



Forest restoration or perpetual timber harvesting — a clear choice for the YMCA

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

The San Francisco YMCA's controversial proposal to log 733 acres of redwoods and Douglas firs at Camp Jones Gulch is still up in the air. Under the YMCA's proposed Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP), it would be entitled to log the forest — every 15 years — in perpetuity. Committee for Green Foothills proposed an alternative, stewardship and restoration

approach for managing the YMCA's forest lands. While the YMCA is considering this alternative, to date, it has not withdrawn the NTMP.

Opposition Intensifies

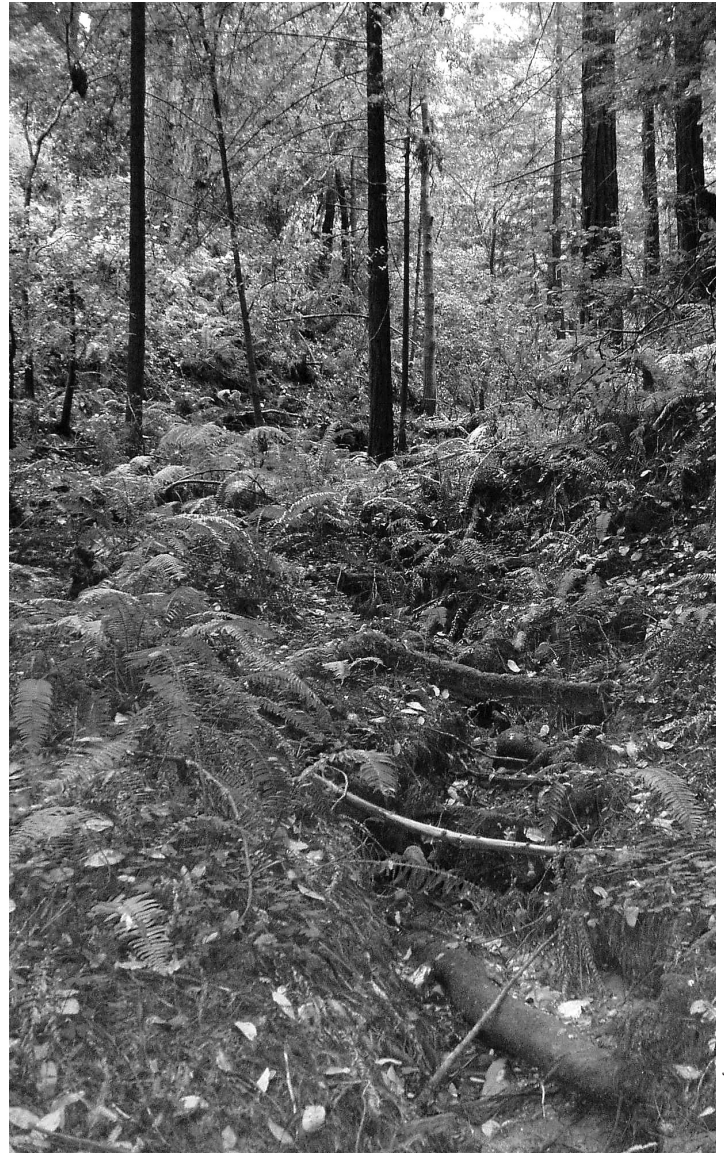
Responding to the outpouring of opposition from hundreds of former campers, counselors, neighbors, and concerned residents, the YMCA held a public meeting in early December



to explain its plan more fully. The large crowd's reaction to its logging proposal that has created a public relations nightmare for the YMCA was respectful but passionate. Many felt that cutting many of the largest second-growth trees is inconsistent with the YMCA's mission — particularly in a place where thousands of school kids come to experience nature and learn about environmental stewardship.

Partnering with the community

CGF has urged the YMCA to engage its critics in developing a stewardship and restoration plan that will allow the forest to recover from past logging, and ultimately achieve a park-like setting with stately mature trees, cool shaded forest floor, and clear clean streams.



Camp Jones Gulch's McCormick Creek part of the Pescadero Creek watershed.

The YMCA has untapped financial resources available that would enable it to meet its capital needs for deferred maintenance and upgrading of dilapidated buildings at the camp. By creating a forest Conservation Easement that protects the forest, while allowing some removal of brushy and non-native species, the YMCA could acquire the capital it needs without resorting to commercial timber harvesting. Also, the YMCA could apply for grants to fund repair of old logging roads, culverts, and stream crossings, fuel reduction, and other forest improvements. Public and non-profit entities could help provide labor and in-kind services.

See *YMCA*, page 4



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 environment of the Peninsula and Coast. Through grassroots education, planning and legislative advocacy, CGF works to protect and preserve our local natural resources, views and open space.

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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...

Winter has come unnoticed by me, I have been so busy writing. This is the life most lead in respect to Nature. How different from my habitual one! It is hasty, coarse, and trivial, as if you were a spindle in a factory. The other is leisurely, fine, and glorious, like a flower. In the first case, you are merely getting your living; in the second you live as you go along.

— Henry David Thoreau

We hope you are finding time in your busy life to notice the winter and the spring beginning to blossom. Here at Committee for Green Foothills, we are pausing from our regular “busyness” to look at where we have been and where we are heading as we work to protect and preserve our natural open spaces.

We began our review by surveying members and donors in an online and telephone survey in December. We would like to thank those who participated. Your input helped us understand the Committee’s past and present successes and focus in order to develop a strategic plan that will guide us for the next 5 years.

