

The Conservancy NEWS



Issue 3 -- February 2007

AVTREC joins Conservancy

Since 1980, the Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation, and Environmental Council (AVTREC) has worked to ensure that open space and trails will always be part of the Antelope Valley way of life. AVTREC has dissolved its nonprofit corporation and is now a committee of the Antelope Valley Conservancy.

"AVTREC will continue to be known by its familiar acronym, although the 'C' now stands for Committee," says AVTREC's president of 17 years, Elaine Macdonald. Macdonald was appointed as a director of the AV Conservancy board, and will serve as Committee Chair.

John Lasagna, a longtime AVTREC trails enthusiast and Director of Parks and Recreation at City of Palmdale for 30 years, is also a Conservancy director, and will serve as Committee Co-Chair.

"AVTREC will be better able to achieve its goals. I foresee better opportunities to protect trails and wildlife habitat by working with AV Conservancy. I am extremely pleased to be a part of the Conservancy board," Macdonald says. *(continued at AVTREC, page 2)*



Antelope Valley Conservancy hosts California Burrowing Owl Consortium Meeting

Antelope Valley Conservancy hosted the 34th Meeting of the California Burrowing Owl Consortium on February 9th. Held at Antelope Valley College, it was the first CBOC meeting to be held in southern California, and it was the largest meeting to date, attracting 72 attendees from all over the state.

Formed in 1990, the Consortium is a coalition of biology and ecology professionals concerned with the future of burrowing owls in California. The Consortium is a forum for the exchange of research and information, often resulting in formulation of policy recommendations.



Photo: Foothill Associates

Dr. Kimball L. Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, says that Antelope Valley is the last stronghold of burrowing owls in LA County.

(see Consortium, page 2)

Center for Natural Lands Management now cooperator

Antelope Valley Conservancy has put the final piece of its capabilities puzzle into place, by forging a strategic alliance with the Center for Natural Lands Management.

A formal cooperator relationship with CNLM, a leader in science-based conservation land management, allows Antelope Valley Conservancy to offer our community well-respected capabilities in project costing and management accountability.

CNLM is a \$40 million nonprofit that manages over 40,000 acres of preserves and manufactures the industry-standard Property Analysis Report (PAR) software.

Email alerts now available

Want to receive news about upcoming events? Now you can sign up for email alerts at www.avconservancy.org.

The Conservancy News is published by Antelope Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 3133, Quartz Hill, California 93586, (661) 943-9000, and is available via email subscription. To subscribe, or for Conservancy information, please visit www.avconservancy.org.

AVTREC (continued from page 1)

For 25 years, AVTREC volunteers have mapped trails and contributed to trails plans adopted by Los Angeles County, Lancaster, and Palmdale. County and City trails maps are now posted on the AV Conservancy web site at www.avconservancy.org.

AVTREC's work includes negotiating voluntary trail easements with developers during the project planning stage. Any landowner who wants to can donate an easement.

The original Antelope Valley Trails Council formed in 1980, under the leadership of Gloria Gossard and Ed Skinner. Under Macdonald's leadership, the name was changed, in 1990, to acknowledge the natural environment in which trails exist, and AVTREC absorbed the nonprofit corporation, Antelope Valley Heritage Foundation.



At a January 8 meeting with Palmdale, LA County Parks, AV Conservancy, Backcountry Horsemen, and Equestrian Trails Inc., AVTREC Legislative Analyst Marcy Watton (left) and Palmdale Planning Director Asoka Herath discuss trail connectivity.

Photo: Elaine Macdonald

AVTREC will continue to host trails events, such as the Leona Valley Bicycle Ride on May 19th, and will still publish its *On Track* newsletter twice yearly, to focus on trails and Committee news. Donations to the Conservancy can be designated for the Committee.

Consortium Meeting (continued from page 1)

Antelope Valley residents often enjoy observing and coexisting with burrowing owls. Owls have lost habitat to agriculture and development, and when ground squirrels are eradicated by poison.

At the Consortium Meeting, AV Conservancy received several donations to its Burrowing Owl Sanctuary project. The Sanctuary project began in October 2005, to translocate owls from habitat at 40th Street West and



Conservancy Director Wendy Reed (left) accepts letter of support and donation from Catherine Portman, President of the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society.

Photo: Bob Portman

Avenue K in Lancaster, when the land was approved for development. Before CDFG permission for the translocation could be garnered, the owls' habitat was destroyed, presumably with the owls.

Active translocation and passive relocation policies are a subject of Consortium discussion. Ornithologist Pete Bloom says passive relocation evicts owls from their burrows to adjacent land.

Fence Post Alert !!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests your help to raise awareness of potential problems with certain sign and fence posts. Small holes at the top of metal fence posts can trap raptor toes.

Installing a couple of bolts to fill the top holes is a simple, inexpensive way to save lives.



Photos by permission of US-FWS

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Volunteers

Janine Baker
Tammy Kapla
Wendal Reed
Debbie Stevens

Donors

Phoenix Ecological Consulting
Burrowing Owl Preservation Society
Warren and Mary Campbell
Urban Land Economics Group
Bonnie Moore-Banks
David Carr
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
Charlie Brown Farms

Donors of Services

