

# The Conservancy NEWS



Incorporating **ON TRACK** newsletter #90

Issue 8  
January 2009

## GET INVOLVED IN 2009

### Sierra Bike Trail Cleanup, Saturday, January 17, from 1 to 3 pm

In the words of Martin Luther King Jr., “Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve.” Antelope Valley Conservancy’s annual Sierra Bike Trail Cleanup seeks your participation, on Saturday, January 17, in honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Please bring work gloves and a reusable bottle of drinking water for each member of your group. Refill water and snacks will be provided. Volunteers should meet at 1 p.m. at the trailhead at Sierra Highway and Avenue J. Parking is available on the northeast corner under the sign (enter through the Lancaster Tire parking lot (formerly Midas). To pre-register and receive a tee shirt, or for more information, visit <http://avconservancy.org/MLKday.htm> or phone 943-9000.

### Leona Valley Bicycle Ride, call for volunteers

Our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Leona Valley Bicycle Ride will be held Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. It would be great to have volunteers step forward to help with this fundraising event, as we had 40 riders last year. We need help setting up at 6:00 a.m., and tearing down at 2:30 p.m. (tables, chairs, tarps, food stop supplies). Volunteers are needed for two food stops along the route, and volunteers with trucks, to help bicyclists or carry a bike or two, would be appreciated. If you can commit three hours to lend a hand, we would be grateful for your help. Please contact Elaine at (661) 946-1976 or [emac@antelecom.net](mailto:emac@antelecom.net).

### Endangered Species Day, call for volunteers

AV Conservancy’s 4<sup>th</sup> annual Endangered Species Day Conference will be held Friday, May 15. Volunteers are needed to help with publicity and managing the event. Please contact Wendy at (661) 943-9000 or [avconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:avconservancy@yahoo.com).

### Parade committee

Get creative and have some fun! Volunteers are needed to help us design and build our parade float. Please call Wendy at 943-9000.

### Promote preservation in your area

Across our watershed, from Lake Los Angeles to Gorman, people are working with Antelope Valley Conservancy to preserve precious land resources and quality of life in their communities.

If you or your community group are interested in preserving a resource in your area, AV Conservancy is here to help you, with the resources and government authorization to fund preservation projects in your area. That is what we are here for. All it takes to get a project started is for someone to contact the conservancy at (661) 943-9000.

### Mark your calendar for Earth Day Cleanup

April 18<sup>th</sup> will be Antelope Valley Conservancy’s 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Cleanup at Saddleback Butte State Park. Volunteers meet 9 a.m., at the staging area entrance, from Avenue J, just east of 90<sup>th</sup> Street East. Bring work gloves and refillable water bottle.

Individuals with relevant background to serve on the Board of Directors are encouraged to express interest. Call 943-9000.

## AV Conservancy earns authorization from California Dept. of Fish & Game

Antelope Valley Conservancy completed a due diligence review by the California Department of Fish and Game, required under new laws, and earned its authorization to hold mitigation lands and conservation easements. California state conservancies and conservation authorities are not subjected to this review.

## Una Lake Update

AV Conservancy's grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service is secure. While our approved bond funds grant is delayed, due to California's budget crisis, this does not affect the current phase of our acquisitions at Una Lake. The project is on schedule.



Photo: Nevel Burke

## Conservancy promotes green jobs through Salute to Youth, Green Jobs Initiative

Antelope Valley Conservancy joined dozens of organizations at the Salute to Youth Conference in Palmdale, to introduce and inspire regional high school students toward a variety of career paths in the Antelope Valley.

AV Conservancy promoted **green jobs**, that promote sustainable processes, sustainable economies, and sustainable communities.

AV Conservancy applauds the High Desert Green Jobs Initiative. While our region is already attracting renewable energy industry, we need to provide training for local residents to fill those new jobs, and we need to ensure that green energy projects do not adversely impact natural habitat areas. How "green" are windmills and solar plants if the tradeoff is destruction of habitats, loss of forest, or impacts on native species? Initiative leaders Linda Jones, Ann Vanino and Robert Blackburn have assured Antelope Valley Conservancy that the Initiative will operate with this understanding.



## Presentation now available

Antelope Valley Conservancy now offers a half-hour educational presentation. Illustrated richly with photographs, the presentation describes Antelope Valley habitats, plants, and animals, the Antelope-Fremont Watershed, and our region's importance from an ecological perspective.

Grants from Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Corporation and an anonymous local business allowed AV Conservancy to purchase the projector for presentations. Thank you so very much !!!!

To schedule a presentation, call (661) 943-9000 or email [avconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:avconservancy@yahoo.com).

