



# Foundation Flyer

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**December**    The Official Newsletter of the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation    **2006**

## FOUNDATION BOARD ACTIVITIES



A group of talented and dedicated Board members have collaborated over the last three and half years to raise \$45K per year to support the third grade education' program at the Reserve. Their very intense efforts have resulted in the successful payment to the County of the \$45K for the 05-06 school year.

The Board is pleased to also report that the \$45,000 commitment for the 2006-2007 school year has also been raised. An agreement has been reached with the County Parks department to allow the funds to be held in CD accounts until June 30, 2007, the end of the 06-07 school year. This enables the funds to earn compounded interest. In addition, approximately \$11,000 is already in the bank towards the 07-08 school years.

Three solid events have been established to ensure fundraising in the short run; the annual "Gardens and Art in Harmony", "Music Under the Oaks" and the "Annual Art Show". Additional mailings, grants, donations and memberships have contributed significantly to the fundraising efforts.

The success of the "Music Under the Oaks" demonstrates that musical events at the Plateau are a crowd pleaser. With that in mind, a second musical project is planned; the Santa Rosa Plateau Cowboy Jubilee". Please see article in this newsletter for details.

For the long run, the BOD has voted to embark on a fundraising campaign that will result in sustained funding for the children's program. The goal of the campaign Endowment Fund is to raise \$1 million that will generate approximately \$50,00 in interest per year.

Chaired by Cois Byrd with member Ginger Greaves, a strategy is being developed that will include collateral materials, corporate donor visitations, and presentations. Anyone who is interested in helping with this effort is invited to contact Cois Byrd at [coisebyrd@msn.com](mailto:coisebyrd@msn.com) or Ginger Greaves at [gingerdg@aol.com](mailto:gingerdg@aol.com).

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## KIND AND GENTLE BILL TROTTER PASSES

*By Ginger Greaves*

On the beautiful Saturday morning of September 30<sup>th</sup>, a service of Thanksgiving for the Life of William Ramsay Trotter was held at St. John's Episcopal Church in Corona. Bill passed away peacefully in his sleep on September 23, 2006.

Bill was a humble and accomplished giver of life and joy. He was known for his friendliness; no one was a stranger to him. In addition to retiring as a Lieutenant Commander with the US Navy, he was an author and lover of the natural world; a retired business executive and, with his wife Marvin, a breeder of over 50 champion English Setters and an AKC Judge of Sporting breeds. Along with Marvin, he was also one of the founding members of the Board of Directors of the Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation. He and Marvin loved working as Docents at the Plateau and composing books, including the latest one in production on the plants of Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

His support of the Foundation was immeasurable. He possessed a quiet authority...giving of his time and considerable experience in the management of ideas and processes.

As a lasting tribute to his life, the family will be working toward completion and publication of their Mom and Dad's book project, "Plants of the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve." In lieu of flowers at the services, the family had requested that contributions be made to a memorial fund for completion of the book project. They can still be directed to the "Santa Rosa Plateau Foundation", P.O. Box 941, Murrieta, CA 92564-0941. Please reference "William Trotter Publication Fund" on your contribution.

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### **You Got Any Snakes?** *By Nancy Backstrand*

Ask any Docent guiding children on the Plateau and they will tell you that the most commonly asked question is, "Do you have any snakes?"

Of course, the snake question might be about a cobra, python or anaconda, but it is clearly something large, exotic, and, well ....snaky. You know, sort of sneaky, slithery and creepy and likely to jump out at you from behind boulders. Well, we many not have pythons or cobras, but we do have a few resident snakes who would try to avoid becoming someone's dinner.

Over the past twenty-two years snake questions still rank #1. Other questions come and go. I haven't been asked about wolves recently and crocodiles seem to have lost their allure. But, on my last tour I did have to field a question about meerkats. Strange, no one ever asks about bunnies, but, let them spot one and the crowd goes wild. A couple of hours on the trail are better than Animal Planet any day!

