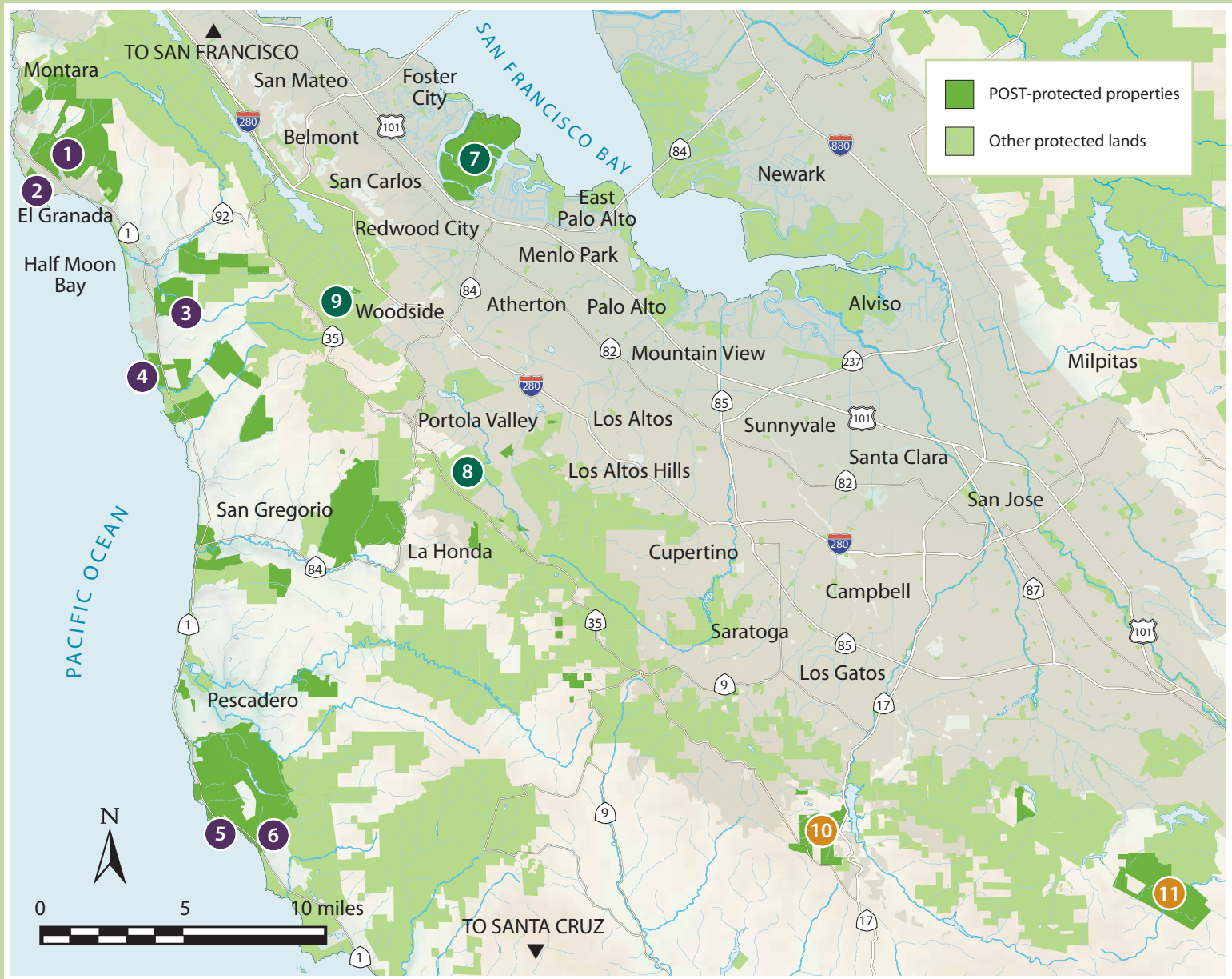




SUMMER CUTTINGS

from POST!



SUMMER OUTINGS FROM POST

Summer's here and it's the perfect time to experience the natural lands POST has protected for your enjoyment. This issue of *Landscapes* highlights both currently owned and already transferred properties that are open and accessible to the public. To learn where to go and what to do, turn to pages 4–11. Enjoy!

