

THE Buckeye

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE THROUGH FAMILY STEWARDSHIP OF
NATURAL RESOURCES IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

CONSERVATOR

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The Newsletter of The Buckeye Conservancy

SMILEY To The Rescue

The seeds for The Buckeye Conservancy were sown in 1999 and we are now in our fifth year as an organization. We have accomplished much but in the last year or so your Board has felt a fatigue and a lack of focus – not uncommon for groups like ours at this point in their history. We were just trying to do too much with too little. The “smoke” from Director burnout was in the air.

Enter Marc Smiley – a top notch Organizational Development Consultant from Portland who has provided guidance to groups all over the country like The California Rangeland Trust and The Colorado Cattlemen’s Land Trust. For two days in September, 2004, we gathered round Marc at Fern Cottage and took a hard look at a number of crucial questions...what is our core purpose? Who are our core constituents? What are our strengths and weaknesses? Where do we go from here and how do we get there?

Marc led us skillfully through the maze. We have emerged with a clear direction, a narrowed focus and realistic action plans – and we must say, with new energy. Here are the key points we took away from our retreat:

- Our core constituents are the ecosystem and the ag lands on which we live and work, along with private resource owners and managers



Pictured from left to right: Johanna Rodoni, Marc Smiley and Pete Bussman

We have emerged with a clear direction, a narrowed focus and realistic action plans...with new energy.

- Education and advocacy were reaffirmed as our primary roles
- A number of proposed by-laws changes, including a re-ordering of membership categories to 1) general and 2) commercial – open to all who support our mission (members will vote on these and other by-laws changes at the annual business meeting)
- The creation of five new, standing committees staffed with members and directors:
 - Finance/Governance: Julie Houtby, Chairman
 - Fundraising: George Brightman, Chairman
 - Outreach/Education: Andy Westfall, Chairman
 - Policy/Advocacy: Jim Able, Chairman
 - Conservancy: Tom Herman, Chairman
- The goal to build capacity, add staff and increase fundraising

We have made good progress thanks to Marc’s guidance (he also remains available to us for on-going consultation). More changes and improvements will be forthcoming during the year. We are most grateful to Marc Smiley for helping us put the “Buck” back in the Buckeye.

BOB BARNUM

To Receive Buckeye Conservancy Stewardship Award

The Buckeye Conservancy Board of Directors is pleased to announce that C. Robert “Bob” Barnum, has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 Buckeye Conservancy Stewardship Award. This award is given annually to members of our community that have demonstrated exemplary care and management of ranch resources. Bob is the general partner of Barnum Timber Company, a family owned enterprise that owns and manages approximately 43,000 acres of timber growing land primarily located in Humboldt County.

After more than sixty years of involvement in forestry in Humboldt County, Bob is recognized by the professional forestry community as a pioneer in the application of intensive forest management in our region. Ask any professional forester in Humboldt County who does the best job in managing young growth forests and you can be assured that Bob Barnum’s name will be at the top of the list. Those who have the privilege to visit the lands managed under Bob’s oversight always come away with a sense of awe. Bob’s commitment to long-term forestry investments has resulted in thousands of acres of cutover hardwood stands being converted to fully stocked conifer forests.

Bob was born and raised in and continues to reside in Humboldt County. He began his work in forestry in 1944 when he worked for his father surveying cutting boundaries and cruising timber. He was 16 years old at the time, and was pressed into service due to every engineer and surveyor in the region devoted to World

Bob’s contribution to forestry in our region continues to leave a legacy of prudent land stewardship that will influence timber management in our region for generations to come.

War II. Bob took a few years off from forestry to serve a term in the Merchant Marines and to attend college, but has otherwise devoted his career to his first love, growing trees.

Bob has and continues to be an influential contributor to the field of forestry. He was a member of the California Board of Forestry in the early 1970s. He was a founding director of the Forest Landowners of California, a long time member and director of the California Forestry Association, the Treasurer of the Redwood Region Conservation Council

and served on the Timber Maturity Board of the State Board of Equalization. Bob’s contribution to forestry in our region continues to leave a legacy of prudent land stewardship that will influence timber management in our region for generations to come. For this we believe Bob is overly deserving of the recognition associated with our stewardship award.

After raising their five children in our community, Bob and his wife Pat continue to reside in Eureka, and spend their leisure time at their summer place at Redwood Creek.

Buckeye Stewardship Award

2004 Recipients

Last year’s 2004 recipients of the Buckeye Stewardship award — Gloria and Graham Cottrell of Bridgeville.