We might not be able to make all the animals enter on cue, but with a bit of luck lizards will make an appearance; and beetles, birds,

"hitchhikers", "parachutes", or exploding cucumbers. Also, there are always "creeping green rock eaters". After an hour and a half on the trail even the most jaded have discovered something new and exciting. By experiencing a natural world far removed from the urban landscape, the children overcome some of their "snaky" anxieties. Who knows, one of those kids may grow up to be a herpetologist! And that is what it is all about and why we are here.

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### **Music Under the Oaks**

*By Joanne New, Concert Chair*

Our second annual 'Music Under the Oaks' was a huge success. September 9<sup>th</sup> saw another enthusiastic audience of John Denver music lovers singing and dancing along with John Adams & Friends. The concert raised over \$15,000 for the third grade education program on the reserve. This could not have happened without the countless hours freely given by the volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of you who helped. We also want to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors and donors. Please patronize these area businesses whenever possible.

They are: Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, Guidant Foundation, Temecula Valley Bank, Arrowhead Credit Union, Community National Bank Murrieta, Potamus Press, Excel Rentals, State Farm Insurance Agent Scott Koth, Jeff Murray & Associates, Rancon Realty, Comfort Inn & Suites Murrieta, Audio Systems, The Outdoor Channel, Southwest Healthcare System, Sizzler Murrieta, Barbara Bowers – Real Estate Agent, Murrieta Pizza & Brewing Co., Clinton Keith Vets, Panache Extraordinary Gifts & Coffee, 123 Fit, Kahoots Animals & Supplies, Murrieta Day Spa, Sam's Club, Rancho California Water District, HomeTown Buffet, Starbucks Coffee, Gregory Mountain Gear, Meteor Inc, Carriage Motor Company, Mustard See Antiques, Temecula House of Jerky, Joie de Vie, Snap-On Tools – Doug Hamby, Arbonne International – Brenda Mathews, Simply Kneaded, Vallee d'Brume,

Liberty Fitness, Big 5 Sporting Goods, CR&R, Hollywood Video, and Blockbuster Video.

We are already planning next year's 'Music Under the Oaks'. The likely dates will be September 8<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>. The next Foundation Flyer will have the confirmed date.

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Santa Rosa Plateau "Cowboy Jubilee"  
By Ginger Greaves



Strap on your chaps, hats and dancing boots and mark your calendars for Saturday, July 21, 2007, for the first annual Santa Rosa Plateau Cowboy Jubilee.....a musical celebration of the ranching and cowboy way of life on the Plateau and in the Temecula/Murrieta Valley. The event will benefit the Children's Outdoor Education programs at the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve.

Starring Western Music Association and Western Heritage Museum "Entertainer of the Year":...the Sons of the San Joaquin, the event will be held on a private 40-acre working horse ranch, Liberty Oaks Ranch, located at the end of Tenaja Road, on the Plateau and up against the Cleveland National Forest.

Starting at 5:00 pm the evening includes a chuck wagon "cooked on site" cowboy dinner, western art displays and sales (a portion to benefit the Foundation), dancing, old time photo shoots and other surprises. Tickets for the two hour show and chuck wagon dinner are \$75 per person. Tickets will go on sale in early 2007. Anyone who is interested in reserving

tickets in advance, or would like to help with the event, please call the Foundation office at 951.461.7677.

### Quote for the day

"A society that loved its children would not teach them to recognize over 1,000 corporate logos, but fewer than a dozen plants and animals in their home place."

Author-professor David Orr

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### CALENDAR IN THIS SECTION?

Board Meeting – Third Thursday of each month, 6:30 at the Visitor's Center

*No Board meeting in December*

Garden Tour – April 28, 2007

Art Show Opening – July 14, 2007

Cowboy Jubilee – July 21, 2007

Music Under the Oaks – Sept date TBD

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### LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BOARD MEMBERS

One and two-year board positions will become available in May of next year. If you're looking for a productive (and fun) way to support the children's programs and the Reserve, consider being a part of a working board of dedicated and interested people who love nature, kids and education. For Board member criteria information, please contact the Board secretary and nominating committee chair, Virginia Hyde at [vohyde@verizon.net](mailto:vohyde@verizon.net).