Our strategic plan will put greater emphasis on our efforts in the near and mid term, to magnify the impact we have as an organization on protecting open spaces. There’s much work still to do and we would appreciate any further comments you would like to share with us.

This spring we are celebrating the legacy of our co-Founder Lois Hogle

with the unveiling of a bench in her honor at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, made possible by the generous donations of so many of you. We’re planning an event to coincide with as many glorious flowers as possible to remind us how she would “gather us together like flowers” to work together to protect open lands. I hope you will be able to join us at this special event.

Finally, it wouldn’t be spring without new growth and we here at the Committee are no exception. We congratulate Holly Van Houten, our executive director, and her husband, Patrick Laprocina, who are expecting their first child in early July. Holly plans to work as long as she can before the baby arrives and then return in the fall to resume her leadership at the helm of the Committee. We wish Holly and Patrick all the best as they prepare for their new addition to the planet!

As we move forward this year, we need and want to hear from you. Our Legislative Advocates—Lennie Roberts and Brian Schmidt—rely on you as their eyes and ears in the community and value your alert attention to the world around you. As winter turns to spring and the rains finally bless us, I wish you hours of glorious, leisurely time in nature, to return refreshed, renewed, and reinvigorated to protect the nature that surrounds us.

— Chris Powell, Board President

Making farming profitable in Santa Clara County



Holly Van Houten

Local agriculture faces economic pressures from urban development.

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

In Santa Clara County, one often hears the argument that “farming is doomed.” Some farmers say it’s not a matter of wanting to make windfall profits by selling out to developers, it’s that they can’t make any profits at all farming in the County.

While this sounds like an exaggeration, it may hold a kernel of truth. Farming no longer plays a dominant role in our local economy. Compared to other counties in California, local farmers face higher labor costs; more expensive and difficult access to equipment, supplies, and processing plants; and more conflicts with neighbors. On the less-savory side, farmers elsewhere are probably less-scrutinized and therefore more likely to cut corners on environmental protection, worker safety, and worker rights.

Agricultural mitigation

So what can we do to balance the scales? There has been increasing focus on agricultural mitigation lately: if a development or city plan involves converting land use away from agriculture,

then some mitigation method such as buying development rights on other farmland has been suggested, and sometimes required. While agricultural mitigation may be necessary, it may not be enough for agricultural preservation if farmers can’t make a profit.

Agricultural preservation fees

Here’s an idea to consider. Why not require developers to pay agricultural preservation fees, just as they have to pay infrastructure fees to finance the roads, schools, and services that their projects will require? Agricultural preservation fees could be used to finance local farmers’ markets — reducing distribution costs of local produce and making local farmers more competitive. Local governments could adopt agricultural preservation fees as a tool for preserving farming.

At an Environmental Forum cosponsored by CGF last year where San Jose mayoral candidates discussed their positions on environmental issues, candidate Michael Mulcahy suggested that some sort of preference should be given to locally-grown food. We hope that everyone concerned with local farms continue to pursue these innovative ideas. **CGF**

Perpetual timber harvests threaten San Mateo and Santa Clara County forests

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

Perpetual timber harvest plans threaten large stands of redwoods on some 700 acres on YMCA property in San Mateo County and 1,000 acres of San Jose Water Company (SJWC) lands in Santa Clara County, upstream of Lexington Reservoir. Massive logging conflicts with the environmental education mission that YMCA has on its property, and it also conflicts with water quality needs on SJWC land for drinking water used by thousands of County residents.

SJWC premises its perpetual harvesting on the idea that cutting down large redwood trees will reduce fire risk, but the very neighbors who would supposedly be protected are in bitter disagreement with the claim. Neighbors Against Irresponsible Logging (NAIL) says the plan will do the reverse, increasing their fire risk and threatening their own water supply.

NAIL has assembled an impressive team of experts to combat this proposal applying high-tech analysis to show the forest acreage exceeds the level allowed for the permit that SJWC is seeking. They've attracted high-level support from former Vice-President Al Gore, and virtually all local agencies have shown alarm over the issue. Santa Clara County's government stance is crucial but undefined so far, as it could force the company plan to undergo extra scrutiny.

Committee for Green Foothills has been following this issue, meeting with NAIL, and talking to government officials for nearly two years (see "Thousand-acre Logging Plan Threatens Santa Clara County," Green Footnotes, Fall 2005). The San Jose Mercury News outlined its own solution to the problem, public acquisition, in its January 30th editorial. This solution needs to be considered, but it faces critical hurdles unless the inappropriate logging proposal is withdrawn or rejected. **CGF**

YMCA, from Page 1

New program opportunities

While opposition to the NTMP has been intense, it shows that people care deeply about the stewardship values they learned at YMCA camp and about this forest that is now threatened. Capturing the energy created in opposition to the NTMP and redirecting it to restoration would be a great outcome for the YMCA as well as the environment and nearby communities. By partnering with community groups and public agencies, the YMCA could strengthen and expand its educational program at Camp Jones Gulch and show its commitment to environmental values.

What's wrong with NTMP's?

Unlike "ordinary" Timber Harvesting Plans, which are one-time permits to log, a Nonindustrial Timber Management Plan (NTMP) entitles a landowner to log property in 15–20 year cycles, forever. A landowner who wishes to devote forested land to timber production is saved the expense and time of getting individual timber harvesting permits every 15 or 20 years. However, there is a downside. An NTMP, once approved, does not allow for public review or comment on any future harvests, unless the plan is substantially amended. Conditions change, scientific knowledge changes, public awareness changes, and regulations change over time. An NTMP does not change, unless the landowner decides to revise the plan. **CGF**

The environmental way to San Jose

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

Newly-elected San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed has expressed interest in starting environmental initiatives. The Committee for Green Foothills participated in several citizen meetings that brainstormed ideas, and we worked together with Loma Prieta Sierra Club Chapter volunteers to develop a few of the best ones.

