



Foundation Flyer

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors
we borrow it from our children.* Native American Proverb

Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation

www.srpf.org

Summer 2007

SANTA ROSA PLATEAU FOUNDATION HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

By Virginia Hyde

On May 17, 2007 the fourth Annual Meeting was held at the Santa Rosa Plateau Visitor Center. Approximately thirty Foundation members were in attendance. The evening began with the traditional social hour and potluck dinner that was enjoyed amid a festive décor arranged by Nancy Backstrand, Pat Mitchell, Valerie Zecca, and Joanne New, annual meeting committee members.

Ginger Greaves called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Owen Hyde, Treasurer, gave a financial report highlighting the year's success. The Foundation has a current bank balance of \$111,592 compared to a total of \$73,681 for the same time in 2006 due to generous donations, membership fees and three major fund-raising events.

Three incumbent Board Members were re-elected: Nancy Backstrand, Owen Hyde and Marvin Trotter. Five new nominees were also elected: Veronica Burgess, Beverly Burns, Martha Culbertson, Derick Hansen, and Laura Ogden. The new Board Members reflect a variety of backgrounds and professions; a teacher, a technology manager, a long-term SRPER docent, a business owner, and a veteran community volunteer. A warm welcome was extended to each of them.

The exciting premier of The Foundation's just-completed video entitled "The Awakening" was shown to the audience. It is a beautifully done piece by RIFT Communications, Bob Backstrand and Helen Harrison, which shows a typical third grade class on their exciting journey to the Reserve. As the day progresses the children's new awareness of their natural world is illustrated. A clear, but tasteful message that this program requires continual funding will

make the video a powerful tool in the recently launched \$1 Million Dollar Endowment Fund Campaign co-chaired by former Board Member, Cois Byrd, and President, Ginger Greaves.

In keeping with the purpose of the Foundation a \$45,000 check for the 2006-2007 program was presented to Paul Frandsen, General Manager for Riverside County Regional Parks and Open Space.

The meeting closed with an awards presentation ceremony. Virginia Hyde, Board Secretary, was given the President's Award. Joe McCabe received the Board of Directors' Special Recognition Award for his unstinting labor and support to the Foundation as well as his tireless dedication as 3rd grade docent. The Spirit of Gordon House Award was presented to Nancy Backstrand. Nancy organized the first docent and volunteer programs for the California Nature Conservancy in 1984. Gordon was one of her original volunteers and they became very good friends. She has continued as mentor-docent for others in the 3rd grade program to this day.

Plateau Garden Tour

By Marion Hansen

On April 28th, the fourth annual garden tour was held to raise funds for the third grade educational program at the Santa Rosa Ecological Reserve. In spite of the unusually hot weather that day, hundreds of avid gardeners, nature lovers, and friends of the Foundation ambled through the beautiful gardens picking up motivation and ideas for their own gardens or just soaking up the scenery. Nearly \$7,000 was raised through ticket sales and donations.

Eight gardens were on display in La Cresta and Tenaja. Due to the unusually cold winter, it took much more effort than usual to prepare the

gardens. We sincerely appreciate the work of these families: the Allens, Frommers, Joshuas, Kollers, Owens, Schrocks, Sticklers, and Thompsons. Each garden had its own distinctive features including Indian petroglyphs, native plants and succulents, water and rock features, annual flowers, and vegetable and tree crops. A very light lunch snack could be bought that was provided by the Victorian Tea Parlour. The Plein Air artists of Riverside added a special enhancement at each garden. As well as being available for purchase on site on the 28th, the pictures may be bought in conjunction with the annual art show at the Visitor Center, opening July 7th.

For four years Lou Schrock has been the prime organizer of this event and once again did a great job with help from her committee. Stella Richardson graciously agreed to again recruit the many volunteer house sitters that were needed. Special thanks go to the sponsors of the tour, Scott and Barbara Walker of Coldwell Banker Realty, and Stewart Title and West Coast Escrow.

Thanks to all the people who helped make this enjoyable event such a success!



Arroyo Willow
(*Salix lasiolepis*)
(Willow Family - *Salicaceae*)
By Marvin Trotter

The young leaves and inner bark, cambium, can serve as survival food, but are bitter.

Natives have been known to make a tea from the bark for headaches and fever. Salicylic acid, an active ingredient in aspirin, was first isolated in Europe in 1914 by a German scientist from a willow. People who are sensitive to aspirin should not eat any form of Willow. Consumption of large quantities may irritate the stomach lining. The wood is used for furniture, gates and corrals but splits when dry. It also has the irritating habit of spouting when used in fencing. The pliable twigs have been used in basket weaving. Where they grow in large numbers, the blooming catkins have been known to cause hay fever. Thirsty travelers have used the

Willow as an indicator of ground water near the surface. And hikers still do! *Salix*, from Latin, means to leap or spring, referring to the rapid growth of this waterside genus, while *lasiolepis* has to do with wooly, as with the fuzzy catkins in the spring.

Deciduous shrub or small branching tree reaching to 10 to 18 feet high. Gray bark with flowers hanging down from flexible twigs. The yellowish to brownish tomentose twigs and flowers are soft wavy, hairy or velvety and become hairless with age and are brittle at the base. Grows along summer-dry arroyos, wet places and streams.