## Your two cents

The City of Lancaster is accepting comments on various documents of to the General Plan update. See <http://www.lancaster2030.info/>.

Lancaster is also accepting comment on the 60th Street West/ Avenue K Commercial Shopping Center Draft Environmental Impact Report. Request copy at 723-6000.

Ohlone Riders request your participation in a questionnaire about equestrian usage of Santa Clara County Parks:

[www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks/](http://www.parkhere.org/portal/site/parks/).

Antelope Valley Conservancy realizes the importance and opportunity of comments, and would like more volunteers to read documents and draft comments.

## TRAIL NEWS

### Lancaster's Bicycle Transportation Plan

The City of Lancaster Public Works Department is working on a Bicycle Transportation Plan in compliance with the California Bicycle Transportation Act. The Plan is required for the City to be eligible for Bicycle Transportation Account grant funding. Lancaster recognizes the need to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality by promoting the use of bicycles as an alternative means of transportation. This Plan proposes construction projects for bike routes into the City's Ten Year Capital Improvement Project.

A study done by the Bicycle Transportation Account Compliance estimates there are 3,275 daily bicycle trips in Lancaster. The MTA estimates 9,128 daily trips in future.

Lancaster currently has about 6 miles of Class 1 bikeways (path or trail separate from cars), 30 miles of Class 11 (a painted strip and signs along side the road) bikeways and 4 miles of Class 111 (a lane shared by bicycles with signs only) bike ways. The latest bicycle map was published in 2006 and is available at the Lancaster Parks & Recreation department.

### Amargosa Creek Pathway Phase II

In addition to the Bicycle Transportation Plan, Lancaster has applied for monies from the Recreational Trails Program for Phase II of the Amargosa Creek Pathway. If awarded, the majority of the funds will fund construction of a bridge over Lake Lancaster, to connect to the trail at the Bicycle/Pedestrian Trailhead located at about Avenue G-8 and the 14 Freeway. The trail is planned to be completed from the AV Fairgrounds Trailhead, under the 14 Freeway to Lake Lancaster, and from Avenue G-8 to Avenue I. The plan also includes benches, a rest area, and riparian foliage.

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

**Ricardo Montijo, Bill Schiller, Nate Krumm, Mark Stiver, Ilyse Klavir, Alissa Cope, Robert Espinoza, and Thuy Hua.**  
Special thanks to Gary Moll and Ruben Gutierrez.

## THANK YOU, DONORS AND GRANTORS!

**Jennifer Matos, Bonnie Duecker, David Erickson, Ann Gregg, Cheri & Wes Kuhlins, Gary & Sandra Blackmore, Jane Benefiel**



## Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) opportunities

### Tortoises through the Lens.

Applications are being accepted until January 31, for "Tortoises Through the Lens". Twelve students will be chosen to learn how photography can be used as a tool for change, and to learn about desert tortoise in classroom and field settings. Application at: <http://www.meeconline.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/tortoise-program-student-application.pdf>

**EnviroBus Grants.** EnviroBus Transportation Grants are available for school bus excursions to approved environmental education sites or teacher designed field trips. Applications accepted through February 26. Educators can apply online at the *Teacher Section* at [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com).

### Youth Environmental Leadership Conference.

MEEC will host its fourth annual Youth Environmental Leadership Conference, March 7 in Antelope Valley, and March 28 in Victor Valley, for grades 2 to 12: [www.meeconline.com/home/about/](http://www.meeconline.com/home/about/)

For more information, call Cynthia Wray at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717.

## It's free !!!

Try Yahoo's [GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) search engine. Just select Antelope Valley Conservancy and Yahoo donates a penny for each search.



# Supporters

Winter 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if changed from label): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide newsletter  by email  by US mail  no newsletter

**YES! I want to preserve habitats, watershed, and trails.**

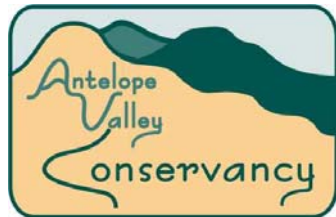
(1) I would like to make a contribution in the amount of:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Ecosystem Steward     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Habitat Hero |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Mojave Miracle Worker | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Nature Lover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Conservation Champion | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____          |

(2) How I want my contribution applied:

Please apply \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to land conservation work  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to trails work  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the sustaining endowment

Antelope Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation.  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Wendy Reed and Elaine Macdonald

## TIME REMAINING: 17 YEARS

According to the Land Trust Alliance, lands preserved in the next 17 years will be the last lands preserved on earth. This work is critically important to our future, our planet, and our community, and your help is critically important. Thank you for your interest and support.