



BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST

of San Diego County

Fall 2005

Third Quarter

GIVING THANKS

BY NOELLE COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ANDY KING, KING PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO, ALPINE

Back Country Land Trust is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving rare habitats and resources in San Diego's beautiful back country. Throughout 2006, we'll be celebrating our 15th anniversary and the purchase of almost 5,000 acres of land representing San Diego's rich cultural & natural heritage.

We're part of a growing and vital nonprofit sector in San Diego—there are more than 8,000 nonprofit organizations in San Diego County—that last year generated \$7.9 billion in revenues. Since 1991, BCLT has brought almost \$20 million in private and public philanthropy into the local economy and, if history is any indication of the future, we will be growing in our capacity to conserve and manage critical pieces of our local landscape. It is a dedicated group of volunteers who have made us a successful organization. In October 2005, at the Alpine Leadership and Public Service (ALPS) awards, we had the privilege of recognizing friends who have made significant contributions toward our preservation efforts.

This year's Founder's Award was given to Steven Colburn. Steven started his own campaign to support the preservation of Wright's Field. He decided that he wanted to purchase buttons to hand out to every student at his school and donated his own money to do so. He met with his teacher and school principal at Joan MacQueen Middle School to figure out the best way to reach the student body. Steven created a video and presented it to the whole school, and handed out buttons to every student. He worked with his mom and some friends to organize a "Save Wright's Field" rally to



Tim & Beverley Todaro, Tori Pool, Steven Colburn, Ann Pierce, Noelle Collins.

get the message out to the rest of the community. More than 400 people supported the rally.

The Student Recognition Award goes to Tori Pool. Not many 5th graders can say that they've been published, but Tori Pool can. Tori participated in the re-enactment of Alpine History Days through her school's wagon train field trip that visited Wright's Field to experience a taste of Alpine's past. Tori

also assisted the Back Country Land Trust Board, by sharing her knowledge of vernal pools while on a special visit to the Preserve. Tori wrote about her experiences and her love of Wright's Field (including searching for the rare chocolate lily and biking with her dad, Floyd) in an article published in *The Alpine Sun*.

Our Volunteers of the Year are Tim and Beverley Todaro. Tim and Bev have raised their sons in Alpine and are dedicated members of the community. Tim joined our Board of Directors in March 2003 and has been effective in creating an endowment fund for the organization, raising significant funds, leading our Investment and Finance committee, and hosting volunteer days to make the Preserve safer and cleaner for people to enjoy. Tim has been steady in his guidance of the organization and is a critical member of our team. Beverley has been our ardent supporter, helping with our participation at Viejas Days, taking friends on bike rides in the Preserve, and was instrumental in our office's return to Alpine. She now volunteers in our office, providing critical support for BCLT operations.

Thank you all for making BCLT a successful organization.



Ann Pierce, Alanna Light, Steven Colburn.



Tori Pool

SHOP BCLT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

(or any time of year)

2006 Wright's Field Calendar

\$15.00 each (or 2 for \$25.00)

Plein Aire Notecards

\$10.00 for a set of 6

Plein Aire Original Artwork

By local artist Jerome Lipetzky

\$300 per painting

(50% of purchase is donated to the land trust)

T-Shirt (M or L): \$15.00, Mug or Sports Bottle: \$5.00

Chocolate Lilies Poster: \$10.00

NEWS:

SAN DIEGO ROOTS

- ANGIE VORHIES participated the 22nd Annual World Food Day Teleconference on Friday, October 14, with keynote speaker Frances Moore Lappe, author of *Diet for a Small Planet*;
- DAN HERMSTAD has finished up full-time farm work at the Jamul Farm; ROOTS will resume growing food on a part-time, volunteer basis;
- Morse students joined with Garden Teacher, JULIA DASHE to clear a site for the *Terra Nova* garden; Saturday School Students and Members of the *Terra Nova* Garden Club used shovels, loppers, and rakes to clean up the site; MEL LIONS operated the chipper/shredder to mulch the vegetation; Special Thanks to ROB HUTSEL for volunteering his chainsaw to clear large shrubs.

If you're interested in volunteering with ROOTS and the *Terra Nova* garden project at Morse High School, please email roots@sandiegoroots.org.