NEW & IMPROVED

5th Buckeye Annual Meeting

You didn't miss it – we moved it! Instead of early February, we'll now be holding our annual business meeting and dinner, the second Saturday in March. This year it's March 12th, at Fortuna's River Lodge, as usual.

But this year's gathering is better than "usual." The business meeting starts at 5 o'clock. It will be an opportunity for members to hear in detail the actions we're working on this year, vote for directors and consider important by-laws changes. There will also be an opportunity for you to let us know what you think about how the organization is doing.



After the meeting, throats will, no doubt, be parched and dry. Fortunately, the social hour will start at 6 pm.

New this year will be an "open bar." On display will be photographs of the Barnum Family's Ranch – this year's winner of the 2nd annual Buckeye Stewardship Award. Dinner will start around 7 pm and this year we're featuring choice New York strip loin, barbecued by the "great one," our Chairman, Peter Bussman. After you get settled in, we will award some nice door prizes and also new this year, a short but spirited, live auction. Rex Bohn will be your auctioneer and will invite your bid on items which will include dinner for four at the Ivanhoe, a week's summer or winter vacation for 10 in a Montana Lodge, a fully catered and guided weekend wild pig hunt, and more!!!

While you're enjoying coffee and dessert, Bob Barnum will be presented with 2005 Buckeye Stewardship Award. Immediately following will be the introduction of our

special guest speaker. In keeping with Buckeye tradition, we will be bringing you a program of top notch caliber. Dr. Patrick Moore, from Vancouver, Canada, is a dynamic and highly sought after presenter. A founding member of Greenpeace, he has been a leader in the International Environmental movement for 30 years. Dubbed the "sensible environmentalist," he will discuss the myths and misinformation that distort current environmental debates. He calls for issues to be discussed on the basis of accurate scientific data, a search for consensus, and the creation of sustainable solutions. Each year we bring in distinguished speakers who enlighten, entertain and uplift us. Dr. Moore is

eminently qualified in all categories.

As always, members and non-members are cordially invited (those on our mailing list will be receiving invitations by mail). With some trepidation, we've had to raise this year's event cost to \$75 per person in order to bring you an annual meeting with all the very best.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a memorable evening. To make reservations, simply mail your check to The Buckeye Conservancy, P.O. Box 5607, Eureka, CA 95502. Please call the Buckeye office for more information (786-9662).

BUCKEYE Legal Defense Fund Is Born

The Buckeye believes that the best solutions to most issues come through an open process of communication, education and collaboration. We have pursued this principle through efforts like The Buckeye Forest Project, where people from differing perspectives, but with common goals ("The Radical Center"), have worked constructively for change.

Regretfully, this process is not always effective, especially when matters have been referred to the courts for settlement. While we dislike this approach, there are times (increasingly, we're afraid) when a defense must be

mounted against a legal challenge that significantly threatens our mission.

It was in this spirit, that The Buckeye Legal Defense Fund was established by the Board of Directors back in August. Funding was kicked off by a generous donation from Sterling and Cindy McWhorter. Others have followed. We solicit your donations which will allow us to lend support to critical cases. Those wishing to donate may do so by mailing a check marked "Legal Defense Fund" to The Buckeye Conservancy, P.O. Box 5607, Eureka, CA, 95502.

Thank you.

NORTH COAST

Regional Water Quality Control Board

By Steve Horner

Last year the NCRWQCB staff proposed a “Sediment Amendment” to the North Coast Basin plan. This amendment would have set policy for how Regional Board staff treats regulation of sediment sources across the 12 million acres of the North Coast region.

According to the NCRWQCB staff report for the new amendment, its implementation could cost landowners across the region nearly \$1 Billion (yes, BILLION) to reduce sediment discharge to North Coast streams. Shortly before the Basin Plan amendment was to be considered for adoption by the Regional Board, its staff pulled the amendment from consideration. This reconsideration was likely due to the stiff criticism of the proposal by private landowners across

the region. However, Regional Board staff is now re-drafting the amendment and are seeking private landowner input. It’s important for Buckeye Conservancy members to be aware of this proposal and let the Regional Water Board know how you feel about it.

In its previous form, the Sediment Amendment treated all sediment sources created by land use activity as something that the current landowner is obliged to remediate, regardless of who created it or when it was created. Its not clear from the first proposal if any sediment source would be considered too small and require clean up – this is why the potential cost of implementation ranged up to nearly \$1 billion.

Implementation of this amendment has the potential of creating liability for lands that have human-caused erosion sources, and thus lower land values. The Buckeye Conservancy will be closely following the development of the new Sediment Amendment and keep its members informed. In other NCRWQCB affairs, John Corbett of McKinleyville was reappointed to the Board by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in December.

