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Rain? Never on a Stage Coach Sunday! For the 14th Year it's a Sunny Success

Sunshine chased away those worrying rain clouds by 1 p.m., October 17, just in time for FLC "stage hands" to set the scene for Stage Coach Sunday at the Palomares House. The meat was cooked and ready to carve from the deep-pit barbecue, auction boards describing over 100 valuable items and a table-full of attractive raffle baskets were on display. The sun came out and the Avocado Moon band began to play.

During the next four hours, nearly 300 people, from seniors to toddlers enjoyed this "Old Fallbrook" fiesta. The sun kept shining and the total proceeds to the Land Conservancy exceeded all previous years. Pre-event sales (totaling \$12,000) plus sales on the day, from the auction, raffle, dinner and many activities, netted more than \$20,000. Thank you, generous supporters!

The biggest attraction this year was Molly Hogan's live animal show, "The Nature of Wildworks." They traveled the rainy roads all the way from Topanga. Everyone enjoyed meeting "Michael Jackson" the skunk, Pearly the possum, Tara the hawk, Dancer the barn owl, Fetch the gopher snake, and especially Cliff the young cougar, who was very curious about the look-alike cougar sculpture in the Palomares Park.

By 3 p.m., the Hemet-based team of Art and Linda Ricketts braved the rain to bring their miniature stage coach and teams of "California Elite Petite" miniature horses. Much to the children's delight, these ponies were hitched to buckboards for old-time rides on the Dinwiddie Preserve.

Special thanks go to the major "Pioneer" sponsors: Community National Bank, Temecula Valley Bank, Arlyne Ingold and Del Rey Avocado. Some 150 local businesses and individuals donated gifts and certificates for the auction and raffle.

There are too many to mention here but all were included in our Thank-You ad in the North County Times on October 27th.

Stage Coach Sunday is FLC's biggest fundraiser of the year. "For us, it's an awareness thing," Jackie Heyneman explained. "We just want people to see the results of what we've done and realize what good work we're doing."



Barbara Hayden introduces a team of "California Elite Petite" ponies.



Cliff, a young (live!) cougar, in the same pose as his bronze counterpart!



Come join the food line for delicious barbecue beef, pork and all the trimmings.



FLC directors Megan Gamble and Sue Reed hold a tempting raffle basket.



What fun, painting pumpkins! Here's little Kayelee Horta with her mother Raylene.

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FLC Partners with Tierra Miguel to Protect Pauma Valley Farm

"No man is an island, none can stand alone." The words of poet John Donne apply equally well to our community. Fallbrook is part of a much larger picture. In particular, we are part of a region that contributes to and enriches (and sometimes threatens!) our way of life. For this reason FLC has long supported conservation efforts in San Diego County, with special emphasis on North County, through sharing information with other conservancies in the county, and participation in advisory groups.

This summer, FLC's North County conservation activities took a more practical turn as we acquired our first conservation easement outside of the Fallbrook area. Grants totaling \$475,000 from the State of California's Farmland Conservancy program and the United States Department of Agriculture allowed the FLC, in partnership with the Tierra Miguel Foundation to permanently protect an 85-acre organic farm in Pauma Valley.

Tierra Miguel Foundation owns and manages the farm, and FLC holds an easement that prevents any future nonagricultural development on the site. The farm is an educational demonstration farm that schoolchildren visit to learn about organic farming and healthful eating. Tierra Miguel also has a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program in which they distribute produce to shareholders in San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties.

The TMF/FLC agricultural conservation easement grant is the first of its kind in Southern California with the closest similar easement in Santa Barbara County. In addition, this is the first time a fee title grant has been awarded by the California Farmland Conservancy Program.

Working farms such as Tierra Miguel are an important part of the county's economy and a fundamental part of our rural lifestyle. They are also a beautiful place to visit. Take a trip to Pauma Valley and treat yourself to their fresh organic produce. Tierra Miguel Farm is located at the corner of Cole Grade Road and Pauma Valley Drive (3/4 mile south of Highway 76).