To purchase garlic from this summer's harvest, please call the BCLT office at (619) 722-6281.

Many thanks to REGION restaurant for supporting us.

WRIGHT'S FIELD

For those of you following the status of BCLT's purchase of 142 acres within the Wright's Field Preserve Area, we offer the following update: we are negotiating with the Seller according to the process outlined in our Option Agreement and expect to resolve our differences over the next few months. Our contract requires that a neutral third-party appraiser reconcile the difference in value of the property. We hope to complete the purchase as soon as possible so that we may move on to the next phase for Wright's Field: hands-on management and education.



The San Diego Foundation has supported BCLT in our efforts to further conservation in Southeast San Diego

County. BCLT will be participating in Endow San Diego, a regional, multi-year initiative designed to build permanent endowments for the citizens and organizations committed to improving the quality of life in all our communities. Call our office for information.

JOIN THE BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST IN PRESERVING SAN DIEGO'S RURAL HERITAGE!



NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP _____
 PHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of (please circle one):

\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000
\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 100
Other _____		

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

GET INVOLVED

(How you can help...)

Buy BCLT-wear.

Donate by Credit Card at www.bclt.org.

Make a Contribution that is significant to you.

Share this newsletter with a neighbor or friend.

Name the 'Back Country Land Trust of San Diego County' as a beneficiary in your estate plan.

Donate Appreciated Stock.

Volunteer!



Accomplishing the Mission

People often ask the Back Country Land Trust how we operate. Our mission is to preserve rare habitats and resources in San Diego's beautiful back country for future generations. Like most land trusts, we are a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization authorized by the IRS and the State of California to accept tax-deductible contributions from donors. We've served our community since 1991, spent a decade as an all-volunteer organization, and for the past four years, employed a paid staff of one.

We work with private landowners who voluntarily choose to work with us to preserve their land for generations to come. We use various tools to accomplish our goals, including purchase, bargain sale, and donation. When approached by landowners, the first step BCLT takes is to identify the location of the property and the resources it contains, to verify that it fits within our mission, strategic plan, and annual goals. We consider whether we can afford, and have the capacity, to take on the land as a conservation project.

Once we make a decision to move forward, we work together with the landowner through the escrow process, very similar as one might do in buying a house. We hire an independent, reputable appraiser, commission a preliminary title report, inspect the property for hazards,

and raise funds for the purchase. We consider long-term management and monitoring needs that could include such things as enforcement against trespassers and illegal activity, encroachments, and repairs and restoration needed on site. Biologists, archaeologists, educators, farmers, and the business community are folks we collaborate with to share expertise, keep costs reasonable, and make sure the land is managed right.

BCLT takes itself seriously as a nonprofit charity. Last year, only 1% of the funds we raised went toward operations— with the rest invested in our programs. We file our annual 990 form with the IRS each year, available at www.guidestar.org, and, thanks to The San Diego Foundation, went through our first financial audit last year, passing with flying colors. We reach out to our membership, share information in this quarterly newsletter, plan education projects, and work with donors at all levels who are interested in helping us succeed in preserving San Diego's scenic and diverse back country.

BCLT currently works throughout San Diego's back country, with conservation projects in Alpine, Potrero, and Jamul, including community nature preserves, mountainous watersheds, and working farms. We appreciate your continued support.

BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 1148
Alpine, CA 91903
Phone: 619-722-6281
Fax: 619-722-6420
<http://www.bclt.org>

www.bclt.org



Wright's Field photo by William Waterworth.

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Preserving rare habitats and resources in San Diego's Back Country

BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST
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2005-2006

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Noelle Collins

Join us for an

OPEN HOUSE

celebrating our return to Alpine

Friday, November 11, 2005

5:00pm to 7:30pm

We'll announce the winners of our first annual
Wright's Field Photo Contest
and introduce you to our new home at 2612-A Alpine Blvd.,
(next to H&R Block).

Bring and donate a clean coffee mug
for our office and receive either a
free chocolate lilies poster or sports water bottle.

*Thanks to Keli, Bev, Nick, Ian, Tim, John, Ann, Jim, George, Charlene,
Dave, Tim, Pam, Brian, and Scott for helping to move us back to Alpine!*