

THE *Buckeye*

PRESERVING OPEN SPACE THROUGH FAMILY STEWARDSHIP OF
NATURAL RESOURCES IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

CONSERVATOR

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The Newsletter of The Buckeye Conservancy

6th Annual Meeting & Dinner

Fortuna River Lodge Conference Center will be the setting for The Buckeye Conservancy's 2006 Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 11. This year's theme is Youth in Agriculture and recognition will be given to Humboldt County 4-H and FFA clubs. On display will be a look into their activities and events. Following the business meeting, which begins at 5:00 p.m., Buckeye members and friends can enjoy the social hour featuring a hosted bar. Next on the schedule is the famous Pete Bussman New York steak barbecue with all the fixings catered by CC Market.

There will be a Live Auction during the dinner hour with many unique items for you to bid on. The auction is an opportunity for you to show your support for Buckeye by purchasing an item. Not only will you receive the advantage of the item you buy, but also the satisfaction you will receive by helping Buckeye to continue its vigilance on behalf of landowners.

Another highlight of the evening will be presentation of the 2006 Stewardship Award – recognizing individuals who demonstrate exemplary care and management of natural resources while balancing the ecological health of our region's wild lands, a healthy, stable economy and preserving open space in family ownership.



*Buckeye
Stewardship Award*

2005
Recipient

Steve Horner presenting the 2005 Buckeye Stewardship award to Bob Barnum of Eureka.

We are pleased to present Robin L. Rivett as the keynote speaker. Robin L. Rivett is an attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF), a nonprofit, tax-exempt public interest law firm, headquartered in Sacramento, CA. PLF was formed in 1973 to litigate nationwide in defense of individual and economic freedoms including private property rights and to represent responsible citizens supporting sound government. PLF is particularly well known for its involvement in environmental and land use litigation. PLF is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from over 20,000 individuals, businesses, associations, and foundations.

Mr. Rivett has been with the PLF since 1975. He is a principal attorney in

the Environmental Law Practice Group and Director of Regional Centers. His practice has focused on environmental, natural resources, public lands, agricultural labor, land use law, and private property over-regulation issues.

Mr. Rivett will discuss his views on the future of environmental law, and an overview of past milestones. There will be a brief question/answer time after his presentation for audience participation.

Members and non-members are welcome to attend. The cost is \$75.00 per person. Once again we hope you will join us for a fun and memorable evening. Please call the Buckeye office for more information at 786-9662.

LAWSUITS CHALLENGE Salmon Listings Across the West

On June 23, 2005, a lawsuit was filed by California Forestry Association, California Chamber of Commerce, California Cattlemen's Association, Forest Landowners of California, Greater Eureka Chamber of Commerce and Save our Shasta and Scott Valleys seeking the invalidation of the listing of the coho salmon by the California Fish and Game Commission. The complaint charges that the California Fish and Game Commission had inadequate grounds upon which to find that listing of the coho salmon was warranted, violated well-established rulemaking standards and statutes, illegally used federal standards to justify the listing of individual coho salmon population segments, and failed to provide statistically valid data on coho populations as required by law.

In December, the Pacific Legal Foundation, a California property rights group, filed a sweeping lawsuit challenging 16 Endangered Species Act listings of salmon spanning four western states, charging the federal government with illegally distinguishing between hatchery and naturally spawned fish. PLF says NOAA Fisheries Service's new hatchery policy and the listings violate the ESA, and contradict PLF's 2001 landmark federal court victory

PLF says that the salmon listings are crippling the economies of western states, driving prices up, and killing jobs in almost every major economic sector from farming and agriculture to new home construction and transportation.

in *Alsea Valley Alliance v. Evans*.

In *Alsea*, a federal court ruled the government had violated the ESA when it ignored the prolific numbers of hatchery salmon in listing the Oregon coast coho as threatened. Federal officials agreed to comply with the ruling by reviewing the status of its salmon listings and updating them to ensure they complied with the court's ruling. Instead, PLF says NOAA's "relistings" are nothing more than a shell game; the agency continues to justify the ESA listings by "counting" and evaluating only the naturally spawned fish in determining whether a given population warrants listing, then listing the entire population of both hatchery and naturally spawned fish—but excluding hatchery salmon from ESA protection.

