



For love of the land

WINTER 2016

PHOTO © WINSTON BOYER

Carmel River FREE

The Big Sur Land Trust has taken a leadership role in the landmark **Carmel River Floodplain Restoration and Environmental Enhancement Project (Carmel River FREE)**, aimed at restoring habitat and reducing flood risk where the natural and built environments intersect along the lower Carmel River and Carmel Lagoon. This project is one of the most important floodplain and riparian habitat restoration efforts on the Central Coast.

The Setting

The lower Carmel River and the Carmel Lagoon were once a rich coastal ecosystem of riparian and floodplain habitat, small seasonal wetlands, and brackish lagoon, all connecting to a biologically diverse marine environment in Carmel Bay. In the early 1930s, levees were built along the south bank of the Carmel River to protect agricultural fields, also known as Odello Fields, from flooding. This confined the river to a narrow channel, limiting flows south across its floodplain to support habitat in the Carmel Lagoon. Highway One reduces the natural functioning of the river's ecosystem by placing a physical barrier between the lagoon

on the west and the larger floodplain to the east.

This situation has also increased local flood risks and impacted the surrounding area. El Niño-related storms over the past 20 years have caused millions of dollars in flood damage to homes and businesses at the

"This project is one of the most important floodplain and riparian habitat restoration efforts on the Central Coast."

mouth of Carmel Valley. The storms of 1995 produced a flood that destroyed the Highway One bridge at the Carmel River, resulting in a closure of the highway for six months and cutting off access to and from Big Sur. When another major flood event followed in 1998, a plan to reduce such risks in the region became ever more urgent. Indeed, the lower Carmel River area is one of the highest cost repetitive-loss areas in the federal flood protection program.

The Project

The vision for the Carmel River FREE Project began to take shape after the 1998 floods and is an integral part of ongoing restoration efforts for the lower Carmel River region. It is a premier example of a multi-benefit "green infrastructure" project in action, leveraging natural systems to serve people and the environment. The project's levee removal, floodplain restoration, and causeway are an approach to eco-system management that is expected to save the county of Monterey approximately \$14 million in levee improvements that would otherwise be needed to meet FEMA's 100-year flood protection standards and to safeguard properties on the north side of the river adjacent to the project site. The new design will not only help remedy historic flood problems but will also serve as a key adaptation strategy in the face of climate change and future sea-level rise.

BSLT and Monterey County are partnering to implement the Carmel River FREE Project. *Continued on page 2 . . .*

From the President/CEO

In January of last year, I began a new tradition. I selected one word that would be an underlying mantra for the next twelve months. I chose the word *learn*, which made sense given that it was my first year as CEO and I knew that I would be drinking from the proverbial firehose. I wrote the word *learn* on my weekly to-do lists. Each morning, as I sipped my coffee, I thought about what I needed to learn to better serve BSLT's conservation mission.

This year I have chosen the word *renew*. It is a reminder for me to take time each day to renew my commitment to my deepest values. One of the wonderful things about this word is that its definition expands to include *restore*, *revitalize*, and *rekindle*. Each of these words is in sync with BSLT's important initiatives currently under way.

BSLT is working to restore the lower Carmel River through our floodplain project. At Glen Deven Ranch, staff and volunteers are planting 800 seedlings to help restore a native redwood forest.

In Salinas, we are working with local nonprofits and community leaders to create green space and revitalize communities.

This year, BSLT is increasing

opportunities for donors to rekindle their love of the land through more hikes and outdoor events.

Exciting outcomes are on the horizon! Success is possible because donors, volunteers, and active community members like you continue to renew your commitment to conserving the places you love and creating new opportunities for people to connect with land. Thank you for your support. We hope you seize the opportunity to renew yourself in the outdoors throughout the year.