There are currently four vacant Board positions. The Buckeye Conservancy is evaluating several potential candidates, and will be sending letters of support for those candidates that demonstrate a commitment to protect working open space and the values of the Buckeye Conservancy.



Trailing Cattle on the
McWhorter's Peak Ranch
near Petrolia

photo by Andy Westfall

FAREWELL

Mark Anderson



Mark Anderson stands next to former assembly member Virginia Strom-Martin during a Buckeye Field Tour.

Long time friend of The Buckeye Conservancy, Mark Anderson, has moved to Arizona. Mark, a Registered Professional Forester, was one of the founding members of our organization and often referred to himself, along with the other founding Directors, as part of “a small, but deeply disturbed group”. Mark’s sense of humor was a welcome addition to the meetings. But Mark has a serious and deeply devoted side too.

The Buckeye Forest Project was Mark’s inspiration where he served as Project Manager and worked diligently to keep the project moving forward. Mark embraced the Malpai Borderlands Group idea of operating in the “radical center” and used this approach to model the project.

With optimism and enthusiasm, Mark was always willing to do whatever it took to make things happen successfully for Buckeye. While on the Board of Directors, Mark served as Chairman of the Outreach Committee where

he helped organize Buckeye Mixers, educational booths, technical field trips, workshops, Buckeye’s web page and the Annual Meeting.

While Mark’s departure from the area is sad news for Buckeye, the move is good news for Mark. Mark’s move was motivated by his marriage to Prescott, Arizona resident and school teacher Karen Roethel. We wish Mark and Karen much happiness and success and will forever be grateful to Mark for his contribution to The Buckeye Conservancy.

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CAMP RUN

Thanks Dina – Buckeye Conservancy appreciates Kneeland rancher and Buckeye member Dina Moore’s recently completed three year stint as a member of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Dina unwaveringly took on this very demanding responsibility and brought a ranchland owner’s perspective to the Board. Thanks Dina!

Thanks – to the following Grantors and Foundations for supporting Buckeye from the beginning in our efforts to preserve open space through family stewardship of natural resources:

California Department of Fish and Game

The Headwaters Fund

Malpai Borderlands Group

The McLean Foundation

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

The Simpson Fund

New Directors – Board members Mark Anderson and Ron Samuelson have retired from the Board of Directors one year short of their full term. We thank Ron for all his hard work while on the Board and Mark (see article this newsletter). New Board members appointed to fill out Mark and Ron’s terms are Ray Flynn, retired Humboldt County Assessor, and Robert Vevoda, Ferndale dairyman.

A FREE Workshop – sponsored by the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and the Humboldt Resource Conservation District, entitled ‘Incentive Programs for Private Landowners: Options for Conservation’ will take place at the Ferndale Town Hall on Friday March 4th from 9:15am ‘till 2:30pm. Local experts will discuss several land conservation and resource incentive programs available to agricultural landowners in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. This is a free workshop with lunch and refreshments provided. Please call 822-2242 with any questions and to reserve a seat.

THE FROTH & THE FURY

Words of Wisdom

By Theodore Roosevelt IV

Following are excerpts from a speech given by Theodore Roosevelt IV at Yellowstone National Park, August 25th, 2003, and published by the National Park Service. Our thanks to Mr. Roosevelt for his kind permission allowing us to pass some of his thoughts on to you.

...Honoring a land ethic, in my view, should necessarily involve us in a respectful dialogue with the communities who actually live on the land and for whom “place” is neither an abstraction, a way station, or a career move. A respectful dialogue with rural communities means that we regard them as equal partners, not as colonial vassals.

And, here, we come to the crux of the resource issues that confound us today – or I should probably say, “that confront us.”

I have begun to wonder if our battles with one another – sometimes characterized as “cultural warfare” – aren’t more about undoing the opposition than achieving positive benefits for the resource or for rural communities.

We have settled into painful and entrenched oppositions in which we now seem to delight: urban versus rural; gateway communities versus national stakeholders; the interior west versus the coasts; the right versus the left; the self-righteous versus the sanctimonious; the Princes of Darkness versus Nature’s Anointed Ones.

As we practice the language of division and pressure politics, we begin to believe that economies of truth are true enough and that the end justifies any means whatsoever.

We begin to believe that some of us wear the mantle of protectors – whether of local communities and democracy, or of inviolate nature – while the unclean rest of us are the exploiters. Both sides poison the process: both sides play by the rules that suit them, use tactics and language to

inflame their own constituencies, and treat anyone with a different point of view as the enemy.