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Nurturing Nature and Vice Versa

If you look in the Fallbrook Directory, that venerable guide to our community, and turn to the pages between Optometrists and Orthodontists, you will find a list of organizations, which goes on for six pages! As noted by a tourism consultant hired by the Chamber of Commerce, Fallbrook has one nonprofit organization for every 270 people, four times the national average.

This confirms with numbers what most of us know from living here, that Fallbrook is a special place with special people who are willing to commit time and resources to benefit the community. Each organization has its own approach and focus to this public service.

How does the Fallbrook Land Conservancy fit into this picture? Our unique mission among Fallbrook organizations is to preserve and enhance the rural lifestyle and natural beauty of our community through the permanent protection of open space and related activities.

Over the years, FLC's membership has been tremendously supportive of this mission, enabling us to own and manage 600 acres of open space, and hold conservation easements over another 100 acres.

In addition, the FLC Save Our Forest Group has planted more than 4,000 trees, and the FLC Trails Council has greatly improved and extended the trail system in the Santa Margarita River Valley.

While we're aware that these activities improve the quality of life in a community, a recent article by University of Illinois scientists in the September 2004 issue of the American Journal of Public Health suggests an unexpected benefit. Their research on children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder indicates that green environments improve a child's attentiveness and focus. For example, children who took a 20-minute walk on a nature trail performed better on a test of attention than did children who strolled in an urban setting.

More proof that walking in nature is good for the mind as well as the body. All the more reason to be uplifted as you read in this newsletter about the impressive work of our volunteers and staff, and the support of our members.

Wallace Tucker

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Palomares Park and Sculpture Garden Becoming a Wildlife Showcase

A family of quail has joined the mountain lion and roadrunner in the Palomares Park - permanent reminders of Southern Californian's natural heritage.



This life-sized bronze sculpture, "Family Gathering," was created by Palm Desert artist, William Ware.

At the dedication ceremony on August 19, Dr. Claudia Luke of the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve gave one of her always-interesting talks on quail in their native habitat, and how we can protect them.

The sculpture garden is a collaboration between the Art in Public Places division of the Fallbrook Village Association, San Diego State University's Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, and the Fallbrook Land Conservancy.

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Save Our Forest - Time Out to Celebrate

by Jackie Heyneman

The work of Save Our Forest volunteers is never done, though they do take time out for a "Party-Party" once a year to celebrate their successes.

The most recent urgent job facing this hard-working team was to repair the damage from the October storms that passed through Fallbrook so violently. Two trees on Main Street were destroyed totally and another had the top ripped out. These trees were in the ground eight years and had trunk diameters of five inches. For the past two months, minor pruning has been the focus of work parties with emphasis placed on lifting the branches so that trucks and vandals can't reach them.

Continuing education is also high on the agenda of the Save Our Forest group. A workshop entitled "The Right Tree in the Right Place" by certified arborist Mark Wisniewski was repeated by popular demand on October 25th for 40 interested community members.



The Annual "Party-Party" held on August 29th was a wonderful gathering of friends who have worked side by side on the streets of Fallbrook. More than 80 supporters attended the pot luck event, including those who work individually as Tree Stewards, work party volunteers and donors, as well as FLC officers and administrative staff, giving all a chance to get to know their partners in this big venture. It was a terrific party with a warm overall feeling of belonging to a very special group of people -- the Treescape Gang.

Awards were presented to outstanding people in the group. Don McNutt was the honored recipient of the annual "Volunteer of the Year" award. He helps the group with its Wednesday projects and cares for the benches in town -- removing graffiti, refinishing them and repairing breaks and nicks. Others receiving special recognition were Marciano Gonzales III, Roger Combs, Dave Lewis, Ken Graydon, Dan Schemenauer, Diane McNutt, Maja Eddy, Petey Stevens, Joan Sansom, Don & Heidi Nelson, and Dave Buhanych.

With planting season beginning, SOF is reviewing several areas. Next March our annual Tree Planting Festival will take place at several venues: Dinwiddie Preserve, the Creekside conservation easement on Stagecoach Lane, and Hellers Bend Preserve. The La Paloma school Educational project will also be folded into the Tree Planting Festival. Students there planted Toyon for this future project last Spring. A site on Stagecoach will receive attention in November and a survey of potential sites on Fallbrook roads is beginning. Residents interested in working with SOF volunteers to acquire permits, if necessary, and get help with trees to enhance their street front property are invited to call 728-5395 (Jackie), or call the office of the FLC at 728-0889 and leave a message for SOF.