President/CEO Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis

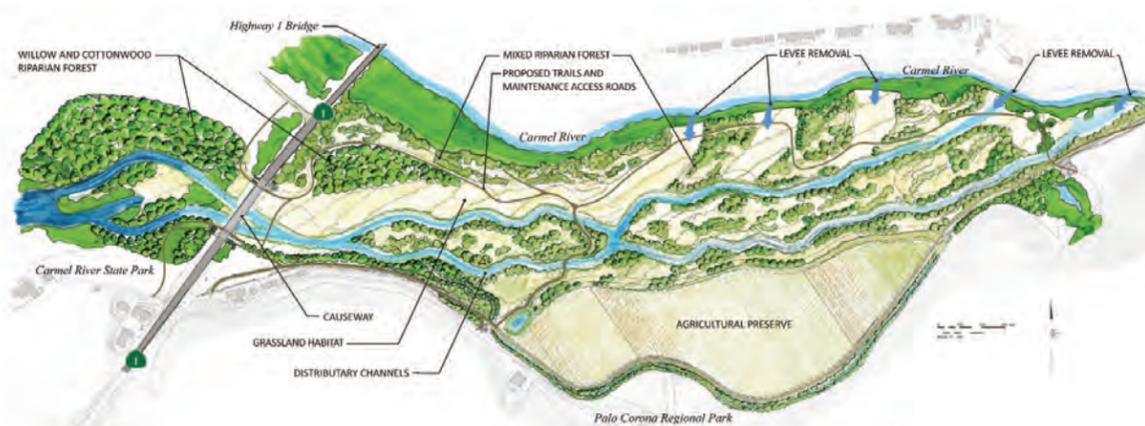


Illustration of the long-term restoration plans for the Carmel River FREE Project

Farewell and thank you!

After 11 years of service to the community and the land, Director of Community Stewardship Lana Weeks has bid adieu to the Big Sur Land Trust. Her depth of commitment to our mission manifested itself in every aspect of her work.

Lana began her tenure in 2004 as director of philanthropy. Her extensive experience as a development professional greatly bolstered the work of BSLT.

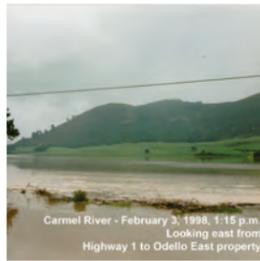
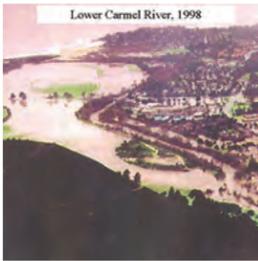
Then in 2013, as we began to focus on deepening community engagement, Lana assumed her most recent role, director of community stewardship, and was instrumental in envisioning, raising support for, creating, and launching the Big Sur Land Trust Nature Camps.



Eduardo Muñoz, Lana Weeks, Chris Garcia, Paul Contos, Todd Farrington and Trent Hodges at a BSLT Nature Camp in 2015.

These camps and the Trust's increased dedication to authentic community involvement has further positioned BSLT as a leading land trust on a national scale.

Lana's contributions to the conservation of natural spaces in Monterey County and to the well-being of our communities will endure for years to come.



Carmel River FREE continued from cover . . .

Key Project Components:

- Removing nearly 1,500 feet of riverbank levee on the south side of the Carmel River channel to allow storm flows back into the Odello East floodplain.
- Restoring 100 acres of floodplain and riparian habitat—with plantings and reseeding to promote native riparian and wetland vegetation that benefits fish and wildlife—while also creating multiple channels for floodwater.
- Replacing a portion of the Highway One embankment with a 360-foot-long causeway to improve floodwater movement under the highway and re-establish the connection between the floodplain east of the highway and the habitat-rich Carmel Lagoon west of the highway.
- Grading the floodplain to elevate approximately 23 acres of BSLT property so it can be maintained as an agricultural preserve, protected from flooding.

Clint and Margaret Eastwood intend to donate 80 acres of land they own on the Odello East floodplain to support project implementation. This is in addition to the 49 acres they previously donated to the Land Trust for this effort.

California State Parks and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District are also partnering with BSLT and the county of Monterey for those portions of the project that are on their adjacent parklands. Carmel River FREE will provide important components of a regional trail system linking Carmel River State Beach and Palo Corona Regional Park and will advance the vision of the Lobos-Corona Parklands Project, a multi-jurisdictional parks initiative spearheaded by BSLT to create the next great parks complex on California's coast.