Rezoning open land as open space

A surprisingly-welcomed possibility we brought up was that the upcoming General Plan revision should do something about the thousands of acres that are under the City's jurisdiction but are far outside the urban service area. These annexations date back decades when San Jose attempted to imitate Los Angeles-style sprawl, but now there are no plans to develop the area. To forestall future schemes for hillside sprawl, there was strong support for rezoning the lands from residential to open space. If this happens, it will be a dramatic achievement for the Reed administration.

Updating the General Plan to include Coyote Valley

Possibly the most important decision, though, will be over Coyote Valley. It's increasingly clear that there is no need to rush development there, so the best plan for the City would be to decide how it will update its General Plan before it makes a final decision on Coyote Valley. Given how outdated the expectations are in the General Plan, which preceded the dot-com bust, this prioritizing is the matter of getting the cart before the horse. We will do our best to make sure it proceeds that way.

More the City can do for the environment

There are many other things the City needs to do. CGF emphasized the importance of the City taking control over preliminary versions of its environmental documents. Currently, the developers prepare these documents, a practice that limits openness, creates bias, and is long-abandoned elsewhere in the Bay Area. We also stressed the importance of supporting a strong agricultural mitigation policy to preserve nearby farmland when adjacent land is lost to development. And we have emphasized the need for the City to do adequate analysis of cumulative impacts from development regarding increasing impervious surfaces and increasing greenhouse gas emissions. **CGF**

STANFORD

Risks and opportunities in the next Stanford expansion proposal

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT

Not one to pass up a development opportunity, Stanford University has seized upon a legally-required seismic upgrade for its hospital, and now proposes a massive expansion of the hospital, much additional “medical” office space, and a large expansion of the adjacent Stanford Shopping Center. The combined proposals total a hefty 1.5 million square feet of development, in a similar league with the approximately 5 million square feet of development rights that Stanford received with its General Use Permit (GUP) in 2000.

What are the impacts on open space?

Stanford’s current proposal and its 2000 GUP have different effects on open space. First, all of the land proposed for development now is already developed, so the only effect on open space will be indirect. Second, the development will be on land in the City of Palo Alto, as opposed to the GUP which was outside of city limits, and

in Santa Clara County jurisdiction. Third, Stanford requests multiple exemptions from current zoning restrictions, particularly from height limitations, and requests an agreement that will prohibit the City from adding new zoning restrictions.

Just as Stanford took the seismic risk issue and turned it into an opportunity, the broader community needs to do the same with Stanford’s proposal. The university wants a Planned Development Agreement with certain benefits it cannot have under current zoning. In return, if the deal goes forward in a manner similar to what Stanford proposes, Palo Alto has an opportunity to negotiate appropriate community benefits for the city and the surrounding community. In particular, because Stanford wants extra-high density on its developed land, that benefit should be balanced with protections for nearby, low-density open space.

The proposal also raises a number of other environmental issues. Possibly the most important, indirect effect on open space could be the large number of new people brought to work at Stanford

— where are they going to live? The Peninsula already has a tremendous imbalance of housing relative to jobs, and this proposal will make things worse. The new people coming to Stanford will need housing, and if their housing demand is not balanced out with new housing, then open space will face still more development pressure. This represents an opportunity for Palo Alto to secure a commitment from Stanford to add to its housing stocks and gain permanent open space protections.

Shouldn’t Stanford go green?

Still other issues, such as using “green” building standards and mitigating transportation demands, must also be addressed. Stanford is fast approaching the time when it must prepare the “Sustainability Study” it promised in the 2000 GUP, and the relation of that study to this giant proposal is unclear. Palo Alto, neighboring communities, and community organizations like CGF will have to carefully monitor developments to make sure the communities’ environment remains protected. **CGF**

Stanford trails litigation update

BY BRIAN SCHMIDT AND HOLLY VAN HOUTEN

San Mateo County Supervisors were set to vote on March 27th to reject Stanford University’s offer of \$8.4 million to widen the Alpine Road sidewalk. At the last minute, Stanford came in with another offer that would potentially allow the money to stay in San Mateo County but to be put to better purposes than creating a 12-foot wide trail, moving Alpine Road, and armoring the creek banks. The Supervisors are now expected to vote in April, if a deal can be worked out with Stanford and Santa Clara County.

CGF filed suit in June 2006 to stop this damaging decision to allow Stanford to pay for the Alpine Road sidewalk expansion in lieu of a trail on its own lands that had been done without environmental review. Unfortunately, a lower-

court judge ruled against CGF last fall on a technical issue related to whether the lawsuit was filed on time. We tried last fall to see if there was a potential for a negotiated solution between Stanford, Santa Clara County, and San Mateo County, but found there was no apparent evidence of willingness on Stanford’s part to find a compromise that would avoid a lengthy appeal. Based on this, we went ahead and filed our appeal in December.

We believe this latest offer from Stanford has the potential to create a workable solution, but “the devil is in the details.”