Stage Coach Sunday gave SOF the opportunity to showcase the native plant material they are growing in the nursery. Visitors to the booth viewed pictures and gleaned information about these valuable drought-tolerant plants. Amazing before and after pictures showed the progress of the Save Our Forest efforts.

Trees make a Difference !!

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Success on the Trails...by Donna Gebhart

This has been such an exciting quarter! We had a trails workday on August 28th and, as you can see from our picture, we had lots of volunteers. We worked on four areas of the Santa Margarita River Watershed using picks, axes, and some power equipment to open what we call the Wild Rose Trail in the Willow Glen area.

We also had some people do the important job of trash cleanup -- thank goodness, there was not a whole bunch! Two crews worked on each side of the Santa Margarita Park at the corner of Deluz Road and Sandia Creek Drive to restore the existing trails in the park. Now there is a circuit loop in and out of the park that connects directly with the Santa

Margarita River trails.

Special thanks go to Tom and Linda Marshall for the use of lawn mowing equipment and brush hogs, and to Lee and Linda Traut for the use of the jack hammer equipment and assorted tools to open up the new Wild Rose Trail.

The afternoon ended with a wonderful lunch for all four crews, organized by Jane Comella and Carolyn Major. It was just great..

We had another workday in September in conjunction with Santa Margarita River Watershed Clean-Up organizations throughout Riverside and San Diego counties and our local Mission Resource Conservation District. That was another phenomenal effort! We were able to get all the trash picked up along Sandia Creek Drive. In addition, we had a crew use 300 bags of cement and four ten-foot culverts to complete two crossings. One crossing needed about 250 bags of cement to hold the three culverts in place.

Update: After going to visit the park to see how the two new culverts made it through the seven inches of rain we received in October, I am proud to say our crossings are a huge success and totally intact.

Last year we installed eight culverts and in excess of 350 bags of cement along the Santa Margarita River. During a recent, wonderful ride through the watershed, we're delighted that all of these crossings are still intact. Quarterly workdays are scheduled for major work parties. We also have a group that goes out more regularly and works. If you would like to help preserve and maintain our trails, and even add to them, please contact dgebhart@pacbell.net, or call Al or Donna Gebhart @ 760-731-9441.

If you are not able to work on the trails but would like to help, a tax-deductible donation to the FLC Trails Council would be greatly appreciated. Each of these workdays costs approximately \$2000 in supplies and without your support they would not be possible.

Look forward to seeing you on the trails!!

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Around the Preserves by Mike Peters.... Our Man in the Field



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

This quote is so true! It was written by President Lyndon Johnson, upon the signing of the Wilderness Act in 1964.

The Fallbrook Land Conservancy has been doing its part in North San Diego County protecting nearly 700 acres as well as managing them and acquiring funds for restoration where needed.

With the help of USDA Natural Resource Conservation District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the many volunteers from the FLC we have removed a wide variety of non-native invasive species of plants and trees that were either dumped or self-planted in our back yards. Often these "foreigners" jumped the fences and invaded our natural areas and open space. Over half of the plants now invading our preserves, open space and natural areas were introduced as landscaping material.

The largest restoration project this year has to be the clean-up of Cienega Creek at the Dinwiddie Preserve, where volunteers removed all the eucalyptus trees along Brooke Road and down along the creek bed. These eucalyptus were planted years ago before anyone guessed the problems they would cause by spreading down the creek and creating fire danger.

On the south side of the preserve we had an area that was used by some for dumping garden waste such as non-native grasses, ice plant, ornamentals and vines. One vine that was dumped next to the creek was pampas lily-of-the-valley, *Salpichroa organifolia*, which climbs the native trees and smothers the trees in the same way as Cape Ivy or German Ivy. Our mild climate gives a perfect opportunity for these plants to escape from our yards and take over our wetland, riparian and coastal sage scrub areas that we are trying so hard to protect.