And, yet, in the midst of hard-pressed, angry rural communities and sick ecosystems, American citizens are coming together quietly – on the q.t. as it were – to build consensus and forge solutions. They are engaging in the disciplined, unglamorous, unheralded, and arduous work of a democracy.

As Aldo Leopold wrote: “One of the curious evidences that conservation programs are losing their grip is that they have seldom resorted to self government as a cure for land abuse. ‘We who are about to die,’ unless democracy can mend its land use, have not tried democracy as a possible answer to our problem.”

American people are, after all, essentially pragmatic and down to earth. With a bias toward action and problem solving, and an inherent respect for differences. In fact, the American people occupy no political position so well, in my opinion, as what some are beginning to call the “radical center.”

For me, the radical center best models what the practice of a land ethic might mean on the ground and in our culture.

The radical center is committed to the idea that “keeping people on the landscape is crucial to the health of that landscape and that the status quo is unacceptable.” As one rancher, Karl Ohs, put it: “Collaboration is a sensitive process. You can’t ram it down people’s throats. But when it’s done well, there’s a trust that develops that’s good for all society.” And another rancher, Doc Hatfield, put it this way: “Consensus building is not kind and gentle. Consensus is agreeing not to agree on a lot of things, but working together on the things you can agree on.” And then, a forester describes the lack of funding for collaborative endeavors:



“There’s more money for spear-throwers, than peace-makers. There is a conflict industry out there, which seems to be well-served by deadlock.”

The question the radical center poses for the rest of us is: “How can we develop a land ethic if our people are lost from the land?”

The environmental community is very fond of the word stewardship. But I have a problem with it. It seems to leave us alone with our responsibilities, to shoulder them as best we can and at whatever personal cost. I would like to resurrect a concept, standing here before this gateway, from the Old Testament – covenant. Covenant conveys a sense of mutuality, that we have mutual obligations to one another.

In terms of our use of the natural world, I believe that we enter into a covenant not only with God, our nation, and our neighbors, but with future generations – what Theodore Roosevelt described as “the number within the womb of time, compared to which those now alive form but an insignificant fraction.” I believe that the American people, who are so blessed with the bounty of this land, can find the good will and good sense to honor that covenant.

BUCKEYE FOREST Project Update

By Mike Atkins

Upon his retirement, Mark Anderson was kind enough to provide me with some words of advice to assist me as the new project manager. Specifically, he emphasized the project manager's role in guiding the steering committee efforts to a point of what he called "critical mass", and in doing so focus the group on the following objectives. First, facilitate and encourage discussions among the various stake holders. Second, assist the group in reaching a level of consensus focusing on topics affecting land owner relief. And finally conduct the workshop then summarize and publish any results. Given these objectives this year's topic has certainly sparked a variety of discussions and opinions and has resulted in increased participation from agencies representatives, landowners, land managers and environmental interests.

As you may be aware the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that all timber harvest plans conduct a comprehensive analysis of any previous, ongoing, proposed or foreseeable future projects within a planning watershed or other designated area. Furthermore this onerous and costly burden of complying with (CEQA) is placed upon the project proponent (or "landowner" in this case) which comprises a significant cost in the preparation of timber harvest plans. Therefore, this year's topic will be focused on (CEQA) and how it specifically relates to timber harvest plan preparation with the emphasis on reducing timber harvest plan costs and providing landowner relief.

This year's first workshop is scheduled to be conducted on March 31st and April 1st and will focus on the following questions.

First, can the cost of timber management be reduced through the development and coordination of a single data base system that can be used by landowners and land managers for (CEQA) analysis? If so, would this coordinated data base be sponsored by the State or other public entity? Second, can landowner's plan preparation costs be reduced by placing the responsibility of (CEQA) compliance back to the State or other public organization, and if so how this might be done?

The second workshop should be conducted around September or October. The workshop will probably be structured as a follow up to the initial workshop. Therefore, the second workshop should be focused on developing concept of comprehensive (CEQA) analysis while building on results from the previous workshop.

THANKS To the following who have made donations to The Buckeye Conservancy

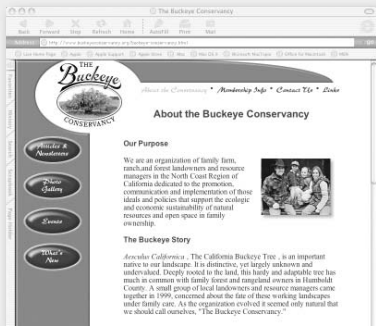
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WWW.BUCKEYECONSERVANCY.ORG



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On the web page you will find everything from our "Mission," to membership information, past and current Buckeye newsletters, a photo gallery and more.

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