Moving Forward

Carmel River FREE is an extensive undertaking involving numerous partners and stakeholders, engineering and environmental review, many permit approvals, and millions of dollars. Its complexity underscores the need for a strong public-private partnership linking BSLT with the county of Monterey and other agencies. BSLT has already secured more than \$14 million in state and federal grants (from the California Coastal Conservancy, the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Department of Water Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Caltrans, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). This money will be used for design and construction. Monterey County and BSLT are actively pursuing the additional estimated \$10 million that will be needed for implementation.

The design plans are expected to be finalized and approved by Monterey County and Caltrans over the next year. The required environmental review and permitting processes are under way. Construction is expected to start in late 2017 or early 2018 and be completed within 18 months. BSLT is committed to overseeing the post-construction floodplain restoration and stewardship, an effort that will require additional funding and will provide hands-on learning opportunities for volunteers, local schools, and environmental educational programs.

With community support, BSLT will continue its vital leadership role in transforming this iconic landscape and facilitating one of the largest public-private partnerships to benefit coastal habitat and communities along the California Coast.



Welcome and Thank You New Land & Legacy Members

We are thrilled to announce that we have several new members of the Land & Legacy Society. Thank you for joining a growing group of open-space enthusiasts who, as a part of your legacy, have already made a lasting commitment to preserving our treasured landscapes.

Welcome and Thank You!

- Jan Loomis
- Rod & Peggy McMahan
- Karin Salomon
- George St. Clair
- Anonymous (2)

Big Sur Land Trust established the Land & Legacy Society to honor and acknowledge those who provide support by including the Land Trust in their estate plans. Members are recognized in our annual report and invited to an appreciation event each year to hear more about the positive impact created by Land & Legacy Society members.

Please remember the Big Sur Land Trust in your estate plans and become a member of the Land & Legacy Society today! Our tax identification number is **94-2473415**.

If you are interested in joining the Land & Legacy Society, have already included BSLT in your estate plans, or would like more information about planned giving, please contact **Kate Mitchell Mehle at 831-625-5523 ext. 105 or email kmitchell@bigsurlandtrust.org**.

A future forest has taken root

This December, the Big Sur Land Trust took an important step in its Glen Deven Ranch project in Big Sur, which will ultimately create a new redwood forest and coastal scrub habitat on 20 acres of the ranch. The first new redwood trees went into the ground here at this iconic property.

The project is a landmark effort to remove invasive species, reduce wildfire fuel, and restore native habitat on the site. BSLT began in 2012 by removing invasive eucalyptus trees, allowing the ground to be readied for restoration.

Jim Velzy, director of UCSC Greenhouses (part of the divisions of physical and biological sciences and the division of social sciences at UC Santa Cruz), has helped immensely in this project. Velzy advocated to make our work at Glen Deven Ranch part of the university's internship program. As a result, in the past three years BSLT has been able to engage three interns to assist in collecting redwood seeds and cultivating, growing, and planting redwood seedlings for Glen Deven Ranch. These students have taken great care in nurturing new redwoods: sorting, cleaning, drying, and sprouting seeds collected at

Glen Deven Ranch, then growing seedlings for the past two years in a greenhouse on the UCSC campus. Seeds of redwood understory species like Big Leaf Maple have also been collected, sorted, and stored.

Then in December, our two most recent project interns, Kaysea Cook and Green Burns, along with BSLT staff and volunteers Kayti Christianson, Heather Burns, and Charlie Lambert, traversed the extremely steep mountainside, scraped out divots, shaped small flat areas, and finally planted the first cohort of redwood trees and seeds of understory species. BSLT's goal is to plant 1,000 redwoods over the next two years.

You, too, can help us reach this goal. Please consider a contribution of \$75 to have a tree planted in your family's name or in honor of someone special. The recipient will receive a card notifying them of your gift and information about the Redwood Planting Project.

In addition, their name will be listed on the Glen Deven Ranch Redwood Gift Wall on our website.

Each redwood Tribute Tree planted represents a new beginning and is an everlasting gift to the environment and future generations.

To order a Tribute Tree, please visit our website (www.bigsurlandtrust.org) and click the Donate button. **For more information, contact Amber by phone at 831-625-5523 ext. 103 or by email at asleon@bigsurlandtrust.org.**

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kaysea Cook is a recent graduate of UCSC with an undergraduate degree in Plant Sciences. She plans to start her own business in Moss Landing, arranging native flowers and plants that are found in the distinct natural ecotypes of our area, and will offer her services to restaurants, other businesses, and the public.



