

The Conservancy NEWS



Issue 2 -- September 2006

AV Conservancy Voucher Drive

Microsoft Antitrust Settlement Vouchers are in the mail to Californians, and Antelope Valley Conservancy is asking for your vouchers.

It is easy, and instructions to transfer your voucher are printed on the voucher form. Simply complete the reverse side, and mail to AV Conservancy, P.O. Box 3133, Quartz Hill, CA 93586-3133.

Plus, we have asked for matching funds pledges from community donors and companies, to double or triple the value of your gift. So save yourself the trouble of hunting for original receipts, and help the Conservancy with its software expenses. Donations are tax-deductible, and will be acknowledged by mail.

If you have no voucher and want to donate by credit card, we have a new 'Donate Now' button on our website, at www.avconservancy.org.

Endangered Species Day Press Conference

Antelope Valley Conservancy sponsored a press conference to recognize the first National Endangered Species Day, May 11, 2006. Representatives from all levels of regional government attended to acknowledge the importance of habitat conservation to species preservation.

The Endangered Species Day resolution, sponsored by Senator Diane Feinstein and unanimously passed, established a national activities day to raise public awareness about the need to protect endangered species.

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Corporate Birthday

On August 9th Antelope Valley Conservancy celebrated the first anniversary of its incorporation as a nonprofit public charity.



The founding board, Wendy Reed, Johnny Munger, Margaret Rhyne, and Michael Powell toast incorporation August 9, 2005.

Growing Boards, Volunteer Group

AV Conservancy is growing both its boards and its volunteer group. We have an executive board, as well as an advisory board of community citizens and organization representatives who advise or collaborate with the Conservancy. Many hands make little work, many heads are better than one. If you would like to get involved, let us hear from you.

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The AV Conservancy—A Flower in the Desert

by Kim Bauer

The time for a conservancy in the Antelope Valley is long, long overdue. Despite the overpopulation of housing tracts and buildup of businesses, our desert is still home to various species that are found in diminishing quantities around California and some that are found nowhere else.

The California poppy is still somewhat in profusion here, but relatively sparse in the rest of state. What a shame to see the state flower shunted aside as a weed, and plowed under for further building. Numerous wildflowers and plants that once were abundant have been unable to survive the fragmentation of habitat.

An organization to preserve habitat has never existed here. There have been minor projects, makeshift coverings, yet development projects that can spend millions offered little compensation for the destruction of natural habitat.

Like a cool evening breeze after a hot day, I welcome this entity. It brings me hope that some of the little wonders will not be destroyed. It is great to see a conservancy started here. Hopefully it will grow, flower, and become a wellspring of sustainability.

Press Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Several speakers noted that habitat preservation is the key to preventing species endangerment. Species protection begins with habitat conservation.

Featured speakers at the Endangered Species Day event included Councilman **Ron Smith**, City of Lancaster; **Norm Hickling**, Deputy to Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich; **Larry Grooms**, District Director for State Assemblymember Sharon Runner; **Jeremy Evans**, Office of Senator George Runner; **Scott Harris**, California Department of Fish and Game; **Russ Dingman**, California State Parks; **Mickey Long**, Los Angeles County Parks; **Lyle Norton**, Parks, Recreation, and Arts, City of Lancaster; **Jim Moore**, Audubon Society San Fernando Chapter; and **Wendy Reed**, AV Conservancy.

We greatly appreciate the donation of bottled water and snacks by **Vons Antelope Valley**, the use of the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve facility provided by **City of Lancaster**, and the set-up coordination deftly accomplished by **Larry Skaja** and **Ashley Trim**.

Director's Notes

by Wendy Reed

As AV Conservancy formed last spring, I remember seeing felled Joshua trees in piles. I was told of kit fox corpses.

We incorporated, and, by fall, began the burrowing owl sanctuary project, hoping to relocate the 40th Street owls. That winter the owls and their habitat were destroyed.

We grew working relationships with state, county, and local agencies, and great community talent and resources came forward for mapping, biology, acquisition, and management. Four land donations were proposed to us that winter, and the California Department of Fish & Game moved forward to designate AVC as the preferred provider for AV.

This summer we have begun pooling mitigation toward two target acquisitions. With all requirements in place this fall, we can go into full operation.

The board and volunteers are truly proud to serve in this capacity, focusing regional collaboration toward a livable community. We promise you good service, science based management, truly comparable mitigation, and conservation based on community consensus.