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A NOTE FROM AUDREY

One of my favorite outdoor experiences happened a few years ago at Cowell Ranch Beach, a POST-protected property just south of Half Moon Bay.

It was a chilly, fogbound day—typical along the coast in summertime. I had just sat down after a short hike past lush artichoke fields to a scenic viewpoint overlooking the Pacific.

As it turned out, the Pacific was nowhere in sight, because the fog was so thick I couldn't see more than a few feet in front of me. But it didn't matter. As I listened to waves crashing on sand, the world seemed stripped of all but its most essential elements: the land under my feet, the fog swirling around me, and the great expanse of unseen ocean below. I was content just to sit there at the edge of the continent, where sheer cliffs make a dramatic descent down to a wide swath of beach, clutching my coffee thermos and breathing in the clean salt air.

Suddenly, out of the fog, five or six brown pelicans glided past me at eye level, so close I could practically reach out and touch them. Just as quickly, they were gone, gliding back into the murky skies, through the curtain of fog that divided us. It's a moment I'll never forget.

Here on the San Francisco Peninsula, we have many opportunities to encounter nature up close, thanks to your support of POST. Whether you choose to hike over the crest of a ridge or take a leisurely Sunday drive, you're bound to get a taste of the rural splendors that surround us.

In this issue of *Landscapes*, we've put together a summer travel guide to POST-protected properties that are open and accessible for your enjoyment. If you haven't already, I encourage you to explore these natural lands that your generous gifts, along with years of negotiations and stewardship, have helped protect. May the beauty and mystery of these places linger in your memory long after your compass has pointed the way home.



Audrey C. Rust
President



© 2006 Gil Davis

Audrey, on the trail with Jack.

COASTAL OUTINGS

Rancho Corral de Tierra

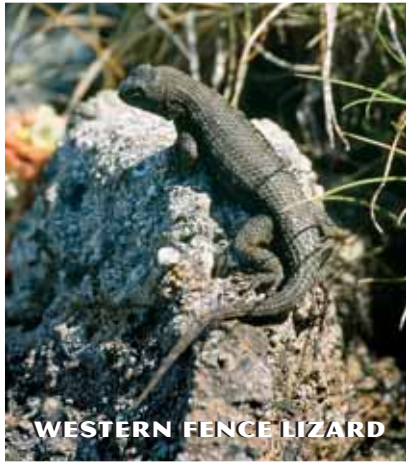
Managed by: POST

Location: East of Hwy 1 near Montara and Moss Beach, 7 miles south of San Francisco

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Fees: \$5 per vehicle entering via county park

Trail Difficulty:  Strenuous



© 2001 Brian O'Neill

RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA

Things to See and Do: This unmistakable landmark along Hwy 1 harbors one-of-a-kind flora and fauna on 4,262 acres of steep, rugged terrain. It borders the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the boundary of which was recently expanded to include most of the property. For now Rancho Corral de Tierra remains in POST ownership.

A scenic public trail into the property begins in San Pedro Valley County Park and winds up the back of 2,000-foot Montara Mountain. Follow Brooks Creek Trail to Montara Mountain Trail and continue on the main access road to North Peak, where on a clear day you can take in 360-degree views of San Francisco Bay, the Farallon Islands, Mount Diablo, Mount Tamalpais and the Sierra.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Threatened, rare and endangered plants and animals, including Hickman's cinquefoil, Montara manzanita, San Francisco garter snakes and Montara blue bush lupine.

Directions: From I-280, drive north to junction with Hwy 1. To reach San Pedro Valley County Park, drive south on Hwy 1 toward Pacifica, turn east on Linda Mar Blvd., and continue until it ends at Oddstad Blvd. Turn right and go one block to park entrance.



© 2000 Robert Buckleman

KEY TO TRAIL DIFFICULTY RATINGS:

 = Easy  = Moderate  = Strenuous

© 2004 Dan Quinn

PILLAR POINT BLUFF

Things to See and Do: POST acquired this windswept lookout in August 2004 to protect it from commercial development. While informal paths now crisscross the 119-acre property, a new trail is planned by POST as part of the 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail. The Jean Lauer Trail will overlook a seasonal wetland as well as coastal waters protected by San Mateo County's Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The bluff is popular with local hikers, joggers and dog-walkers.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Soaring pelicans, cormorants, gulls and hawks.

