



BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS

EDUCATION • STEWARDSHIP • PRESERVATION

FALL 2000

415-383-6283 • FAX 415-381-3809 • e-mail BABt@earthlink.net • www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

Bay Area Barns and Trails Mission is to preserve San Francisco Bay Area equestrian lands by providing organizational and financial aid to equestrian and landowner partnerships. Through education, stewardship, and land protection support, "Barns and Trails" assists equestrians and landowners working to permanently protect stables, pastures, trails, horse camps...those special places our horses need to call home.

The Land Trust Movement: How to Start a Land Trust

"...Land trusts protect open space of all kinds--wetlands, wildlife habitat, ranches, shorelines, forests, scenic views, farms, watersheds, historic estates, and recreational areas--land of every size and type that has conservation, historic, scenic, or other value as open space. Land Trusts are nonprofit, voluntary organizations that work hand-in-hand with landowners... using a variety of tools, such as conservation easements that permanently restrict the uses of the land, land donations and purchases and strategic estate planning, Land Trusts help protect America's open spaces and green places, increasingly threatened by sprawl and development." Local and regional land trusts have protected approximately 4.7 million acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, ranches and farms, shorelines, forests, recreation land and other property of ecological significance. Indeed, the number of local land trusts has grown phenomenally, from 743 in 1985 to more than 1,200 today..." - LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

The Land Trust Alliance promotes voluntary land conservation and strengthens the land trust movement by providing the leadership, information, skills and resources land trusts need to conserve land for the benefit of communities and natural systems.

Neighbors and landowners working together can save equestrian properties. It takes hard work, a spirit of cooperation, motivation, and...infinite patience! Key to saving land is to understand which land protection method is best for you, the landowner, the family, the community and..."your" equine and equestrian friends. Interests and needs vary...so do strategies and solutions. Don't give up or accept that offer from a land developer. Begin by finding new ways to make "your" property economically viable, expand services and programs to meet the needs of your non-equestrian neighbors.

Visit the Land Trust Alliance website for more information - www.lta.org

"Land...they ain't making it anymore..."

-WILL ROGERS



Robert Eichstaedt

Horses enjoying the grass, with a view of San Francisco behind, on Horse Hill in Mill Valley.

How One Community Saved "Horse Hill"

Horses will continue to roam and grass will continue to wave on Mill Valley's newest piece of open space – Horse Hill. Mill Valley's Horse Hill is now the only remaining large horse pasture in southern Marin County. Every day, thousands of traffic-bound commuters on Highway 101 are refreshed by the sight of the 14 member Horse Hill Herd. This pastoral vignette, familiar to Marinites for over four decades, gave the impetus to neighborhood efforts to "SAVE HORSE HILL" which began in 1988 and culminated with public purchase of the land in 1990. Thanks to tireless fundraising efforts of neighbors, horse lovers, horse owners, the City of Mill Valley, and the Marin County Open Space District, this rural pristine area will be protected forever.

- MILL VALLEY RECORD, OCTOBER 31, 1990

www.horsehill.org

EQUESTRIAN LANDS AND TRAILS PROTECTION

- Equestrian Land Conservation Resource - www.elcr.org
- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council - www.ridgetrail.org
- Brandywine Conservancy - www.radnor-races.org/conservancy.htm
- Continental Divide Land Trust - www.cdlt.org
- Daley Ranch (Escondido) - www.ci.escondido.ca.us/visitors
- Groton Conservation Trust - www.gctrust.org
- Jackson Hole Land Trust - www.jhltrust.org
- Landpaths - www.mhart.com/Pages/landpaths.html
- Land Trust of Santa Cruz County - www.ltscc.org

- Marin Agricultural Land Trust - www.malt.org
- McDowell Sonoran Land Conservancy - www.mslf.org
- Muir Heritage Land Trust - www.muirheritagelandtrust.org
- Nevada County Land Trust - www.nccn.net/~landtrust
- Peninsula Open Space Trust - www.openspacetrust.org
- San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust - www.riverparkway.org
- Save Mt. Diablo - www.savemt.diablo.org
- Sempervirens Fund - www.sempervirens.org
- Truckee-Donner Land Trust - www.tdlandtrust.org

Sonoma County: The Coalition for the Outdoor Recreation Plan

The Coalition for the Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) is an affiliation of more than twenty of Sonoma County's hiking, biking, running, equestrian, and environmental organizations, with a combined membership of more than 12,000 households. Its mission is to "advocate for an extensive, diverse and sensible system of trails in Sonoma County."