Can a legally enforceable agreement be crafted giving the flexibility to use the funds to create some real recreational opportunities that mitigate the impacts of Stanford’s development? That is the \$8.4 million dollar question. **CGF**

Unstructured play — *when kids make the rules*

BY LINDA WAGNER

Children are such social animals. I have been bemused by their interactions for most of my 40 years as teacher and mother. Although we think of children as being in constant motion, much of their work together has to do with negotiation. As they are riding their bikes, playing in a sandbox or, as teenagers, deciding what to do on the weekend, they live in a flux of imagination constantly tempered by the realities of circumstance and the personalities of other playmates. Each age has its own version of conflict and resolution. The best part of play is a conflict happily resolved. Mastering the art of negotiation is an important process that leads to being a successful adult, and this is the value of play.

Playing organized sports is a constant process of conflict resolution. How does unstructured play compare? The major difference for children is that in unstructured play, they are the rule makers. Each age group can make rules appropriate for its own understanding. The form of the game is also appropriate for the age group. During a week of camping with 10 year-olds, I watched a game develop. A few girls and a boy created

new channels in the creek and began to build miniature houses of rocks and sticks and plants. Others joined in and then there were three cities. They began trading materials. The ones closest to shore had the best leaves. The ones deeper in the creek had the best rocks. The stone skippers were intrigued by the activity, and as they stood around they were asked to find special items. Soon there was a system of nomadic traders. Some were sent out for specific items and others found things they thought might be valuable and brought them back. Soon half the class was involved in the drama. There were poaching fights, inadvertent destruction of cities, praise of houses and then a new industry of boatbuilding. I felt I was viewing the development of civilization in miniature. What did it take for this to happen? Time, being close to nature, and no agenda.

When I take my second grade students out to Bayfront Park, I can see a shortened version of the creek play. We go out in the spring for our introduction to the insect unit. The grass is as tall as the kids and ladybugs and butterflies are everywhere. We practice catch-and-release insect study. The adults can see all the kids from the viewpoint and the boundar-

ies are clear. At first they just run. Then they catch insects furiously and bring them back for showing off and identification. Then they begin to form into little groups. Some of them play follow the leader, others sit and talk in the grass. Some stalk each other. Each group is totally involved with their friends and with the environment. At the end we make sure every bug and snail is free and we talk over what we have felt and what we have learned. It's like a dream of childhood. It's an experience more common for those of us in an older generation, and one increasingly rare in today's world.

Even as adults we can enter this world just by going out in nature, without checking off that item on the list. Some adults need to get their exercise, it's true, but what a great place Bayfront Park is for clearing the mind while exercising the body. There's nothing like working out a problem while walking and talking to a friend. Families can have fun together, riding bikes, walking or just sitting on the hilltop looking at the view. We've had wonderful bagel breakfasts out there with friends. In an unstructured space, people can make their own rules for fun. For children, it's a necessity. For all people it's a human value of high worth. **CGF**

Action Alert Members help with CGF strategic planning

BY ELENA PERNAS-GIZ

Have you heard through the GreenFeet grapevine that CGF is in the midst of developing its updated strategic plan? It's true! The arrival of executive director Holly Van Houten made this year the perfect time to develop a roadmap for how the Committee will achieve its goals over the next few years.

As part of the process, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) wanted to get feedback from the many different stakeholders involved with CGF. This feedback was collected in a number of ways. Individual interviews were conducted with donors, members, and community leaders. Also, the SPC hosted a focus group of board members from all decades. These cherished members of the CGF family were invited to share their thoughts on the key success factors of CGF's environmental victories. And for the first time, the SPC

reached out to the action alert community via an online survey.

In December, 1350 action alert members were asked to participate in a different type of action alert — this time, an online survey capturing their thoughts about CGF's future. The survey was open until January 5 to give people plenty of time to respond around the holidays. 180 responses were received, which equates to 13.3% — a solid first time response rate!

When the results of the survey were tallied, the SPC learned that:

■ **91%** of respondents "Strongly agree" or "Agree" that CGF is an effective leader in local open space protection — CGF is accomplishing its mission!

■ **87%** of respondents are "Very satisfied" or "Satisfied" with the information they receive from CGF — our communications continue to be impressive and effective!

■ **49%** of respondents "Don't Know"

if the number of events and educational forums are just right, too few, or too many — we need to increase awareness of the high quality, fun events we sponsor

■ **40%** of the action alert recipients who responded only participate in CGF via action alerts — we have a good source of new members and volunteers.

■ **26%** of respondents are "Neutral" about whether CGF is effective in involving them in activities and campaigns — we need to strengthen outreach efforts

The Strategic Planning Committee used the survey results and comments to prepare its materials and recommendations for the Board Advance this February. Stay tuned to Green Footnotes for the final results of the strategic planning process. And look for more online surveys in the future. CGF will continue to use this effective, easy-to-use, and inexpensive tool to reach out to its members and friends! **CGF**

Book Reviews

Heron Dance Journal www.herondance.org

Our friend and former board member, Maureen Draper, told us about this great publication, Heron Dance Journal, and I wanted to spread the word. This beautiful quarterly publication includes watercolors by artist and founder Roderick McIver together with interviews, quotes, poetry and essays.

McIver describes the goal of the publication:

Heron Dance explores the human connection to the natural world and the human search for meaning. How do we live in a crazy world with peace, joy and balance? Heron Dance proposes that some important answers lie in gratitude, generosity of spirit, a relationship with wild nature and in a creative life that contributes something of beauty to the human or natural world.