Directions: From Half Moon Bay, go north on Hwy 1 to El Granada. Turn left at Capistrano Rd. toward Princeton. Turn left on Prospect Rd., right on Broadway, left on Harvard Ave., right on Airport St., and left on Los Banos Ave. Turn left on Park Ave., right on La Grande Ave., left on San Ramon Ave., right on San Lucas Ave., left on Del Mar, and right on Bernal Ave. Trail begins to left along vacant lot immediately after second house from ocean. Park on street.



©2005 David Hibbard

COASTAL OUTINGS

Pillar Point Bluff

Managed by: POST

Location: Near Moss Beach off Hwy 1

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty: - Easy to moderate

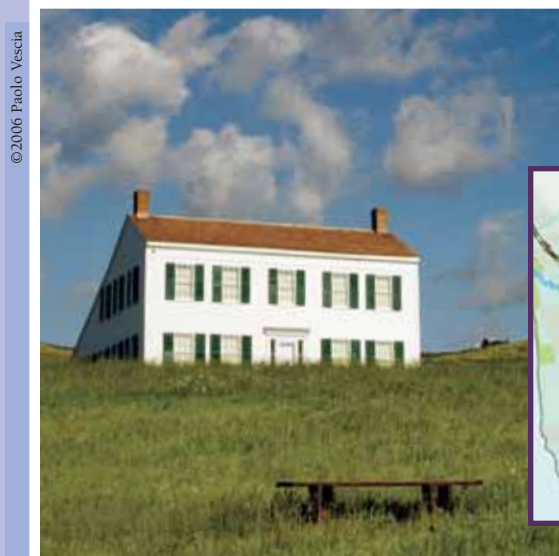
JOHNSTON RANCH

Things to See and Do: Johnston Ranch is a bountiful mix of coastal hills, grassland and fertile soils farmed for more than 150 years. Acquired by POST in two phases in 1999 and 2001, the ranch was originally slated for a golf course and high-end condominiums.

The historic James Johnston House lies on a 20-acre inholding owned by the city of Half Moon Bay. The gleaming white "saltbox" house was built in 1855 and rebuilt, board by board, by community volunteers in 1998. Currently being refurbished, it's a rare example of New England-style architecture on the West Coast.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Picnic tables next to house and by parking lot, with views of farm fields and surrounding hills.

Directions: From I-280 take Hwy 92 west to Half Moon Bay. Turn left on Main St. At Higgins Canyon (also known as Higgins Purisima) Rd., turn left and proceed 0.25 mile to parking lot on right.



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Johnston Ranch

Managed by: Historic house managed by Johnston House Foundation. Surrounding land managed by POST.

Location: Just south of downtown Half Moon Bay off Hwy 1

Hours: Historic house open third Saturday of each month (except Oct., Nov. and Dec.) 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fees: None



COASTAL OUTINGS




Cowell Ranch Beach

Managed by: California State Parks

Location: South of Half Moon Bay off Hwy 1

Hours: 8 a.m. to sunset

Fees: None

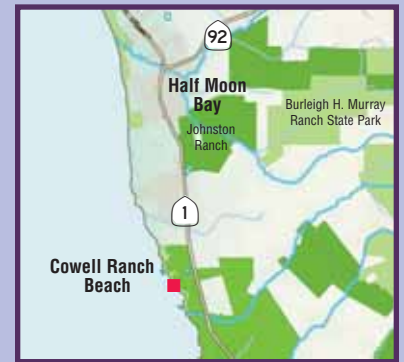
Trail Difficulty:  Easy 1-mile roundtrip to scenic overlook and back.   Brief but strenuous climb up stairs from beach to overlook.

COWELL RANCH BEACH

Things to See and Do: You'd never guess this gem of a coastal landscape exists so near the rush of traffic along Hwy 1. A half-mile walk from a small parking lot along a broad trail leads to jaw-dropping vistas of towering cliffs, curving coastline and surging waves. Honey-colored sands beckon from the foot of Cowell Steps connecting the cliff-top overlook to the beach. Tides and winter storms make the cliff face highly erodable, often causing sand slides to close the steep staircase.

This 1,270-acre property was protected from development in 1987 when POST acquired it with generous gifts from donors. Partnering with the California Coastal Conservancy, POST transferred the beach to California State Parks and sold the agricultural portions to local farming families with protective easements in place.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Coyote brush, dock, wild radish and mustard. Pelicans and, February through May, harbor seals in the restricted beach area immediately to the south.



Directions: From I-280, take Hwy 92 west toward Half Moon Bay. Turn left onto Hwy 1 and head south for approximately 3 miles. Turn right at Cowell Ranch Beach sign to reach parking lot.

©2006 Nina Nowak



©2006 Nina Nowak



©2006 Nina Nowak

MEL'S LANE

Things to See and Do: An iconic spot along the California coastline, Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park is home to several attractions, including Pigeon Point lighthouse, Whaler's Cove and Mel's Lane, a quarter-mile segment of the California Coastal Trail.

Wheelchair-accessible Mel's Lane was built by POST last year on land purchased as part of the *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. The trail is named in honor of lifelong conservationist Melvin B. Lane, a POST co-founder and first chair of the California Coastal Commission.

Pack a lunch and enjoy sweeping vistas from the Council Circle, a seating area POST installed this spring to honor special campaign donors. A sturdy lookout deck affords spectacular views of the rocky cove and surrounding coastal lands, much of which POST has protected. Behind the lighthouse's Fog Signal Building, there is another overlook deck with benches, providing more wondrous ocean vistas.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Dolphins, otters, harbor seals and, in spring and late fall, migrating gray whales.

Directions: From Half Moon Bay, drive 21 miles south on Hwy 1 and turn right onto Pigeon Point Rd. Park in small lot next to kiosk.

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WILBUR'S WATCH

Things to See and Do: Wilbur's Watch is a one-mile trail located on POST's Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property. Dedicated to Colburn Wilbur, retired executive director of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the trail leads uphill from a small parking lot through grassland and native coastal scrub to a breathtaking lookout. From the top, relax on recycled redwood benches and peer through the telescope to take in panoramic views from Montara Mountain to the north to Año Nuevo State Reserve to the south.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Coyote brush, California blackberry, blue-eyed grass, songbirds, falcons, hawks and migrating whales.

Directions: From Hwy 92 or 84, take Hwy 1 south past Pescadero. Immediately across from Pigeon Point lighthouse, turn left onto Pigeon Point Rd. and follow as it curves around to right. You'll see ramp to parking area on your left 0.8 mile from Hwy 1 junction.

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Mel's Lane

Managed by: California State Parks

Location: Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park, south of Pescadero off Hwy 1

Hours: 8 a.m. to sunset

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty: Easy 1/4-mile trail

Wilbur's Watch

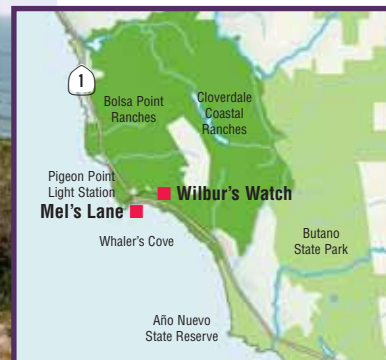
Managed by: POST

Location: Off Hwy 1 across from Pigeon Point lighthouse

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty: Moderate, 2 miles roundtrip



SKYLINE AND BAYFRONT EXCURSIONS

Bair Island

Managed by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Location: East of Hwy 101 in Redwood City

Hours: Sunrise to sunset; parking lot open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty:  Easy, flat 3-mile loop



CALIFORNIA CLAPPER RAIL

BAIR ISLAND

Things to See and Do: Bair Island comprises three islands separated by sloughs. A vast array of waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as harbor seals and other fascinating wildlife, make their home here.

Conservationists had tried to save Bair Island from development for more than 30 years when POST succeeded in acquiring 1,623 acres here in 1997. Though portions of the island are owned by the State of California, the entire area has been managed by the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge since 1998. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is restoring 1,400 acres of Bair Island to tidal marsh as it revitalizes the Bay's critical wetlands ecosystem with the help of restoration funds held by POST.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Endangered California clapper rails and salt marsh harvest mice. Also cottontail rabbits, peregrine falcons, pelicans, egrets, terns and stilts. Large rays and small leopard sharks can be seen in the sloughs at the farther reaches of the island.

Directions: From Hwy 101, take Whipple Ave. exit heading east. Follow road as it curves sharply right and becomes East Bayshore Rd. Continue straight, then make sharp left as road becomes Bair Island Rd. Just before The Villas apartment complex, turn right at sign for wildlife refuge and park in lot. Backtrack on foot across Bair Island Rd. to reach trail.



GREAT BLUE HERON



WINDY HILL

Things to See and Do: Windy Hill was the first land protection project POST ever completed. Today, it's an ideal spot for flying kites, walking dogs, mountain biking and horseback riding. The grassy ridge top of this popular 1,312-acre open space preserve is clearly visible from many spots along the Peninsula.

Three challenging hiking routes—Spring Ridge, Hamms Gulch and Razorback Ridge—extend down from the ridge top. The Anniversary Trail is an easy 0.7-mile hike along the top of Windy Hill, with stellar views from San Francisco to San Jose and across the Bay.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Picnic tables next to Spring Ridge parking area off Skyline Blvd. Also coyotes, hawks, song-birds and, in spring, wildflowers.

Directions: To reach lower portion of preserve from I-280, exit at Alpine Rd. and go south 2.9 miles to first stop sign. Turn right on Portola Rd. and travel 0.8 mile to parking lot on left. The upper portion's Spring Ridge parking area is on Skyline Blvd. 2.3 miles south of Hwy 84 and 4.9 miles north of Page Mill Rd.

Courtesy MROSD ©Frank Crossman



SKYLINE AND BAYFRONT EXCURSIONS

Windy Hill

Managed by: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Location: Portola Valley, along Skyline Blvd. in the Santa Cruz Mountains

Hours: Sunrise to one half-hour after sunset

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty: - Easy to strenuous



PHLEGER ESTATE

Things to See and Do: Once known as Mountain Meadow, the historic Phleger Estate is a former logging site whose redwoods and wildlife habitat are now protected as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Enjoy walking along shady Union Creek under the redwoods.

POST protected this 1,252-acre estate with the help of donors, MROSD and Save-the-Redwoods League. It opened to the public in 1995 after POST secured \$10.5 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and transferred the land to the GGNRA.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Redwoods, oaks, manzanita, California coffeeberry, Douglas-fir and many kinds of ferns. Also bobcats, black-tailed deer, eagles, newts and banana slugs.

©2005 Karl Kroeber



Phleger Estate

Managed by: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, part of the National Park Service

Location: Off Hwy 84 in Woodside

Hours: 8 a.m. to sunset

Fees: \$5 entrance fee via Huddart County Park

Trail Difficulty: - Moderate to strenuous, 4.6 miles roundtrip



© 2004 Dan Quinn

BANANA SLUG

Directions: Enter estate through Huddart County Park. From I-280, exit at Woodside Rd. (Hwy 84) and go west for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Kings Mountain Rd. and drive 2.1 miles, turning right into Huddart County Park.

SOUTH BAY ADVENTURES

Bear Creek Redwoods

Managed by: Midpeninsula
Regional Open Space District

Location: Off Hwy 17 near
Los Gatos

Hours: Sunrise to one half-hour
after sunset

Fees: None; access by permit only

Trail Difficulty:  Strenuous



BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

Things to See and Do: Majestic Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve is a treasure within Silicon Valley. Its 1,345 acres and 10 miles of trails feature open meadows and steep canyons studded with oaks, maples, madrone, Douglas-fir and 100-year-old redwoods.

The land once contained the radio tower that first received news in the United States of the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It also served as one of General John C. Fremont's campsites in the mid-1800s. It's said that several vineyards in the area, including that of a Jesuit seminary, extinguished the occasional forest fire by spraying the flames with wine!

POST's purchase of 805 acres and MROSD's purchase of another 260 acres saved this land from becoming a golf course. In July 2001, POST transferred its acreage to MROSD.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: The "tree within a tree," a massive old-growth redwood with another tree growing from a branch jutting from its side. Also deer, bobcats, coyotes and mountain lions.

Directions: Bear Creek Redwoods is open for public use by MROSD permit only. For a permit and directions, call MROSD at (650) 691-1200.

© 1999 Brian O'Neill



© 2006 MROSD



RANCHO CAÑADA DEL ORO

SOUTH BAY ADVENTURES

Things to See and Do: Tucked away in the backcountry of south San Jose are the glorious rolling grasslands, oak woodland ridges and sage chaparral of Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve, next to Calero County Park.

Hiking here is like stepping back in time to the California of old. Only 30 minutes from downtown San Jose, the preserve's winding trails offer long-ranging views of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the Diablo Range, Mt. Hamilton and Pacheco Pass. Although extremely hot in summer, it's a fabulous place for an early morning hike.

Keep Your Eyes Open for: Bobcats, deer, coyotes, foxes and mountain lions. Also golden eagles, red-tailed hawks and California quail.

Directions: From Hwy 101 south, exit at Bailey Ave. and continue west until it hits McKean Rd. Turn left on McKean, then right on Casa Loma Rd. Follow road until you see parking lot and trailhead on left.

Rancho Cañada del Oro

Managed by: Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Location: South San Jose, west of Hwy 101

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Fees: None

Trail Difficulty:  Strenuous



©1998 Robert Buelteman



©2006 Nina Nowak

©1998 Robert Buelteman





POST Acquires Historic Green Oaks Ranch

13-acre Former Farmstead Is Nationally Registered Landmark

POST has acquired 13 acres of an historic former dairy ranch and flower farm near Davenport along the San Mateo Coast.

POST purchased Green Oaks Ranch from a private owner in February for \$1.25 million. Located 13 miles south of Pescadero along Highway 1, the ranch is the latest acquisition in POST's *Saving the Endangered Coast* campaign. To date, POST has protected 14,532 acres of open space through its 20,000-acre campaign.

Dating back to the early 1860s, Green Oaks Ranch was once known as the Isaac Steele Ranch. It is now listed as a nationally registered landmark.

POST's purchase of the property will protect several historic buildings, including an 1860s Greek Revival-style farmhouse, as well as five acres of row-crop soils and eight acres of riparian corridor and woodlands. The purchase also gains time for the owners of a neighboring nonprofit called Pie Ranch, LLC, to acquire Green Oaks

in the future, thanks to a three-year option to buy the land offered by POST.

"A Winning Combination of Strategies"

Pie Ranch is a center for youth education that promotes sustainable agriculture, nutrition and land conservation. True to its name, it is located on a 14-acre, pie-shaped wedge of land, immediately east of Green Oaks Ranch.

Pie Ranch hosts farm tours and workdays for students from two San Francisco high schools. The students are taught how to make home-made fruit pies using organic ingredients grown and harvested on the land.

Center co-directors

Karen Heisler and Jered Lawson and ranch manager Nancy Vail first approached POST about saving Green Oaks Ranch last year, when the property was put on the market. The trio is in the process of forming the Green Oaks Agricultural Trust (GOAT) to acquire the historic ranch in order to expand their educational center and farming operation. POST's purchase gives the farmers more time to raise the \$2.5 million needed for them to buy and restore the property.



© 2005 Jered Lawson



TAKE A TOUR!

Pie Ranch welcomes visitors for work weekends and offers tours of its farm and adjoining Green Oaks Ranch. For more information, call Jered Lawson at (650) 879-0971.

“Our first choice was to work with POST because of their clear strength and successful track record in land conservation in this area of the coast,” said Lawson. “It’s a winning combination of strategies to protect working landscapes and provide meaningful relationships for people with nature.”

Preserving Vital Habitat

Green Oaks Creek, a direct tributary to the Pacific Ocean, borders the property’s northern edge. POST’s acquisition of Green Oaks Ranch will preserve the natural resource values on the property associated with the creek, safeguard the area’s diverse plant and wildlife habitat, and protect scenic views along Highway 1. It also will create a connection along a potential future trail corridor, providing additional access from Highway 1 to nearby Big Basin Redwoods State Park. ■

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Volunteer of the Year: Ted Vian

It takes a hardy crew of volunteers to help look after the 24,526 acres of land that POST currently manages and monitors. From among these dedicated individuals, POST has chosen to honor Ted Vian as its 2006 Volunteer of the Year.