Sonoma County has a wealth of natural beauty and millions of taxpayer dollars earmarked for open space. Yet it still lacks the parks, trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities neighboring counties enjoy. By joining together and taking action, the community will realize their vision of an extensive system of trails and parks linking city residents with our surrounding natural and rural countryside.

CORP message to Trails Advocates:

- *Get informed on the issues*
- *Get indignant at the lack of trails and parklands in Sonoma County despite the millions of public dollars being spent on "open space."*
- *Get involved in the solution*

www.sonomatrails.org

Equestrian Land Conservation Resource

A national voice for a united equestrian land conservation movement dedicated to promoting access to and conservation of land for equestrian and other compatible uses through education and partnerships. Founded by concerned equestrians and conservationists with the assistance from the Conservation Fund, ELCR promotes the protection of open land and provides information to concerned individuals who wish to maintain access to land for the riding and driving of horses. www.elcr.org



Marin County equestrians raising \$ for trails.

Martinez Horsemen's Association Ride to Benefit the Muir Heritage Land Trust - Saturday, October 14

On Saturday, October 14, 2000, MHA will be sponsoring a ride to benefit the MHLT. As challenges to equestrian trail access mount, MHA and horse owners all over need to think about how to support great efforts like MHLT and others organizations doing the work that will keep us, and our children and grandchildren, out on the trail where we belong. Come out and show your community that we horse folk are serious about these issues.

For more information, contact Chip Hankins, Wild Oaks Ranch (925-229-2122) or chankins@mllinsurance.com



Contra Costa County: Saving County Feeder Trail #1

In 1952, the Board of Supervisors designated the road joining the Franklin Canyon Highway to its junction with Briones Valley Road, Castro Road and San Pablo Road as Feeder Trail #1; however, the Board did not extinguish its "Public Road" status, an oversight that would have repercussions many years later. It was (this) threat to the public road, and the State's effort to create a 3,000-mile California Riding and Hiking Trail through 37 of California's 52 counties in the aftermath of World War II, that stimulated local horsemen to petition the Supervisors to designate certain seldom-used old public roads as County Feeder Trails. Following these designations, locals built monuments at trailheads, erected signs and fences, and made improvements. For the next 40 years, hikers and equestrians used Feeder Trail #1 to get back and forth across the county. Recognized as a vital link between west and central county, Feeder Trail #1 became a part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail alignment and East Bay Regional Park District Master Plan in the late 1980s'. And now, in the year 2000, thanks to efforts by the Muir Heritage Land Trust and the East Bay Regional Park District, these strategic properties in the Franklin Hills have been acquired...including the property that protects Feeder Trail #1. Continued fundraising is needed to complete preservation of this entire scenic ridgeline and to complete the Bay Area Ridge Trail which will follow County Feeder Trail #1.

For the rest of this exciting story about land and trails preservation in Contra Costa : www.muirheritagelandtrust.org

Adapted from the Muir Heritage Land Trust Newsletter, Spring 2000: 'Sky Ranch is A Wrap' and "Tale of a Trail" by Steve Fiala, Trails Specialist, East Bay Regional Park District (with permission of MHLT and Mr. Fiala)

Bay Area Barns and Trails Grant Program

Small Grants are available for "grass-roots" projects which have a local volunteer constituency, supportive landowners -public or private- and a possibility of matching funds. Equestrian landowners and individuals, organizations, and community partnerships are invited to submit projects planned to protect and enhance natural resources along equestrian trails and on properties which are (or will be) available for low impact public enjoyment. Projects should focus on equestrian lands or trails contiguous with, or safely accessible to, equestrian and non-motorized trails in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, or Sonoma Counties.

What is the Crisis We Are Facing?

Coming Crisis For Eventing: No Land USCTA NEWS - VOL. 29 • ISSUE 2 • 2000

If one takes projections about the impact of development on land over the course of the next 25 years—the period during which you and I can expect to be personally involved in the sport—the horse faces a future of being a glorified lawn ornament. In that future, we will need to call upon every horse whisperer in the country to teach us how to help our horses adapt to life without gallops and turnout. We will also be calling psychotherapists to help us, the riders, deal with a life in which we don't get to hack out into the countryside.