For me, I find it a breath of fresh air to take a few moments with the journal. It reminds me ultimately of why we do the hard work of advocacy, to preserve precious open lands where we can enjoy and appreciate the beauty of nature and feel refreshed. I hope you will explore the offerings of Heron Dance on its website www.herondance.org or subscribe to its free weekly eNewsletter. I think you'll also feel renewed and ready to work on behalf of our open lands!

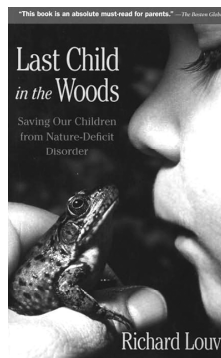
— Holly Van Houten
Executive Director, CGF



Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder

Richard Louv, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2006

I'd heard about Richard Louv's book, *Last Child in the Woods*, but what inspired me to read it was Linda Wagner's article about the time her students explored Bayfront Park (see previous page). An engaging writer, Louv's tales of building tree forts in the woods behind his family's home evoke memories of my own childhood. Those tales and his analysis of how children benefit from unstructured time in nature helped me see how my own outdoor experiences were a very formative part of my youth. According to Louv, independence, creativity, and problem-solving can all be learned by simply spending time in the woods.



A journalist with the San Diego Union-Tribune, Louv coined the term *Nature-Deficit Disorder* to describe the impact on children who don't have those kinds of experiences. He summarizes research linking our mental, physical and spiritual health directly to our association with nature as children. Offering practical advice on how to transform our parenting styles and environmental education programs, Louv also calls for creating urban environments that better support the needs of children.

This last point was a big wake up call for me — 80% of Americans live in urban areas that often lack park space. Even in the suburbs, which might feel more open, vacant lots and nearby natural areas fall to new planned developments with strict covenants restricting children's play. Even simple backyard tree houses can require building permits in today's orderly world. Many parklands and preserved open spaces are designed only for structured active recreation and regulate the type of play that is acceptable.

Louv believes the smart growth movement should focus less on the suburbs and more on protecting the urban ecology and creating healthy urban environments for children. This "green urbanism," Louv suggests, can restore the link between children and nature by protecting nearby open spaces as natural places for children to play, "re-enchanted" cities with a return of wild-life, and providing real bicycle networks that give children more freedom to roam.

If you haven't yet had the chance to read *Last Child in the Woods*, I highly encourage you to do so. It will capture your imagination and give you lots of practical ideas about how to reconnect children with nature.

— Holly Van Houten

CGF looks at the road ahead

By HOLLY VAN HOUTEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sometimes we must take a look at where we've been and assess where we are, before forging ahead. Last fall, Committee for Green Foothills' board of directors embarked on a strategic planning process to help define our priorities and identify ways to increase our effectiveness in advocating for the protection of open space and natural resources in our region. As an outgrowth of this effort we changed our mission statement and started a project to map critical and threatened open space lands.

We were lucky to have the leadership and assistance of Elena Pernas-Giz and Joan Sherlock to help facilitate the process. Elena began her work with the Committee as a board fellow from 2002 – 2004, while she was completing her MBA at Stanford's Graduate School of Business. Elena recently joined the Humane Society of Silicon Valley after two years as Director of Process Excellence at Stanford Hospital & Clinics. Joan, another former board member and marketing consultant, led us through the first steps of revisiting and updating our mission statement and making it relevant to our current work.

Learning From Stakeholders and Members

We launched the planning process by reviewing our incredible 45 years of history; interviewing community stakeholders, leaders and elected officials we work with; and polling donors and members who help advocate for environmental issues. (see bottom of page 6).

What are the positives?

- We continue to be well respected and highly regarded as an organization
- We effectively and nimbly address open space issues as they arise
- We can be depended on to disseminate factually correct information
- We are the source many turn to for expertise, technical advice, and help in creating coalitions.

Where can we improve?

- We need to increase our visibility in the communities in which we work
- We need to define our priorities more clearly
- We need to make some operational changes to become more effective



CGF's New Mission Statement

Our new mission statement includes the need to protect agricultural lands as a component of open space and also clarifies that our geographic reach includes all of San Mateo and Santa Clara County, not just the Foothills, Coastside and Peninsula.

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.

We summarized what we learned and used it to help establish priorities in our recent board/staff retreat. We will then develop a strategic plan that clearly lays out these priorities and the steps the board and staff will take to achieve the goals of the plan. We'll report more on our progress in the next edition of Green Footnotes.

Although the Committee has advocated in South County for over 30 years, helping to create many strong land use protections, South County agricultural lands are under mounting pressure by housing and office complex developers. Preliminary information shows where southern Santa Clara

County is threatened by uncontrolled development and suburban sprawl.

The Board is currently considering what steps we could take to increase our ability to respond to this pressure to develop open space and agricultural lands. The most immediate threat is the City of San Jose's plan to annex and develop Coyote Valley which lies along the 101 corridor between San Jose and Morgan Hill.

In the meantime, if you want to share your own views about our priorities or operational improvements please contact me at: holly@greenfoothills.org or (650) 968-7243. 

BOARD NOTES

Margalynne Armstrong. We were pleased to welcome Margalynne to the board of directors this fall. She is a resident of Palo Alto and, since 1987, an associate professor at Santa Clara University School of Law where she teaches Constitutional law, Property, and Race and Law. She writes in the areas of housing, racial discrimination, and comparative law. Prior to teaching at Santa Clara University, she practiced public employment law, was a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Alameda County. She directed the Academic Support Program at Boalt Hall, and was an Associate Editor of the Ecology Law Quarterly at Boalt, graduating from there in 1981. She previously served on the board of directors for Hidden Villa for eight years.

