



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

**E-NEWSLETTER**

**MARCH 2006**

### **The 4th Annual Fuel Load Reduction Demonstration Project**

Join the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT), the Cornell Preservation Organization (CPO), the Triunfo Lobo Canyon Community Association, (TLC) the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD), and your local neighbors to find out how you can avoid that “scorched earth look” around your house and instead strike a balance between fire safety, maintaining the amenities of a beautiful yard and preserving habitat for wildlife!!

Sunday, April 23, 2006

Cold Creek: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Mary and Dale Landroth  
26005 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas

Lobo Canyon: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Chris Willig 31135 Lobo Vista, Agoura

During the garden tours, there will be discussions of plant materials, fire-safe techniques, and the aesthetic and wildlife values that have been incorporated into the garden plan. Questions and suggestions are encouraged, and informational materials will be available.

To RSVP or for further information please call MRT at (818) 591-1701 x.212.

### **The MNVCA Board Time Change**

The MNVCA Board meetings have been moved to the second Tuesday of every month.

### **School Bond Measure to be Placed on June Ballot**

A \$125 million bond measure for Las Virgenes schools will appear on the June ballot. The LVUSD requested the bond to pay for capital improvements throughout the district. Some of the improvements include new bathrooms, computers and classrooms to reduce overcrowding. The bond will be paid over 25 years and is expected to cost \$25 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

No public hearings will be held. However, if there is enough interest from the community, the School Superintendent could be invited to a MNVCA board meeting to answer questions about the measure. Look for updates in future newsletters.

### **MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting February 7, 2006**

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the home of Rosemary Alden. In attendance were Board members Rosemary Alden, Marianne Cilluffo, Cynthia Hodes, Joan Kay, Lisa Lehman, John Low, Jocelyn Mackay, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Annual Federation Dues were approved for payment.

**Federation Report:** Kelly Hayes Raite, the first of several candidates that are running for State Assembly, spoke at the meeting. Other candidates will speak in the coming months.

**Old Business:** New Neighbor Welcome Letter – The packets have been finalized and will go out to all neighbors in Monte Nido. Board Meeting Date Change – The monthly Board meetings will be

changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month starting in March. Winter Banquet/Installation Dinner – The event will be held on March 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the home of Rosemary Alden. Attendees will be asked to bring “hearty hours devours” to share along with a \$10 fee to cover costs. National Parks Committee – A letter will go out to the NPS encouraging that the “Organic Act” remains intact as they move forward. A summary will appear in the next MNVCA Newsletter.

**New Business:** Election of Officers – The Board elected the following officers:

President-Joan Slimocosky

Vice President-John Low

Treasurer-Cynthia Hodes

Secretary-Lisa Lehman

Access Trail Concern – Neighbors are concerned with access to a long used trail near the corner of Cold Canyon and Wonder View. There may be plans to divert or end the access. The Board will continue to monitor this issue.

*-Lisa Lehman*



## The Newsletter Needs Help Again!

Putting out this newsletter involves several people. Once articles are written and assembled, the newsletter is approved by the Board President and sent to the printer. Once printed, it has to be picked up and brought to the Canoga Park post-office for processing, and then over to the Woodland Hills post-office for delivery. It needs to be done in short order, usually with a few days notice. Since I don't work in the area, it is impossible for me to get the newsletter to the post-office. Several people have been helping out for the last few months, including Lynn Benjamin and Randi Goodman (Thanks Ladies!) but can't take it anymore. So I need someone to take their place. If you are available and willing, please give me a call at 876-3019 or email me at [mnvcanews@charter.net](mailto:mnvcanews@charter.net). Thanks a lot.

*-Your editor, Marianne Cilluffo*

## Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36

### Support the purchase of the Brian Sweney Property next to Malibu Creek State Park

We have an opportunity to help preserve the precious open space in our community, by supporting the National Park Service purchase of 208 acres that will connect Peter Strauss Ranch (NPS) with Malibu Creek State Park (SP) as well as 2 other NPS holdings. Please take a moment to send a letter (See ETI website for an example, or compose your own), to Congressman Henry Waxman asking him to request Congress allocate funds in the 2007 budget for its purchase. Our window of opportunity is extremely slim, with the deadline for budget requests on March 15. Please make sure all letters have been mailed and faxed or e-mailed to Congressman Waxman, with a copy to the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (to include in the 2007 budget packet) at your absolute earliest convenience.

Following is some key information about the subject property: 207.5 acres that is high priority for acquisition by NPS. It is located on the north slope of Castro Crest and is part of the Malibu Creek Watershed. It is adjacent to 203 acres of NPS land acquired in recent years; and it is at the western boundary of Malibu Creek State Park. There are many archeological, historical and cultural resources on the land. This property completes a critical wildlife corridor connecting 5 public land holdings. This property provides trails for the public to access State and National Parklands between Peter Strauss Ranch and Malibu Creek State Park, including a connection to the Backbone Trail. Further supporting points are -

1) The 208 acres are designated for full fee acquisition in the approved Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Land Protection Plan.

2) Fulfills several "critical purposes" of the SMMNRA Enabling Legislation, (P.L. 95-625), Section 507 (d) (1) in that it, a) protects “undeveloped inland stream basins.” It is part of the

Malibu Creek Watershed, which supports one of the southernmost runs of the endangered southern steelhead; b) "connects existing state and local government parks to enhance their potential for public use." Specifically it links three NPS properties 5 and connects Peter Strauss Ranch to Malibu Creek State Park and the Backbone Trail. c) protects "existing ...scenic corridors...including ...the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Corridor ... " The property is part of the scenic backdrop for one of the most scenic portions of the Mulholland Corridor.

3) The property completes the protection of a large block of core habitat on the North Slope of Castro Peak. Public acquisition of this property is supported by key open space preservation and trails advocates in our community.

*-Don Wallace, reprinted from the ETI Newsletter*

## Want to be in the Know?

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at [mnvca@charter.net](mailto:mnvca@charter.net), to receive announcements of meetings, community activities and the time and location of our Board meetings. **Contributions to the newsletter** including nonprofit events to be listed in the calendar can be made by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to me (the editor) at 856 Wonder View Dr. or by email to [mnvcanews@charter.net](mailto:mnvcanews@charter.net). *-Marianne Cilluffo*

## Calendar of Events

---

### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tuesday April 11th at 7 PM.  
at the home of Cynthia Hodes  
959 Crater Camp  
591-1026

### **Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36**

Tuesday April 11th at 7 PM.  
at the home of Deborah  
Collins & Joe Provenzano, 24232 Dry  
Canyon/Cold Creek Rd., Calabasas.  
818- 225-1480

#### Topic: Local Trails

Where are they, how do we get there, what condition are they in, what are we doing to take care of them? Get your trail questions ready.

### **A Course in Miracles Study Group.**

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM  
Marilyn Browning  
222-6362

### **Zen Meditation**

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm  
Rosemary Taylor Alden  
222-2936

### **Universal Worship Service:**

First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM  
Marilyn Browning  
222-6363

