

THE LAND SUMMER 2007



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PROTECTING THE LAST OPEN SPACES OF SILICON VALLEY



Recap: Coyote Ridge Spring Wildflower Tours 2007

Tom Cochrane

THIS PAST April, the Silicon Valley Land Conservancy completed its second annual Coyote Ridge Spring Wildflower Tour. It was a resounding success! SVLC recruited and trained 13 new volunteer docents to lead the hikes and an additional 5 volunteers to assist. These individuals contributed to SVLC's most successful event yet and volunteered over 500 hours of their time.

In all, 420 people visited Coyote Ridge on 26 hikes and driving tours. Those surveyed overwhelmingly said that they got the most from the view from the top, the diversity of the wildflowers and the information on the natural history of Coyote Ridge. In addition to the general public, 3 classes from San Jose State University, 2 classes from De Anza College and 1 class from Los Paseos elementary school also participated. Next year, SVLC's goal is to have many more students experience Coyote Ridge.

John Eige



"Thank you so much for the informative and enjoyable wildflower tour," said Toby Fernald, "though the flowers were not at their peak, we learned a lot and had a wonderful time." Frank Nichols said "I thoroughly enjoyed the wild flower hike on Coyote Ridge

last Wednesday. It was a beautiful and informative day. Thank you for making it possible."

To sum it up, Don Streepy said, "Yesterday was a most wonderful experience visiting your Coyote Ridge. The driver guides were so great in presenting so much. Their knowledge of the flora and fauna was just perfect. Thank you."

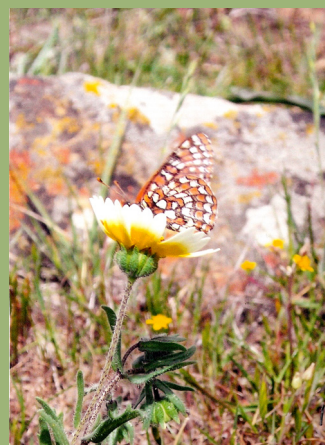
We hope to see you all again next year!

COYOTE RIDGE SPRING WILDFLOWER TOURS 2007 PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS

1ST PLACE: \$250 (SEE BACK PAGE)



Amy Adams



David Lindars



Rodney Myatt



Tom Cochrane



Eudora Zhang

SECOND PLACE: \$150

FOUR HONORABLE MENTIONS: \$50

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I AM happy to announce that the Silicon Valley Land Conservancy recently received a planning grant of \$20,000 from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation. This grant has been used to hire a consultant who has been helping us review our performance in our first 10 years and where we go in the next 10. As a community supported organization, I will be randomly selecting some of our members for feedback. If you receive a request, please provide what ever assistance is requested. Your honest and forthright answers will go a long way in helping us assess how we have been doing and what we need to do to improve.

I also want to extend my personal kudos to all the volunteers who made the Coyote Ridge hikes and tours so successful. This was the first large public outreach that SVLC has done and I can't wait to improve the event even more next year!

-G. Craig Edgerton

FEATURE CREATURE: TULE ELK

Julie Phillips, Tule Elk Biologist

IF YOU look towards the hills east of Highway 101 in Coyote Valley and catch a glimpse of a herd of elk – you are not seeing things! There are Tule Elk in those hills and in surrounding valleys throughout Santa Clara County!



© Photarrow.com/big

The smallest subspecies of North American Elk, the Tule Elk (*Cervus elaphus nannodes*), are only found in California. Though Tule Elk were once abundant throughout Central California, by the 1870's, it was thought that Tule Elk were extinct. Fortunately, a small herd of elk was

discovered in the Central Valley and, through careful management, were gradually reintroduced throughout native range statewide.

Tule Elk were reintroduced into the Mt. Hamilton region between 1978 and 1981 resulting in a scattering of elk and eventual establishment of herds in Isabel Valley, San Antonio, Livermore area, San Felipe, Metcalf Canyon, Coyote Ridge, Anderson Reservoir and surrounding areas. Today there are approximately 3,800 Tule Elk found in 21 different herds throughout the state.

Large species such as Tule Elk are an important grassland keystone species, as they are an indicator of grassland connectivity and may potentially help disperse native grassland plant species. Tule Elk have been observed utilizing riparian corridors and moving across roads and highways as they shift to different areas of their home range during calving and breeding seasons. This indicates their ability to disperse across developed areas and provides strong evidence for importance of long-term corridor planning for the natural communities where elk range. (phillipsjulie@fhda.edu)

SOAP LAKE:

AN IMPORTANT FLOODPLAIN

SOAP LAKE is a 9,100 acre floodplain located on the border of Santa Clara and San Benito counties just east of Hwy 101 and south of Gilroy. You have most likely driven past Soap Lake without realizing it as it only becomes a lake when there is a significant flood in the hills upstream of the Pajaro River.

Silicon Valley Land Conservancy owns three conservation easements on Soap Lake (Mission Organics, Dorado, Carnadero). These easements were purchased in order to protect local agricultural resources, though there are other benefits that accrue to these protected lands.

According to the Pajaro River Watershed Integrated Resources Water Management Plan, "Soap Lake... has been found to be an extremely important flood protection feature. It acts like a natural detention basin, storing water and reducing peak flows that would otherwise increase flooding in the lower Pajaro River in the Watsonville area." In addition to providing temporary storage for floodwaters, Soap Lake also provides an ideal setting for wetlands, improves water quality, offers green space that can be used as buffers, and provides important habitat for wildlife.

SVLC continues to seek opportunities to preserve land in Soap Lake region and in other areas of Silicon Valley.

**LANDS SVLC
HAS PRESERVED**
TOTAL: 1622 ACRES

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

COOPER 40 ACRES
MISSION ORGANICS 165 ACRES
DORADO 510 ACRES
CARNADERO 480 ACRES

CRITICAL HABITAT FOR THREATENED SPECIES

TULARE HILL 116 ACRES
COYOTE RIDGE* 311 ACRES

*Includes Basking Ridge, Los Esteros, Metcalf Energy Center and Silicon Valley Power

INTERVIEW WITH BOARD MEMBER BARRY FERNALD

Why did you decide to join the Board of the SVLC?

I JOINED the Board because Don Gralnek asked me to and he is not an easy person to say no to. More importantly, I joined because careful and intelligent land conservation is a critical need in Silicon Valley today, and that is what SLVC is all about.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for the SVLC?

The biggest challenge for SVLC today is to let the community know what we are doing and why, so we can raise the funds necessary to accomplish our goals. SLVC has done an amazing job of protecting and conserving land with very little funding or visibility. With more funding and greater visibility, I believe we can do even more amazing things in the future.

What do you see as the biggest opportunity for the SVLC?

Opportunity is all around us. There are so many areas, particularly in the south valley and northward along I-680, that have land that is ideal for conservation easements or ownership. We are not an anti-growth organization, but pro smart growth, and are willing to work with developers, farmers and any other group who we can assist in mitigating the problems of growth. We believe in buying land or easements, not taking it without compensation, which should make preservation a win win for all concerned. SVLC provides the vehicle for intelligent growth while conserving needed open space, which ultimately allows for a healthy environment for people, plants and animals.

Where do you see the SVLC five years from now?

In five years, SLVC should be known as the "go to" organization for anyone wishing to preserve land or habitat in the Silicon Valley. We are fair, creative, and above all successful in maintaining a healthy balance between growth and open space.

INTRODUCING GIVELINE AS A REVOLUTIONARY WAY TO SUPPORT SILICON VALLEY LAND CONSERVANCY!

GIVELINE.COM IS an online store created for the community-minded shopper, offering bestselling products including books, movies, music, electronics, housewares, gifts and more. Every purchase generates a substantial donation to Silicon Valley Land Conservancy (15%-30%). Giveline has great products, great service, and great prices - the only difference between Giveline and other major online retailers is that every purchase earns money for the Silicon Valley Land Conservancy. Check it out today, and if you decide to buy, remember that Silicon Valley Land Conservancy will earn significant funds in support of our mission!"

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER!

DENNIS KENNEDY

SVLC WELCOMES Dennis Kennedy, former mayor of the City of Morgan Hill, to its Board of Directors. He has lived in Santa Clara County most of his life, worked for IBM for 25 years, and is now active in a variety of non-profit organizations. He has much to offer SVLC, especially in south Santa Clara County, and we look forward to his valuable input.

CURRENT BOARD AND STAFF

CARL CILKER	PRESIDENT
BARRY FERNALD	DON GRALNEK
MIKE FOX, SR.	SECRETARY
MARY ELLEN FOX	ERIC BRANDENBURG
DENNIS KENNEDY	STAFF
TERRY LACHENBRUCH	CRAIGE EDGERTON
DOUG STOVELAND	MEGAN FLUKE

SVLC MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____

I'd also like to make a contribution to SVLC:

- SUPPORTER** **\$35**
- LAND STEWARD** **\$100**
- SUSTAINER** **\$500**
- PRESERVATIONIST** **\$1,000**
- TRAILBLAZERQ** **\$5,000**
- OTHER** **\$ _____**

My contribution of \$ _____ is enclosed.

QUOTE OF THE SEASON

"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

-President Lyndon B. Johnson

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*If you would like to receive 'The Land' via e-mail, let us know!
Just send an e-mail to mflake@siliconvalleylc.org*



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WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

As a community based organization, SVLC relies on the help of volunteers. Whether you can spare 30 minutes or 30 hours, SVLC wants you!

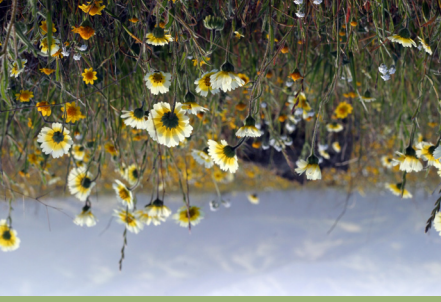
Please call (408) 260-3044



Cream Cups on Coyote Ridge

David Tharp

*FIRST PLACE
COYOTE RIDGE SPRING WILDFLOWER TOURS 2007 PHOTO CONTEST*



David Tharp