Why our Book on the Plants of the Plateau isn't Finished

By Marvin Trotter

Professional botanists, those who use DNA, microscopes and other precise tools to identify anomalies between plants, have been very busy since the last edition of The Jepson Manual – Higher Plants of California was last printed in 1993 (3rd edition 1996).

We botanical amateurs call these busy scientists the “lumpers and splitters”, for their constant revising and reclassifying of plants from one family to another.

Look out! You may think the daisy, which you know so well, is in the Daisy family, but beware logic no longer applies. Those taxonomists may discover tomorrow that your plain little daisy has an anomaly that now places it in a hitherto unknown and bizarre new family – probably one formerly seen only in the East and perhaps it is the only genus in its new family.

It's a little like saying that you are no longer in the Jones family. Some unique trait has been uncovered to now place you with the Smith's!

Updates on the internet indicate that from 2002 to January 2007, over 23 plants have been snatched from their snug little family and sent to live with strangers (Or so it seems to us poor amateur botanists!)



'Music Under The Oaks'

By Joanne New

The 3rd annual 'Music Under the Oaks' concert will be held on September 22, 2007 at 7 p.m. This is a celebration of the life of John Denver. It will be 10 years this October since the musical icon and environmentalist was lost. Please join us along with John Adams & Friends in this musical tribute. Once again let Country Roads take us to that place where his easy yet inspiring music can touch our hearts and connect us to nature. The proceeds from the concert will allow 3rd graders to visit the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve to begin their connections to nature, many for the first time.

There's a special guest appearance by Murrieta's American Idol talent, Joelle James. She will be joining John for 'Fly Away' and 'Wild Montana Skies'.

This is an exclusive event with limited seating. Tickets are \$50 each and may be purchased online at www.srpf.org or by mailing a check made payable to SRPF to SRPF, P. O. Box 941, Murrieta, CA 92564-0941. Please write 'concert tickets' in the memo area. For more information please visit our web site and select 'Events' or call Joanne at 951-698-0365.

Foundation Calendar of Events

Board Meeting – Third Thursday of each month, 6:30 at the Visitors Center

Art Show Opening – July 7, 2007

Cowboy Jubilee – July 21, 2007

Music Under the Oaks – September 22, 2007

'WADDIE MITCHELL' ...

Renowned Cowboy Poet and Western Entertainer added to *Cowboy Jubilee* schedule.

"Waddie Mitchell is probably the most recognized real cowboy in the world today."
WESTERN HORSEMAN

".....America's best known cowboy poet."
PEOPLE MAGAZINE

.... and he has been added as a featured performer and "MC" for the Santa Rosa Plateau Cowboy Jubilee, starring the Sons of the San Joaquin, scheduled for 5:00 pm Saturday, July 21 at Liberty Oaks Ranch on Tenaja Road, on the Santa Rosa Plateau. The event is a musical celebration of the ranching and Cowboy way of life and will benefit the children's third grade education program at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.



Twenty-five years as a working cowboy on some of the most desolate spreads in Nevada will give a man time to think. Such is the case with Waddie Mitchell. The art of cowboy poetry and storytelling is as fascinating as the legendary American cowboy himself. Stories which are set to rhyme come alive on stage, a tradition that has been passed down through generations of working cowboys. Entertaining folks comes naturally to a man who grew up with no TV and "darn poor radio." Mitchell's poignant and humorous performances stretch from his hometown of Elko, NV to Carnegie Hall and he has been featured in *Life*, *USA Today*, *Fortune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic*, *Super Bowl XXX and Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Programs* and served as spokesperson for the 2005 *Las Vegas Centennial* as well as numerous other publications.

For tickets visit www.srpf.org (Our Events / Cowboy Jubilee). They can also be

purchased at West Dallas Boots and Hats, 27008 Jefferson in Temecula.



New and old Board Members were invited to the Adobes for an afternoon sharing ideas, food and drink. Nancy Backstrand and Rob Hicks gave a brief history of the Ecological Reserve from its acquisition by The Nature Conservancy in 1984 to the present. This was followed by a tour of the historic surrounding areas including the

Adobes and the Indian village of Mekha.

Back L-R: Rob Hicks, Derick Hansen, Brit & Bill Judge, Myra Gonsalves

Front L-R: Veronica Burgess, Nancy Backstrand, Laura Ogden, Marion Hansen, Beverly Burns.

Officers for the coming year include: Ginger Greaves, President; Beverly Burns, President Elect; Veronica Burgess, Vice President; Owen Hyde, Treasurer and Virginia Hyde, Secretary.

Membership is now open to all caring people. Please visit our web site for details & benefits.

I Eagerly Support the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation and its Vision.

Enclosed is my/our check or money order (made payable to Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation)

- Student/Senior \$10.00 Bronze Bear \$25.00 Silver Oak \$75.00
- Golden Eagle \$150.00 Plateau Patron \$1000.00 Lifetime Membership \$10,000

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P.O. Box 941
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Save a tree. Educate a child. Respect Nature.

Phone 951-461-7667

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