We sadly accepted the resignation of two board members this summer. **Joan Sherlock**, resident of Los Altos Hills and formerly a marketing executive with Sun Microsystems, left the Committee for Green Foothills' board to start her own consulting practice and to have more time for her family. She continues to assist us with our strategic planning process as a volunteer. **Jessica Rose Agramonte**, resident of Half Moon Bay, a faculty member at Stanford University where she directs the Motion & Gait Analysis Lab at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, and a tireless open space advocate, found she needed more time for both her family and academic responsibilities. We thank both Joan and Jessica for their excellent service over the years to the Committee.

We also mourn the passing of our former board member, **Barbara Eastman**, on December 23, 2006, from complications following pneumonia and heart failure. She was 88. While her obituary focused on her legacy of working to protect West Marin and the Point Reyes National Seashore, we remember her as an early board member for CGF who had great influence on planning in Santa Clara County. **Lennie Roberts** remembers that, "Barbara was a force to be reckoned with especially on the County General Plan. She helped get the hillside zoning in Santa Clara passed by the Board of Supervisors. She was definitely ahead of her time!" Ciddy Wordell called her "an extraordinary mentor; she rode 'shot-gun' with me for years as we went to countless meetings."

STAFF NOTES

Ashely McSpadden, CGF's Office Manager, announced her resignation this month to help her husband start a general contracting business. Since she arrived 18 months ago, Ashely's tremendous organizational skills and her attention to detail helped CGF function smoothly and contributed greatly to our operations. We wish her best of luck with her new adventure!

Wendee Crofoot joins the Committee for Green Foothills with a commitment to ensuring that the local environment continues to be a great place to live. Wendee has many years of non-profit administrative experience and comes to Committee for Green Foothills from the Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter. In her spare time, she volunteers with Leadership Mountain View, Mountain View Trees and the 20s and 30s Hiking Section with the Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club. Wendee is excited to join the efforts of CGF and its mission of conservation on the Mid-Peninsula. Her latest achievement is a Tree Planting Party for Mountain View Tree's one-year anniversary and creating by-laws for the 20s and 30s Hiking Section.

The Committee is watching...



Peter LaFourrette

Committee is Watching California Department of Forestry – for approving a timber harvesting permit that allows hauling of logs on the Butano Fire Trail through Butano State Park, spurring CGF to file a Public Records Act requesting disclosure of the process State Parks followed in giving permission to use a park road for private commercial purposes

Hanson Permanente Quarry – for continuing to leave rock and delay natural recovery after promising it would finish depositing a rock waste scar on a prominent ridge in summer 2005

Institute Golf Course – for constructing a golf course illegally and still failing to comply with the conditions of an after-the-fact permit it received from Morgan Hill

Rockaway Quarry in Pacifica – where extensive wetlands and important habitat for the California red-legged frog and San Francisco garter snake are threatened by development

San Mateo County Planning – now reviewing a controversial proposal adjacent to the Pillar Point Marsh, called Big Wave, that would allow a large office park and housing for developmentally delayed adults on prime agricultural soils, wetlands, and within the FEMA 100 year flood and tsunami zones

San Jose City Council Riparian Policy – now under attack as the City wavers on enforcing its 100-foot riparian setback and considers whether to carve one more exception into the rule

Santa Clara County – for failure to regulate quarries located in the County and being placed on probation by the state government and threatened with the loss of regulatory control over its quarries

Stanford University – for continuing to build on campus while it fails to comply with the General Use Permit condition requiring it to build the S-1 Trail near Page Mill Road

The Committee Applauds...

April Vargas, CGF Board Vice President and long-time resident of the San Mateo Coast – for her appointment as an alternate to the California Coastal Commission in recognition of her leadership in protecting the coastline

Adrienne Tissier, San Mateo County Supervisor – for creating a convenient way to properly dispose of pharmaceuticals, reducing the amount of medicines being flushed down countless drains and protecting our water courses from contamination

Jerry Hill and Rich Gordon, San Mateo County Supervisors – for sponsoring an anti-smoking ordinance in County parks and on beaches and trails, creating a healthier environment for wildlife and park users and eliminating ubiquitous cigarette butts in our parks

MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District – for negotiating a land-swap agreement with Hanson Permanente that resulted in MidPen receiving much more land for protection than the degraded land it swapped

Santa Clara County Creeks Coalition – for working with the Water District and the Watershed Management Initiative on watershed health and uniting stream advocacy groups across the County

Santa Clara Valley Water District – for sponsoring and providing staff support for a workshop on preventing unnatural erosion in the County, a workshop that CGF helped develop (much still needs to be done!)

HELP WANTED

Volunteer with the Committee



Volunteers get event invitations in the mail.

You're a member of the Committee, read our newsletter, perhaps even subscribe to our action alerts, want to get more involved? Here are some ideas for volunteers we need to help us out this spring:

Like art and the environment?

Serve on our Event Committee to plan next fall's Nature's Inspirations! This is our annual event where we highlight local artists whose work inspires the protection of open space and agricultural lands. Meetings start again in March and typically occur in the evening in a private home in Los Altos. There's plenty for everyone to do to make this another successful event!


Any writers out there?