As you drive through our coastal and inland communities take a look up the canyons as you pass by. There you'll see infestations of pampas grass or tree of heaven, and along our roadsides you'll spot the always present non-native plant known as fountain grass. They all have jumped out of our gardens and back yards and are spreading like last year's Paradise fire.

This fall the FLC started Phase II of the Cienega Creek project just west of the Dinwiddie Preserve on a six-acre conservation easement that the FLC manages. With the help of a grant from US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are removing more eucalyptus, castor bean, fennel, Chinese elm, and Hottentot fig ice plant along the creek.

Another project that FLC is working on at Hellers Bend preserve is also funded by US Fish and Wildlife Service grant which is described in the next article

In March of 2005, the Save Our Forest committee and the FLC will be having tree plantings to support these projects. The planting at Hellers Bend will be a challenge because volunteers will have to climb the steep trail to get to the planting site. Because of this logistical problem it will be done in stages with the help of Boy Scouts and open space enthusiasts willing to make the long climb.

Speaking of climbing, the FLC has another on-going project at Monserate Mountain preserve removing fountain grass on the upper slopes at an elevation of 1200' and along the ridge line trail near the Rainbow Municipal Water District's Rice Canyon water tank.

This project requires hiking as much as thirty minutes to get to the infested area carrying water, lunch and necessary tools for removal. And volunteers won't want to forget cameras and binoculars. Plan to make a day of it because the view from Monserate Mountain is spectacular and makes for a most relaxing volunteer project. If you would be interested in helping with this project or one of our many other projects, give the Fallbrook Land Conservancy friendly office staff a call and we will sign you up.

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Habitat Restoration Grant Awarded for Hellers Bend Preserve

The FLC has received a grant of \$19,500 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. The grant will be used to remove nonnative trees and plants and restore those areas with native vegetation on the FLC's 45-acre Hellers Bend Preserve.

The Hellers Bend Preserve contains extensive riparian habitat along Ostrich Farms Creek, upland oak-covered hills, and highly established coastal sage scrub habitat. The goal of the project is to increase the number of native plants and thereby enhance this vital, wildlife corridor, which is used by coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and other animals.

The preserve is also part of a larger area between the San Luis Rey and Santa Margarita rivers that is recognized as one of the prime bird-breeding habitats in southern California. The Hellers Bend restoration project will improve the nesting habitat for numerous raptors and songbirds.

Five years ago, with the help of AmeriCorps, FLC planted 400 coast live oak trees and assorted native plants under an old avocado grove. These oak trees are now approximately 10 to 15 feet tall, so the dead avocado trees will be removed as part of the restoration project. Invasive plants such as pampas grass, Russian olive trees, castor bean, fennel and arundo will also be removed. Volunteers will help restore the area with 200 oak trees, a mixture of 100 sycamores and cottonwoods, and 500 other native plants.

The project was proposed by preserve manager Mike Peters, who will be directing the restoration effort. For information

about planting dates etc., contact the Fallbrook Land Conservancy at 728-0889.

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Best wishes to an Old Friend

The Native Plant & Wildflower team co-founder, Kathleen (Sofia) Gee, has returned to her roots and family in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. We miss her but know that she is happily settling into her new home and life.

On our home front, it rained!! Shogo recorded 6.85 inches at his house from the October storms. It is time to take advantage of the resulting softened soil to plant some more areas in our Los Jilgueros wildflower gardens with flat-topped buckwheat and California Sagebrush.

We look forward to seeing you out in the field. Please don't hesitate to let us know if you want to help.

Shogo Yamaguchi, Jody Williams and Toni Inman

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Friends Reach Out... by Connie Freese

You won't find a friendlier bunch than the Friends of Los Jilgueros! We've begun an "Outreach" program, in combination with our quarterly work parties, to introduce more people to the joys of strolling, running, dog walking, bird watching, or bike riding in this wonderful oasis on South Mission Road.



Beginning with the volunteer work party on November 6th, we set up an "Outreach Booth" at the south entrance of the preserve. It was a chance for the Friends (and their dogs!) to "meet and greet," hand out "Dog and Bicycle Courtesy Brochures," recruit new volunteers and solicit membership contributions. Meanwhile, willing volunteers went to work picking up litter inside and outside the preserve, checking to see if any benches or kiosks needed repair, and helping with various maintenance jobs.