"Four years ago, federal officials promised they would issue new findings on salmon listings that would comply with the court's decision in *Alsea*," said Russ Brooks, the managing attorney for PLF's Pacific Northwest office who successfully litigated the *Alsea Valley Alliance* case.

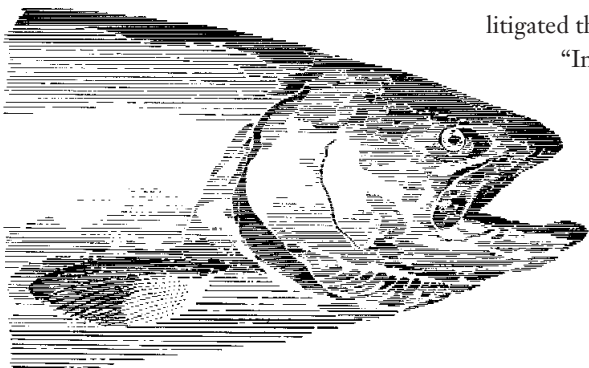
"Instead, the agency continues to ignore the law and the scientific reality that thousands of hatchery and naturally spawned fish thriving in western rivers mean that salmon are not threatened with extinction."

"The ESA does not allow federal regulators to treat some members of a species differently when they exist in the same river, in the same natural ecosystems, and interbreed together," added Brooks.

PLF says that the salmon listings are crippling the economies of western states, driving prices up, and killing jobs in almost every major economic sector from farming and agriculture to new home construction and transportation.

PLF filed the lawsuit on behalf of a broad coalition of property owners, farmers, and business groups representing tens of thousands of citizens in Oregon, Washington, California, and Idaho, including *Alsea Valley Alliance*, Oregon State Grange, Jackson County Pomona Grange, Washington Farm Bureau, Washington Association of Realtors, Building Industry Association of Washington, California State Grange, Greenhorn Grange, Central Coast Forest Association, Coalition for Idaho Water, Idaho Farm Bureau, Idaho Water Users Association, Pioneer Irrigation District, and Idaho State Senator Skip Brandt.

Both of these lawsuits will be very costly and contributions would be sincerely appreciated to offset the costs of these challenges. For more information on how to contribute, contact Buckeye's office at 786-9662.



LEAVE OF ABSENCE & New Beginings



Andy Westfall with wife Sandy.

Fondly referred to as “Mr. Buckeye” by many, Andy Westfall is taking a leave of absence from Buckeye’s board of directors. Andy is one of the founding members of the Buckeye Conservancy and served as Chairman for the first three years of the organization. Andy has been an extremely devoted member – volunteering considerable time, resources and passion from the onset.

Much of the foundation that Buckeye sits on today is directly attributable to Andy. His artistic eye and camera helped mold our image into a sophisticated, well respected and credible organization throughout the conservation world. Andy’s optimistic and “can do” attitude was always present as Buckeye tackled challenges over the years. His humorous quips were delivered with style and welcomed by all. We wish Andy all the best during his leave.

Replacing Andy on the board is Marion V. Brown. She and her children live in Fortuna on the old Edson Acres Ranch. The ranch was homesteaded in 1866

with the home being built 1904 to 1906. Marion moved to Fortuna from Houston, Texas in January 1998. Her son, Brad is in his sophomore year at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Her daughter, Mary Elizabeth, is a senior at Fortuna High School.

A Certified Public Accountant by trade, Marion received a BBA in Accounting from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas and trained in the tax division of Arthur Andersen & Co in Houston, Texas. She is primarily involved in the management of her family businesses, which include Lufkin Creosoting Co., Inc., (a 60 year old company that produces creosote-treated utility poles, piling, posts, and lumber for utilities and railroads), and timber and ranching located in east Texas. She also serves as the trustee for her family trusts. She is licensed to practice as a CPA in both Texas and California, and is a member of the Texas Society of CPAs as well as the California Society of CPAs.