Green Burns is currently studying the efficacy of planting techniques associated with coastal prairie restoration at Younger Lagoon for UCSC. He is working to identify an effective technique for large-scale seed application using traditional farming equipment. He plans to become a land-management professional.



Big Sur Land Trust is proud to celebrate trees planted on behalf of friends and family members. The following gifts were received between December 1 and December 31, 2015.

In Honor of Ann & Gary Armstrong

Andrew Robertson

In Honor of Gene Bullock-Wilson

Barbara Bullock-Wilson

In Honor of John Wilson

Barbara Bullock-Wilson

In Honor of Cathy Camp

Peggy & Rod McMahan

In Honor of Christina Chen

Alan & Caron Lacy

In Honor of Sofia & Ariana Devers

Joanna & Chris Devers

In Memory of Roy Eugene Devers

Joanna & Chris Devers

In Honor of Ben Dickman

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Claire Dickman

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Martha Diehl & Ken Ekelund

Kenneth Ekelund

In Memory of Sean Echelbarger

Joe Zoellin

In Memory of Captain James W. Egerton, USN

The Crosby Gang (12 trees)

In Memory of Dr. Daniel Fort

Jane-Ashley & Peter Skinner

In Honor of Duncan Fort

Jane-Ashley & Peter Skinner

In Honor of Bob Hale

Donna Burych

In Honor of Beverly Hamilton

Rich, Debra & Evan Hamilton

In Honor of Lyman Hamilton

Rich, Debra & Evan Hamilton

In Honor of Cory Jones & Bob Coon

Thomas Conway & Guy Dansereau

In Honor of Holly Jones

Lincoln

In Honor of Bruce & Georgianna Klein

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of the Klein Family

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of Ben Kunst

Linda Wilshusen & Rock Pfothenauer

In Honor of Brian Lacy

Alan & Caron Lacy

In Honor of Daniel Lacy

Alan & Caron Lacy

In Honor of Adam Landreth

Jeanne & Bill Landreth

In Honor of Josie Landreth

Jeanne & Bill Landreth

In Honor of Danielle Levine

Nancy Baker

In Honor of Mike Levine

Nancy Baker

In Memory of Aurum G. Manos

Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis

In Honor of Joseph & Gloria Marcus

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of Josh Marcus

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of Phoebe Marcus

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of the Marcus Family

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Memory of Elaine Mehle

Kate Mitchell Mehle & Matt Mehle

In Honor of Colin Mehle & Tyler Mehle

Kate Mitchell Mehle & Matt Mehle

In Honor of Allan Mill

Michele Pietrantonio & Santino Pietrantonio

In Honor of Robert & Nanelyn Mitchell

Kate Mitchell Mehle & Matt Mehle

In Honor of Amelia Myers

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Hamilton Myers

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Hayden Myers

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Henry Myers

John & Laura Gamble

In Honor of Holden Myers

John & Laura Gamble

In Memory of Jeannette & Phillip Otis

Adrienne Otis

In Honor of the Patterson Family

Louise Ireland

In Honor of Bill Rawson

Judy Sulsona

In Honor of Bebe Reed

Jeanne & Bill Landreth

In Honor of Will Reed

Jeanne & Bill Landreth

In Honor of Larry Robertson

Andrew Robertson

In Honor of Joy Rubey & Marsha Frazier

Stephanie Ruskell & Adrienne Otis

In Honor of Teri Schadeck

Rich, Debra & Evan Hamilton

In Honor of Larry Seeman

Rich, Debra & Evan Hamilton

In Honor of the Seligman Family

Michael & Tobi Marcus

In Honor of Peter Skinner

Jane-Ashley Skinner (6 trees)