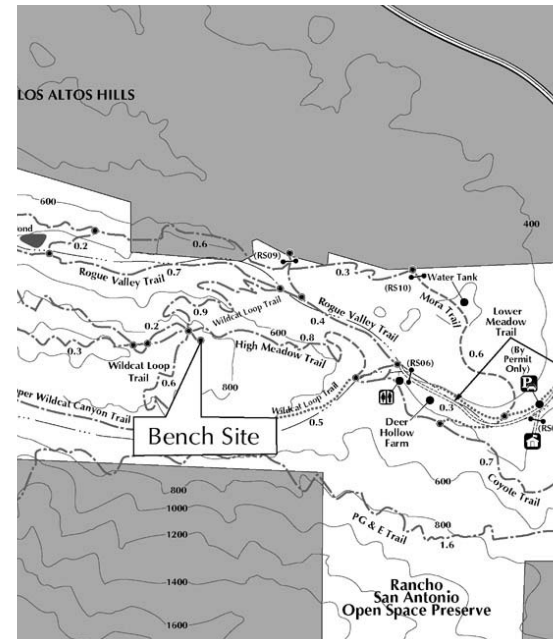
We need help updating some of the project descriptions on our website. We have lots of good resources spread throughout our action alerts and blog posts and need someone to pull it all together for our high priority projects. And we always need writers to report back in from meetings and other activities for our blog.

Like stuffing mail, filing, office work?

We're always in need of an organized type to come in and help keep us organized behind the scenes.

Finally, got other ideas of how you would like to get involved?

Give us a call to talk about your ideas and how you would like to pitch in! Got a student in the family needing a summer internship? We usually take 1-2 interns each summer to help our Legislative Advocates by researching, writing, and attending meetings. 



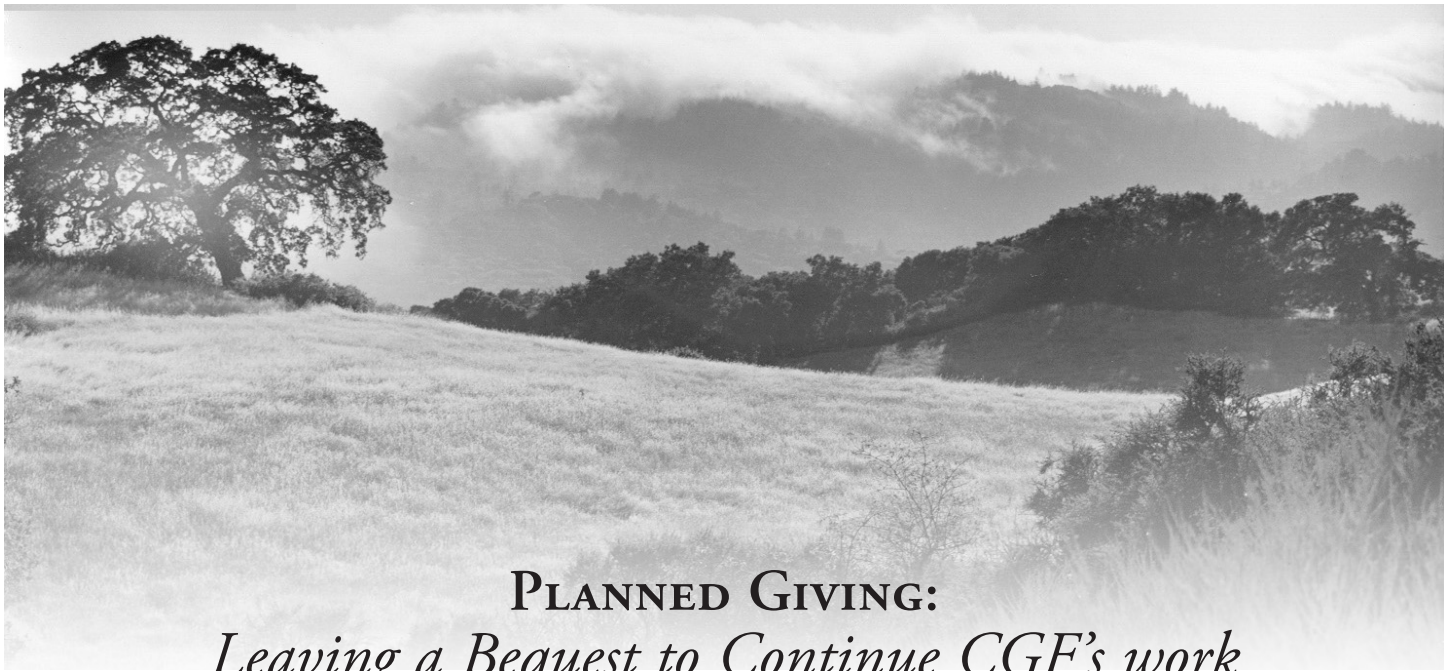
A LASTING TRIBUTE TO LOIS HOGLE

Last issue, we announced an effort to create a memorial bench to honor our co-founder Lois Crozier-Hogle who passed away in December 2005. The project was initiated by Lois' family who wanted a lasting tribute to their mother's legacy of activism and open space protection. Together, Committee for Green Foothills and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) are working to construct and install a memorial bench. Thanks to the support of so many of you who gave to the bench project and made memorial gifts in her honor the project is moving forward.

A knoll within Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve overlooking Silicon Valley will provide a serene location to remember Lois and her legacy while providing hikers a welcome resting point. Located just off the intersection of the Wildcat Loop Trail and the High Meadows Trail, the bench site is close to popular, much used trails within the Preserve.

Committee for Green Foothills contacted local bench designer, Peter Garrett who will construct and install the bench along with a memorial plaque later this spring. We are currently working with the family and MROSD to plan an unveiling, tentatively scheduled for Friday morning, May 18th. Look for an invitation in the mail in April. We hope you can join us for this special morning remembering Lois.