This new venture was the brainchild of Emerald Grove donors Bob and Gloria Wright.

They also suggested that we illustrate our fundraising goals (\$16,000 a year) and accomplishments using the old-fashioned "thermometer chart."

To publicize our efforts, Joan Zimmerman created some wonderful signs depicting "Friends at Work" which were placed at the preserve entrances. Joan also helps plan and execute our work parties and, with the help of Joel Garcia, built and constructed a new kiosk at the main SE entrance, with a roof. She received donations of lumber and other supplies from Pinetree Lumber and the Do-It Center.

Plans are already underway for another Tails on Trails fundraiser, and a date has been set: **Saturday, March 5, 2005.**

We're pleased to announce that Tails on Trails 2005 will be co-sponsored by Underdog Rescue, an organization dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of lost, abandoned and shelter animals in need of loving homes. Their motto: "Where there is Love, There is Life." Underdog operates in San Diego County and Southern Orange County, striving to "match pets with people." We're delighted to be affiliated with this worthy organization.

Tails on Trails 2005 promises lots of fun for all. We've arranged for US95.7, a local radio station, to set up a booth at the event, provide music, games and prizes and promote the event through public service announcements.

We're also planning demonstrations that will be of interest to nature enthusiasts and dog lovers. Volunteers are needed for planning and on the day of the event. Please call Connie Freese at (760) 519-2302 for information.

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We Asked - You Responded - So We've Formed Four New Committees

This past summer we sent out a questionnaire to our membership in which we asked for your feedback on how best to use FLC's energy and resources in the coming decade.

The large response was gratifying and can be briefly summarized: you want us to continue to give highest priority to (1) preservation and management of open space; (2) enhancement of our preserves and community landscapes through tree planting and restoration activities; (3) providing access for people to experience and enjoy natural landscapes; and (4) working to put the FLC on a long term, solid financial footing.

Using these responses as a guide, the FLC Board held a strategic planning workshop. A broad consensus emerged for the establishment of four new standing committees.

These committees are :

1. The Corporate Fundraising and Estate Planning Committee, co-chaired by Bill Schultz and Tom Swanson;
2. The Membership Committee, co-chaired by Linda Heald and Megan Gamble;
3. The Education Committee, co-chaired by Susan Sullivan, Jeanne Dooley and Jackie Heyneman,
4. And the Speakers Bureau, co-chaired by Connie Freese and Wallace Tucker.

Our newsletters and website will keep you informed on the activities of these committees and how you can participate.

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Memorials and Special Dedications

The FLC thanks the following donors who participated in our memorial program over the past six months:

In Memory of Major H. George Gerber
Donors: Howard & Joan Gerber Sansom

In Memory of Julius Becker
Donor: Helga Becker

In Memory of William Hemmer
Donor: Mary Lancaster

In Memory of Betty Mae Folin
Donor: Randy Folin

Preserving Memories: Call or write the Fallbrook Land Conservancy Office (760-728-0889) if you would like to dedicate a tree. For downtown street trees, or special plantings, contact Jackie Heyneman at 728-5395.

FLC Welcomes Gifts of Appreciated Assets: Make your gifts to the FLC go further by giving stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have appreciated in value since their purchase.

You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the asset, and you will also avoid any capital gains tax that would otherwise be due with the sale or transfer of the asset. FLC can provide instructions to make this process easy for you and your broker.

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FLC Meetings

Trails Council

Second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Palomares House. New members encouraged.

Trails Maintenance

Third Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Meet at Sandia Creek Trail Head at Sandia Creek Park.

Invasive Plant Team

Meets last Saturday of the month, 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Friends of Los Jilgueros

Work Parties: Saturday, January 8 and February 26, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Meet at the LJP South parking lot.

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Palomares House.

2005 Tails on Trails, Saturday, March 5, 2005

Save Our Forest

Meetings: 4th Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Palomares House.

Work Parties: Last Sunday of the month 7:30-9:30 a.m. Village Square

Adopt-A-Highway: 2nd Saturday of each month 8:00 a.m., Pala Mesa Resort entrance.

Technical Advisory Board

Meetings: January 5 and April 6 at 7:00 P.M. at the Palomares House.

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