In Memory of Gabe Anderson Somero

Amy Anderson & George Somero

In Memory of Logan Anderson Somero

Amy Anderson & George Somero

In Honor of Carole Stepp

Geri Flesher

In Memory of Mum

Stephanie Ruskell

In Memory of Barbara Tokmakian

Robin Tokmakian

In Honor of Harold Tokmakian

Robin Tokmakian

In Honor of Sara von Schwind

Catherine von Schwind

In Honor of Lana Weeks

BSLT Staff

In Memory of Arthur Weinman

Don & Laura Newmark

Big Sur Land Trust 2016

MISSION: To inspire love of the land and conservation of our treasured landscapes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

George Somero	Chair
Bob Montgomery	Vice-Chair
Judy Logan	Secretary
Nigel Lovett	Treasurer

Tom Archibald	Michael Marcus
Sarah McCloud Berling	Steve McIntyre
Alfred Diaz-Infante	Tom Reeves
John Gamble	Judy Sulsona
Jeanne Landreth	Mike Thomas
Eric B. Lo Monaco	



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Luis Alvarez	Bill Landreth
Bill Doolittle	Jane McCoy
Steve Dorrance	Julie Packard
Rosalind Fisher	Phil Wilhelm
Alan Lacy	Marsha McMahan Zelus

STAFF ROSTER

Jeannette Tuitele-Lewis	President/CEO
Rich Hamilton	Chief Operating Officer
Guille Barbosa	Executive Assistant
Jim Cox	Glen Deven Ranch Caretaker
Joanna Devers	Conservation Projects Manager
Todd Farrington	Community Engagement Manager
Sarah Hardgrave	Conservation Programs Manager
Trent Hodges	Outdoor Programs Coordinator
Kate Mitchell Mehle	Director of Development
Adrienne Otis	Accounting Manager
Gary Peterson	Development Manager
Jeff Powers	Director of Land Stewardship
Tracy Rhoades	Office Manager
Patrick Riparetti	Stewardship Projects Manager
Amber Sanchez Leon	Philanthropy Assistant
Rachel Saunders	Director of Conservation

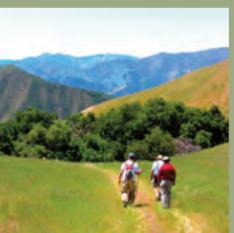
SAVE the date!

Come get acquainted! Please join other new members and BSLT staff to explore these magnificent conserved landscapes!



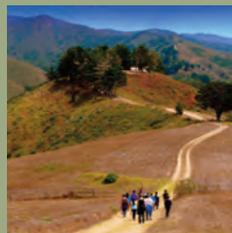
MARKS RANCH features majestic sycamores, expansive oak woodland meadows, dense grasslands, and a beautiful historic hacienda.

FAMILY DAY! Morning, Saturday, March 26
Moderate hike with extended strenuous option



ARROYO SECO is a back-country wilderness preserve rich with deep canyons and soaring peaks, fronting the Arroyo Seco River.

Full day trek, Saturday, April 16
Very strenuous - advanced hikers only



GLEN DEVEN RANCH is a remarkable natural beauty with amazing views of the Pacific Coastline along Garrapata Ridge.

FULL MOON HIKE! Evening, Saturday, May 21
Moderate hike with extended strenuous option



MARTIN DUNES is regarded as the most pristine dune habitat in Central California, endowed with a diversity of rare native plant and animal species.

Morning, Saturday, August 13
Strenuous hike



MITTELDORF PRESERVE is a magnificent redwood preserve offering a special connection to nature and the largest redwood in Monterey County.

Morning, Sunday, October 16
Moderate hike with extended strenuous option

Nearly a decade ago, BSLT began planning **Carmel River FREE**. The nature of our work is long-term, and community support is vital. We want to express our deepest gratitude to the 95 donors who gave a total of **\$123,288** through **Monterey County Gives**. Thank you!

MONTEREY COUNTY GIVES!
Joining Together for Big Ideas

Community Foundation
for Monterey County

MONTEREY PENINSULA FOUNDATION

the David & Lucile Packard FOUNDATION



BIG SUR LAND TRUST
509 Hartnell Street, Monterey, CA 93940
PO Box 4071, Monterey, CA 93942-9967
Telephone 831.625.5523 Fax 831.658.0716
www.bigsurlandtrust.org

DONOR PRIVACY POLICY The Big Sur Land Trust will not sell, trade or share personal information or send mailings on behalf of other organizations.