The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource believes that such a future can be prevented. Just like in a 12-Step Program, the first step is to stop being in denial. We all need to understand that the current rate of loss of land to development in this country is close to exponential.

For example, let's look at Arizona. John Lyons (speaking of horse whisperers) grew up in Phoenix. He talks about cutting school and grabbing a horse to go ride around town, tackless, of course. But for several years now, rural land outside Phoenix and Tuscon, the kind of scrub desert where you can ride for days and days, is being developed at the rate of an acre an hour!

As another example, in Montana just one of several hardware stores sells at wholesale prices a million dollars worth of housing materials every three days. If you have ever built a house, you know that materials represent only a fraction of the total cost. This should give you a sense of how many houses are built in just one rural county each year. I can assure you that the mix of dot.com cash flows and local libertarian values mean that long range, environmentally sensible development plans are not part of the picture.

It is important to realize from these statistics that this crisis does not solely concern the increased development of urban and suburban areas. Even areas that constitute our national "outback" are being turned into picket fenced backyards that no event horse could call home.

There is a lot we can do, much of which is disarmingly simple.

Our challenge boils down to three straightforward tasks. First, we need to stop taking for granted access to land. Second, we need to develop and practice a collective ethic of care for the land and for landowners. Third, we need to creatively, aggressively and proactively pursue every means we can to preserve open space and access for the long term. This includes not just conservation easements, but also land purchases, promotion of trail associations, and forming alliances with other user groups (even non-equestrian ones!).

Excerpts published with permission of the author, Sophie Pirie Clifton. This exceptional article can be viewed at www.eventingusa.com

Small Grant Recipients

Muir Heritage Land Trust: Contra Costa County • \$ 2,000

Supported acquisition of Franklin Ridge, Sky Ranch, & Gustin property, including County Feeder Trail #1 and Bay Area Ridge Trail. Links trails and wildlife corridors between Carquinez Regional Shoreline and Briones Regional Park.

www.muirheritagelandtrust.org

Ocean Riders of Marin/Golden Gate Dairy Stables: Marin County • \$1,500

Supported stable and manure management programs planned to improve water quality in Redwood Creek where the endangered Coho Salmon finds protected spawning opportunities.

www.geocities.com/Hearthland/Ranch/5089/actggnra.html

Sonoma County Trails Council /Coalition for Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP): Sonoma County • \$3,025

Supported public participation and cooperation among recreational trail advocates working to develop system of countywide recreational trails through urban and rural lands of Sonoma County.

www.sonomatrails.org

Resource Conservation District Equestrian Facilities Assistance Program: Regional • \$500.00

Supported Alayne Blicke's 'Horses for Clean Water' presentation to horse owners/stable managers.

Topic: Environmentally responsible stable management techniques.

e-mail Lisa.Shanks@ca.usda.gov

Horse Manure Impacts on Public Health and the Environment • \$5,000

Dr. Robert Atwill, DVM, MPVM, Ph.D., will be testing fresh and aged manure from more than 300 San Francisco Bay Area horses. The research will determine whether the pathogenic strain of E. coli, 0157:H7, is found in equine manure. It will also measure the type, significance and viability of 'weed' seeds present in fresh, uncomposted manure. In the 3rd phase, each horse's DNA will be added to the equidatabase of Dr. Mansour Samadpour, University of Washington. In future studies microbial source tracking (MST) will help to determine if horses residing on specific watershed properties are contributing to water pollution.

www.envirohorse.org

You Can Help

Keep watch over equestrian lands and tell us about issues, challenges, and opportunities. Become active in your local and state equestrian organizations. And please...join Bay Area Barns and Trails.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student or Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Advocate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500- \$1,000 Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Affiliate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000-\$2,500 Partner |

I'd like to make a special contribution to the Bay Area Barns and Trails' Capital Campaign \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (eve) _____ (day) _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

Comments? _____

Special Interests? _____

Membership contributions, less the fair market value of any benefits you may receive, are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Bay Area Barns and Trails was incorporated as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation in 2000. Your participation, memberships, and special donations are invited.

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink

Join Up

Make checks payable to:
Bay Area Barns & Trails

Mail to: **P. O. Box 2435**
Mill Valley, CA 94942



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*...can't keep selling
our homes, loading
up our trailers, and
movin' on...*



TO: