



The Post

News from the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy

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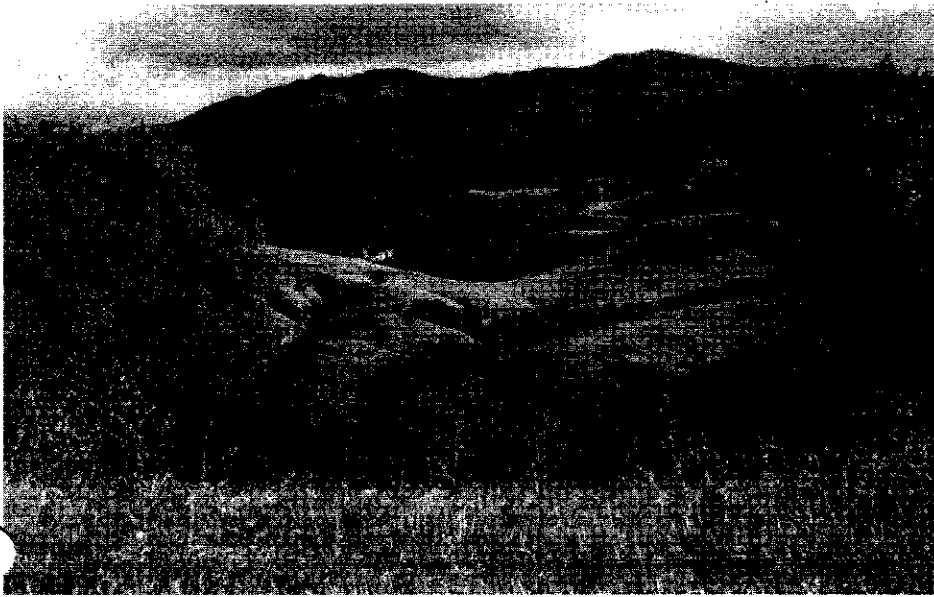


Photo by Karen Chapman

The Hills Behind Us

For most of us, the hills offer a quiet place to nourish our spirits and to appreciate our natural environment. Their presence provides a beautiful backdrop to our daily lives in Claremont.

The Claremont Wildlands Conservancy (CWC) works to preserve these open spaces in the Claremont hillsides.

The Trust for Public Land and CWC have been working together for more than a year to submit an option on Johnson's Pasture—the main parcel of land we hope to preserve. We await word on the property owners' response to the option.

Our relationship with the City of Claremont continues to be one of communication and cooperation.

As we continue to spread the word about our mission, our support mounts. We currently have nearly 1,400 people on our mailing list.

Excerpt from "Behind Me"

by Nancy J. Wing

Behind me lie the hills —
moody under their lowering
clouds, boding rain and storm.

The hills harbor my heart —
holding the paths to the mountains
and to the rolling skies above.

My solace and my soul
bide there among the brown
grasses and the gray green
chaparral. May they always
rise above me and beyond
to the open spaces and the sky.

CWC Submits Land Acquisition Evaluation

The Claremont Wildlands Conservancy recently completed a Land Acquisition Evaluation (LAE) Report and submitted it to the Department of Fish and Game for funding.

The document is important not only for funding purposes, but also because it provides comprehensive information about the extensive flora and fauna supported by Johnson's Pasture.

As stated in the report, the primary goals of the project are to:

- Preserve the plant communities found in Johnson's Pasture and protect the habitat as part of a larger wildlife corridor.
- Protect watershed that feeds our ground water basins and the San Gabriel River.
- Maintain crucial airshed in the Los Angeles basin.
- Provide an interface between natural and urban areas that can be effectively managed.
- Accommodate hikers, cyclists, and equestrian users seeking outdoor experiences in natural areas.

A few of the rare animal species that have been confirmed in the area or have moderate to high probability of occurrence include the San Diego banded gecko, the California legless lizard, the Los Angeles pocket mouse, the American badger, Bell's sage sparrow, and the

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The Post is the newsletter of the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy.

Editor

Margaret Nilsson

Board of Directors

Nancy J. Wing, Suzanne Thompson, Jeff Johnson, Karen Chapman, Jerry Taylor, Linda Whitaker, Margaret Nilsson, Kirk Reynolds.

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Raising Funds and Raising Awareness

Art Show

It was after attending a CWC meeting in early spring of 2000 that local artist Gretchen McGarigle-Butler came up with the idea. Wanting to contribute in some significant way to the work of CWC, McGarigle-Butler offered to hold an art exhibition to benefit the conservancy.

In March 2001, *Hillsides*, an art benefit, was held at the Claremont Forum. The exhibit of more than 50 pieces of art by McGarigle-Butler featured the Claremont hillsides and their flora and fauna.

The benefit attracted several hundred people, especially for the opening which included a simulated picnic and Native American dancers. Conservancy supporter Mark Acuna organized the group of Native Americans who performed a variety of traditional festival dances.

McGarigle-Butler's efforts netted \$3,000 for CWC, and we are deeply grateful.

Fourth of July

CWC was present at a booth during the Fourth of July festivities in Memorial Park this year. Many people stopped to learn about the efforts of the conservancy, to purchase photographs or t-shirts, and to sign up as volunteers.

Approximately \$300 was donated to the conservancy that day.



Photo by Margaret Nilsson

Above, supporters of the conservancy view paintings, notecards, T-shirts, and other pieces of art by Gretchen McGarigle-Butler at the Hillsides art exhibit in the Claremont Forum.

Foundation Supports Conservancy

CWC received a \$5,000 Land Acquisition Program grant last spring from the Heller Charitable & Educational Fund.

The grant stipulates that monies be used for the acquisition of hillside open space, and to place land in conservancy for habitat preservation and recreational use.

"We are extremely pleased and grateful to receive this grant from the Heller Fund," said CWC board member Suzanne Thompson. "This will help us to continue our important work in saving

Johnson's Pasture and other open lands in the Claremont foothills."

The Heller Charitable & Educational Fund supports several causes including prison reform, libraries, and the preservation and restoration of open space. Thompson applied for grant money from the Heller Fund after sending them a letter of intent explaining the goals of the conservancy.

CWC had previously received a \$20,000 grant from the La Fetra Foundation.



Photo by Margaret Nilsson

Above (from left), CWC volunteers Doris Aschke, Karen Chapman, and Dominique Dibbell at the conservancy's booth on the Fourth of July.

Land Acquisition Evaluation

(Continued from page 1)

loggerhead shrike.

Thanks to the effort of CWC supporter Frank Schiavone, the Claremont Wildlands Conservancy is one of the few conservancies that have been able to successfully complete the detailed report.

CWC has submitted the proposal, along with a letter of support from the City of Claremont, to the Department of Fish and Game, State of California.

Upcoming Events

Village Venture Saturday, October 27

The conservancy will have two booths at the Village Venture on Saturday, October 27.

There will be a variety of gifts available for a small donation: sweatshirts, t-shirts, photos for framing, wildlands notecards, and tote bags.

If you would like to learn more about CWC, please stop by. If you would like to help out at the event, please contact Jayne Robertson at 621-2666.

Walk for the Hillside Saturday, November 10

On November 10, CWC volunteers will walk the Claremont neighborhoods to distribute information about the status of our efforts to purchase and preserve open space in the hillsides.

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a rally at Memorial Park in Claremont before CWC volunteers spread out into various neighborhoods.

Anyone who would like to participate in the Walk for the Hillside, please contact Jeff Johnson at 946-9142.

The Fate of These Lands...

Excerpt from a letter by Mary A. Angle to the owners of Johnson's Pasture. Mary Angle is executive officer of the San Gabriel Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

"Your property [Johnson's Pasture] is key to preservation of the remaining hillsides in the Claremont area. You hold the fate of these lands in your hand.

If you sell to a developer, others will follow and we will lose the unique biome that these lands provide for a variety of plant and animal species.

We will also lose a favorite hiking area for many people. These lands are so much a part of the community that it would be a true loss to cut and pave them over for a few more houses."

Trails Linked to Health and Activity Level of Community

On virtually any given day, especially weekends, citizens of Claremont and surrounding communities walk, hike, run, bike, or ride their way up the trails of the Claremont foothills, including Johnson's Pasture.

Ask any of them why they choose to exercise on the trails, and it's likely their responses will range from the opportunity to get away from traffic, to the joy of being out in nature, to the

challenge of the uphill climb.

What they may not know is that by taking part in regular physical activity on the trails, they are supporting the theory that having access to greenways and trails plays a significant role in the overall activity level of a community.

Why is this important? The 1996 Surgeon General's Report asserted that an epidemic of physical inactivity is sweeping the nation.

According to the report, 60% of Americans are not regularly active, and 25% are completely sedentary. Physical inactivity is linked to health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, colon cancer, and obesity.

Experts in the field of public health believe that physical inactivity is one of the most pressing public health issues today. Research is now being conducted to examine what encourages physical activity in communities.

The results so far indicate that availability of trails and greenways in a community raises the overall activity level of that community. Trails provide a safe, scenic, low-cost place to exercise, and citizens in communities that have created trails report that they became more active once the trail was built.

Stay tuned to *The Post* for further reports on this topic, and in the meantime, utilize the trails Claremont has to offer. For more information, visit: www.trailsandgreenways.org.

By Carla Jackson, M.P.H.



Photo by John Teuber

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www.claremontwildlands.org

The Claremont Wildlands Conservancy (CWC) is a non-profit, grassroots organization dedicated to keeping the foothills wild and free for all.

CWC meetings are the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at The Claremont Forum, 111 South College Avenue (behind the Claremont Courier building.)

For more information, please call 624-8869.

All are welcome!

Please renew your donation as a Friend of CWC. An envelope is enclosed. Thank you for your support.

Imagine not saving Johnson's Pasture

