publication, "Controlling Cumulative Impacts from Impervious Surfaces: Analysis and Recommendations for Santa Clara County" actually has implications throughout California. We found that agencies were wrongly determining projects to be in compliance with CEQA when the projects only complied with different legal requirements of the National Pollutant

Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES legal requirements don't eliminate all the impacts of impervious surfaces, so, CEQA's analysis and mitigation requirements have not been met.

Since then, there has been some, albeit slow, progress. The NPDES system is slowly narrowing the gap between what it requires and what CEQA demands, although the gap will still exist for years. The Water District and Regional Water Board have participated in workshops that discuss the issue, and the forthcoming San Jose General Plan Revision will have to consider the issue in its environmental review. This progress however still fails in complying with CEQA, as some cumulative impacts continue to be ignored. What is really needed is a "no net increase" policy for impervious surfaces where any new pavement is matched by ripping out pavement elsewhere, or by using permeable

concrete that doesn't cause flash flooding into streams.

After several years of being warned, it's time for the agencies to do their job in protecting the environment. Increased impervious surfaces are creating more erosion, increase flood risks, and flush evermore pollutants into our streams and other water bodies. In our opinion, anywhere in the state, any project subject to CEQA that even slightly increases impervious surface area in a watershed where problems are getting worse, and where that project relies solely on NPDES compliance, is in likely violation of CEQA. When persuasion fails, the question must be asked if there is anything that can be done to move the systems into compliance sooner so the wrongs do not continue. Otherwise, legal mandates through legal test cases may have to come next. 

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Ridge, where I enjoyed meeting many of the members and staff, including then CGF President Peter LaTourrette. In early 2006, during an unrelated call to Pete, much to my surprise and delight he invited me to consider being a CGF board member. I was drawn into the fray, and decided it was time to take action, be more concerned about my footprint and join the board.

Coming from an outside corporate field (the tire industry) and really having no environmental connections, I appreciated from the start the courteous and collegial atmosphere of the board discussions, and quickly realized that the Board was a smart, impressive group of dedicated individuals; many attorneys, business people, land owners, etc. The once a month Board meetings have become one of the most stimulating, challenging and rewarding experiences of my life.

Q: What are the key challenges you see facing CGF today?

Organizationally, we are striving to diversify our membership geographically, culturally, and in age ranges. On one hand, having such a wide geographic area to cover makes the impact of our work more meaningful; however, our challenge is to have representation from all areas, to find a way to reach out to traditionally under-represented areas and to motivate this vast resource in the two counties.

We know that different cultures and ages enjoy access to open spaces and understand the importance of local agriculture for different reasons and in different ways. At the aforementioned Rancho San Antonio, for instance, I am enriched by hearing a whole host of the world's languages spoken on the trails, reinforcing why this is such a unique place we inhabit. It's a more diverse valley and peninsula

than I grew up with, and now an even greater place to live and to protect. We all need to act now to keep it that way and CGF provides a way to make that happen.

Another challenge CGF faces is a misperception that our work is done. When people look at the foothills, they think that all the large land holdings have already been protected. This couldn't be further from the truth. Yes, we have saved many areas, and helped create the open space agencies that manage them — however, these should be seen as only the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of what needs to be protected to maintain and improve our quality of life. We continue the battle on the ocean and bay fronts, to the mountain tops and farmlands!!

Q: Why would you recommend someone join CGF?

CGF is unique in that it is the only non-profit organization that

covers land use, agriculture, and open space issues exclusively in both Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Our work goes to the edges of both counties, covers the core of the peninsula, and reaches the southernmost tip of the Bay Area. With a well developed reputation and a record of 46 years of successes, CGF delves into local issues and gets results, right where you live, providing you an opportunity to help preserve our quality of life on the Peninsula and in the Valley.

My message to those reading and listening is that CGF is the place to pursue your passions — engage in concerns and issues facing our world, and to have an impact locally. There is no better time to act than now as it becomes increasingly more critical that we make a difference; CGF is an inclusive home that enables you to have an immediate impact. Don't wait — get involved — join us and act now! 

CGF remembers Georg Treichel



George Treichel at Glacier Bay National Park

BY TOM JORDAN

Georg Van Humboldt Treichel died at Stanford Hospital on September 22, 2008. Georg was a board member of Committee for Green Foothills from the beginning in 1962. He was born in Wisconsin in 1930 and was educated at the University of Wisconsin and at the University of California Berkeley, taking his advanced degrees in biogeography, human ecology and wildlife management. He began his career as a staff ecologist of a UN agency based in Switzerland concerned with the conservation of nature and natural resources (ICUN). While at ICUN he worked mainly in Kenya and Tanganyika and helped establish the UN's International Commission on National Parks, as well as, helped plan and establish The World Wildlife Fund.

While in Africa in 1957 he contracted polio and thereafter walked with a metal crutch on each arm. This did not slow down Georg. He did extensive field work in Latin America (including the Amazon Basin), the Caribbean Islands, Europe, USSR, India, Malaysia, Australia, Japan, and Pacific Islands. He spent time in 138 countries and did field work in 77 African parks and reserves.

At the time he came on the first CGF board Georg lived in Portola Valley with his wife Jeanie and was a professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at San Francisco State. From 1964 – 1966, he produced for KQED the series "The Nature of Conservation", the first series of ecologically oriented programs on educational television in the country.

In the 1960's Georg was on the Board of Directors of Save San Francisco Bay Association and when the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission was created Georg was appointed to the board and served as a SFBCDC Commissioner for several years. He was also on the Board of the Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy and Zero Population Growth.

He is survived by his wife Jeanie and his son Carl. He was a latter day Aldo Leopold – knowledgeable, clear seeing, and plain spoken. I was never with him that I did not laugh greatly and learn much. **CGF**

Santa Clara County's Legislator of the Year: Mary Davey

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

While the Committee for Green Foothills operates as a tax deductible non-profit that takes no side in races for public office, we do take great pride in the honors awarded to leaders associated with the Committee for all their accomplishments.

On October 15th, 2008 the Santa Clara County League of Conservation Voters chose CGF Board Member and past CGF Board President Mary Davey as its "Legislator of the Year". The Award was bestowed upon Mary primarily due to her long, successful work at the MidPeninsula Regional Open Space, although her many other contributions to environmental protection are also well known. In addition to MidPen's work acquiring land in Santa Clara County, Mary presided over the agency's expansion to the San Mateo coast. This was an environmental victory that CGF worked on as well,

and one that has regional significance in guaranteeing open space and public access for everyone in the greater Bay Area.

Mary's effectiveness as a legislator is enhanced by her diverse background of service. As previously pointed out in publications like the Palo Alto Weekly, Mary has been a columnist; Mayor of Los Altos

Hills; Chief Executive Officer of Advocates for Women, Santa Clara County; Executive Offices housing advisor; a director of Midpeninsula Citizens for Fair Housing; President and CEO of Peninsula Volunteers, Inc. and of Planned Parenthood Santa Clara County; interim Executive Director of Palo Alto Red Cross; and a board member of Hidden Villa; all in addition to being a mother and a happily married wife.

I had the privilege of introducing Mary at the League of Conservation Voters award ceremony where she received her

commendation, and enjoyed everything she and Assemblyman Ira Ruskin had to say. Happy celebrations like these are great rewards for work well done. We salute you Mary Davey! **CGF**



Brian Schmidt, Mary Davey, and Ira Ruskin

Don Wieden



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