Marion wears a lot of different hats. She belongs to the Over the Hill Riders, and currently serves on the board of the Humboldt County Cattlewomen Association. She is also co-chair of the auction committee for the Redwood Memorial Hospital Benefit Ball. Last year, she worked with Buckeye on the Governance and Fundraising Committees (thanks to George Brightman and Julie Houtby).

“What an honor and privilege it is to serve on such a knowledgeable board as the Buckeye Conservancy. There are many different challenges facing landowners in Northern California, and I look forward to working toward a better future. So much depends on private land ownership.”

News from the State

Several new Board members have been appointed to California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Among them are Pam Giacomini, formerly from Humboldt County, and now living in Hat Creek. Pam served as director of natural resources and commodities for Government Affairs Division of the California Farm Bureau from 2001 to 2005 and is a member of California Cattlemen’s Association. Pam’s roots in agriculture and proactive style will make her an asset in promoting the Buckeye values.

Also appointed are James Ostrowski of Mount Shasta and Bruce Saito of Long Beach.

California Fish and Game Commission has appointed John Carlson, Jr. as new Executive Director to replace retiring Executive Director Robert Treanor. John graduated from Humboldt State with a bachelor’s degree in wildlife management and received a master’s degree in wildlife biology from Iowa State University

Auction Items & Ideas Needed

The Live Auction at Buckeye’s annual meeting is in need of unique one of a kind auction items and/or cash to be used for underwriting! Last year we raised over \$10,000 in the Live Auction with some really great auction items. If you have anything at the ranch or in your attic that is considered a collectible or antique that you would like to donate, please give George Brightman a call at 777-3601. Or you may call any other auction committee members – Joe Russ, Sterling McWhorter, Marion Brown, or Chris Prior. We appreciate your generosity and support!

The Buckeye Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) charity and as such, in kind donations are tax deductible at fair market value basis.

BUCKEYE FOREST

Project Update

Legislation is Proposed

Buckeye Forest Project held a two-day workshop co-sponsored by Forest Landowners of California in November at the scenic and secluded Mattole Camp and Retreat Center near Petrolia. Forty-five people attended the event with many of the participants taking advantage of the facilities spacious quarters for the duration of the workshop. Cook's Catering provided the meals. The setting offered a unique opportunity for communication and camaraderie amongst a diverse group of stakeholders brought together to work on resolving some of the issues that have stood in the way of helping to get more non-industrial forest acreage under long-term management, with the focus on timber harvest permits. The spectrum of participants ranged from long time area ranchers, agency personnel, watershed groups, industrial timber representatives, national and local environmental organizations, resource managers, Senator Wes Chesbro and Bill Craven from Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Following introductions, Senator Chesbro shared his thoughts on the Forest Project's efforts. He appreciates this effort to bridge this chasm and stated that trying to reach understanding is very important. The "timber wars" need more opportunities to talk. Wes shared his personal journey of understanding of these issues. He began as a forest activist in Arcata, and since has resolved to get to know people who work in the woods. He is seeing a change in paradigm and realizes that landowners are our best hope in protecting the land with the best use being resource utilization. We need to achieve a balance in economics

with long-term environmental concerns, keeping open space, etc.

Senator Chesbro reflected that how we are structuring the Forest Project is critical to building trust, respect and understanding of one another's motives. He thought they had worked out consensus for Jackson State Forest, but they ended up back at ground zero, because they didn't work with some of the statewide interests. "My heart is with what you are trying to achieve here."

Following Senator Chesbro's talk, and brief background presentations by Mike Atkins – Forest Project Chairman, Jim Able and Richard Gienger, there was a question & answer period.