— Holly Van Houten, Executive Director



PLANNED GIVING: *Leaving a Bequest to Continue CGF's work*

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

Why leave a legacy?

■ The work of Committee for Green Foothills is made possible by the generosity of people like you. Your gifts will ensure that we will be able to continue to protect the open space that is important to you.

■ Since 1962, we've been fighting and winning battles to protect the beauty of our local natural areas. Committee for Green Foothills will use your gift to continue to stave off development pressures and short-sighted planning so that our foothills, farmlands, streams, coastside and other local open space can be enjoyed for future generations.

■ Charitable gifts from your estate may have tax benefits for the beneficiaries of your estate that may offset the "cost" of making a legacy gift to the Committee for Green Foothills. This estate tax deduction is usually equal to the full fair market value of the bequest.

■ You'll feel good knowing that because of your foresight, the foothills, coastside and valleys of the Peninsula will remain beautiful and wild for future generations to enjoy.

How to make a planned gift to Committee for Green Foothills

There are several ways to make a contribution to Committee for Green Foothills after your lifetime and the easiest is to include a bequest to CGF in your will. (Other ways will be discussed in future Green Footnotes.)

Leaving a bequest in your will is a simple process. Committee for Green Foothills can be named as the beneficiary of a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or specific assets. Your

estate is entitled to an estate tax deduction for the full value of the donation.

If you wish, you may name Committee for Green Foothills as a contingent beneficiary of assets designated for loved ones, in the event they do not survive you.

Our legal designation is:


Green Foothills Foundation dba Committee for Green Foothills
A California nonprofit corporation
3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, California 94303
Tax ID #: 94-6121854

If you have questions, a specific purpose in mind, or want to discuss bequests, please contact us at (650) 968-7243 so that we can assist you in planning a gift that meets both your interests and the goals of the Committee for Green Foothills.

The Green Foothills Legacy Society

When you include Committee for Green Foothills in your estate plans, you will be welcomed as a member of the Green Foothills Legacy Society. This group was formed to recognize the outstanding group of friends whose long-term support will help CGF continue to protect our local, natural spaces long into the future.

Members of the society will receive special recognition as testimony of your commitment to the protection of our foothills, coastside and other local open space for future generations. In addition, each year CGF honors members at the Legacy Society luncheon, in our newsletter and on our website.

If you have included CGF in your plans, we hope that you will let us know. We would appreciate the opportunity to express our gratitude, and to welcome you into the Legacy Society. Of course, if you wish to be anonymous, we will respect your wishes. 

FOOTHILLS MILLENNIUM FUND

MEMBERS TO DATE

Committee for Green Foothills recognizes its most generous supporters as members of the Foothills Millennium Fund. The Foothills Millennium Fund offers individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more in a given fiscal year a special way to participate in our work to protect open space. While gifts of all sizes help us to strengthen our voices for open space, gifts of \$1,000 and more give us the increased ability and stability to address growing threats that impact our local environment, both now and in the future. We thank our current members to date and invite you to consider joining our Foothills Millennium Fund.

Anonymous (7)
 Dorothy Bender
 Jim Blanchard and Terry Sweeney
 Steve Blank and Alison Elliott
 Jobst Brandt
 Allan and Marilyn Brown
 Patricia M. Brown
 Matthew Burrows
 Elizabeth Chamberlain
 Robin Clark and Mary Mackiernan
 Paul Collacchi
 Nancy and Jitze Couperus
 Mary and Jack Davey
 Rob Decker

L. Peter Deutsch
 Laurence (Baron) Dorcy
 Nancy S. Drapkin
 Linda and Jerome Elkind
 Len and Gael Erickson
 Carol and Chris Espinosa
 Carl H. Feldman
 Rob and Susan Flint
 Jim Foran
 Michael and Cathleen Foster
 Elaine and John French
 French Family Foundation
 Larry and Penny Hassett
 Jerry Hearn
 Mary Hufty
 Tom and Madge Jordan
 Dana and Mike Kimsey
 Danielle Lambert and Tony Fadell
 Susan Lang and Robert Levenson
 Peter and Sue LaTourrette
 Jody and Roger Lawler
 Pauline Lord
 Henry Lowman
 Tor and Nancy Lund
 Jamis and Margaret MacNiven
 Holly Mitten
 Dean and LaVon Morton
 Brad and Judy O'Brien
 Robin McKnight and Allen Olivo
 Elena Pernas-Giz
 David and Jocelyn Perrone
 Joan Porter
 Kenneth Powell and Rona Foster

Chris Powell and Bern Smith
 Carolyn and William Reller
 Lennie and Mike Roberts
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 Audrey C. Rust and Gil Davis
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 Margaret Schink
 Brian Schmidt
 Albert and Jo Schreck
 Jeff and Meridith Segall
 Nancy and Greg Serrurier
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 Donna Dubinsky
 Tanya Slesnick and Ted Mitchell
 Rodney and Mary Smith
 Geoff and Colleen Tate
 David and Karie Thomson
 Elizabeth Touma
 Jeanie Nieri Treichel
 Holly Van Houten
 William B. Van Ingen
 April Vargas
 Nancy and Ted Vian
 K. Christie Vogel
 Jamie and Joe Wang
 Bill and Jan Whitmer
 Ron and Sue Wilson
 Ciddy and Bob Wordell
 Lyn Wyman and Dennis Dow
 Rosemary and John Young
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 April 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007



COMMITTEE FOR
 GREEN FOOTHILLS

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