The first day's agenda facilitated by Nancy Reichard, included panel presentations and group discussions about two hypothetical proposals: one for a longer-term THP, replacing the current "three-year period" with "up to 25 years;" and the other for an expanded NTMP, replacing the current "2,500 acres" with some larger number, or eliminating the size limit altogether. Following the indoor discussions, the group took a field trip to the McWhorter Ranch and then returned to the warm lodge for a social hour, dinner and an after-dinner presentation about the Mattole Forest Futures project by Chris Larson, Mattole Restoration Council.



Panelists Mike Atkins, Richard Geinger, Ken Moore, Holly Lundborg, Dan Weldon and Lane Russ discuss concerns and ideas they have regarding expanding the current NTMP acreage.

On the second day there were breakout sessions to work on the THP and NTMP ideas, followed by discussion and identification of possible next steps by the group as a whole.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the participants reached consensus to recommend to Senator Chesbro to carry legislation. The Proposal: Create a new THP option for five years with two – one-year extensions. The Buckeye Conservancy will drive the legislation and will meet with Chesbro to start the process. We hope to build on the success of this step and continue seeking common sense solutions towards preserving open space through family stewardship of natural resources.

The Buckeye Forest Project is sponsored in part by Headwaters Fund and many individual private donations.

To obtain a complete copy of the workshop notes, visit Buckeye's web page – www.buckeyeconservancy.org

MIXER in December

Buckeye members and friends gathered at OH's Townhouse in Eureka in December for a Mixer. Following the social hour of fellowship and refreshments, Buckeye Forest Project manager Mike Atkins addressed the group. He gave an update on the project and stressed the importance of the work being done on behalf of landowners. In order for the project to keep its momentum, adequate funding is critical. Humboldt County Headwaters Fund has been a major source of revenue for the past year, but those funds are about to run out. Mike asked the group to consider opening their wallets and also to help find others

who were willing to donate to the project.

Many participants at the Mixer bought a chance on a prize drawing. The prize was a motorized, long handle, tree limb saw which was generously donated by American Ag Credit. Judy Billingsley was the lucky winner and much to Buckeye's delight, she donated the prize back to be auctioned off. Jim Hunt was the high bidder following a spirited auction and somehow managed to fit it in his car to take home. Thanks to fundraising chairman George Brightman for organizing the raffle. A drawing for door prizes



L to R- Roger and Johanna Rodoni, George Brightman and John and Peggy Rice are all smiles following the Buckeye Mixer at OH's Townhouse.

followed the auction. And thanks to all who attended to discuss Buckeye's highest "common ground" – the maintenance of open space in Humboldt County.

THANKS To You!

Through support of people like you, The Buckeye Conservancy has grown to be a well-known and credible voice for landowners promoting good stewardship and its public benefits throughout our area and beyond. Thanks to every one of your contributions of time and money, we are able to raise awareness of the pressures forcing families off the land and to proactively seek common sense solutions to strengthen sustainability of these lands. Following is a list of folks who we would like to recognize for going the extra mile for *Buckeye*.

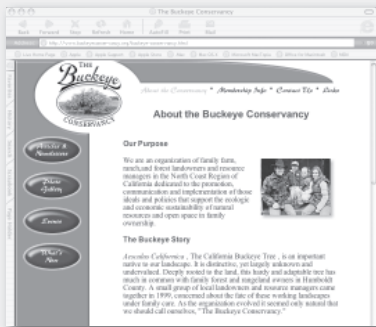
Jim and Kay Able
Mike Atkins
George and Luz Angela Brightman
Pete Bussman
Bernie Bush
American Ag Credit
Nancy Reichard
Mark and Tammie Chapman
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Ray and Nola Flynn
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Able Forestry
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Rich and Carolyn Hunt
Victorian Inn
Terry Lindley
Marion Brown
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Humboldt Auction Yard
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Bobbie Johnson
Graham and Gloria Cottrell
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BUCKEYE IS ONLINE

WWW.BUCKEYECONSERVANCY.ORG



Make sure you check out The Buckeye Conservancy's web page. We are at www.buckeyeconservancy.org

On the web page you will find everything from our "Mission," to membership information, past and current Buckeye newsletters, a photo gallery and more.

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