In the past year alone, Ted has contributed more than 350 hours of time to POST. In 2003, he started volunteering on our Cloverdale Coastal Ranches property and has since expanded his duties to serve as lead monitor on our Wilbur’s Watch trail and as an Open Space Guardian on Rancho Corral de Tierra. He also has performed extensive stewardship work on Bolsa Point Ranches and volunteered on Johnston Ranch and Purisima Farms.

“I have a great deal of respect and admiration for what POST is doing,” says the Portola Valley resident and former corporate counsel for Intel Corporation. “There are so many places in the world that need attention, and there is so much conservation work we need to do, it’s almost too big a task. But here in my hometown, that’s the place where I can make a difference. Ongoing property monitoring is so important. We need to preserve these lands for future generations.” ■

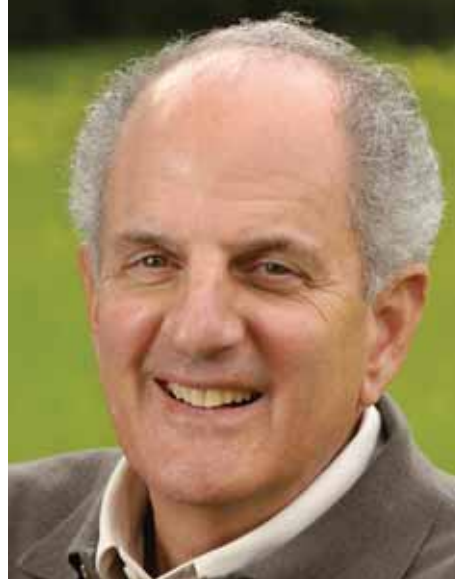
Joseph R. Seiger Joins POST Board

In March, POST welcomed Joseph R. Seiger as the newest member of its Board of Directors. Joe is co-founder and president of Vintage Properties, a real estate development company based in Palo Alto. He is also a former board chair of the Catellus Development Corporation, a real estate investment trust in San Francisco.

An attorney by training, Joe was one of the lead developers behind University Circle, an office and hotel development in East Palo Alto. He serves on the advisory board of the Opus West Corporation, a design-build development firm serving the

western United States, and on the boards of the Children's Health Council and the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

"As our population grows, there is increasing pressure to develop open space. But to create a quality of life, you need to be respectful that some open space must be preserved," said the Los Altos Hills resident. "POST does a very good job of sorting out competing interests for land, and I'm hopeful that with my background in land use I can help POST advance its mission to preserve open space."



© 2006 Paolo Vescia

"Joe brings enormous talent, leadership and expertise to POST," said POST President Audrey Rust. "His wealth of experience will prove extremely valuable in helping POST evaluate real estate and navigate complex land protection negotiations. We're thrilled to have him on our Board." ■

Tributes

JANUARY 1 – MARCH 31, 2006

Your honorary and memorial gifts to POST create a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones by helping to protect the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula landscape for people here now and for future generations.

If you would like to make a tribute gift, please contact POST's Director of Development Daphne Muehle at (650) 854-7696.

GIFTS IN HONOR OF

Ruby Lee Black's Birthday
Jobst Brandt
Tom Cooper
Chris and Carol Espinosa
Jeff, Joan, Josh, Julie, Joe and Jessica Ira
Foster Mahood's 77th Birthday
Dr. M. Richard Maser's 75th Birthday
Eleanor McKee's Birthday
The Montanez Family
Joel H. Roth
Jeffrey Schneiderman
Ted and Nancy Vian
Marilyn Walter
Anne Westerfield's Birthday
Dr. Yeroka and the Stanford Hospital Rehabilitation Unit Staff

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Dick Anderson
Joe Arnold
Linda Borlick
Jason W. Brady
Vi Crowe
William C. Druehl
Friedrich Faber
Gary Ferrell
Joy Ira
Jaunty Jachens
Candy Kamm
Shirley Kline
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Bryan Shechmeister
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POST owes its success to your generosity. With your support, POST has established a reputation for:

- Achieving visionary land protection goals
- Leveraging your gifts to attract state and federal funds to our projects
- Using your donations effectively

Your gifts provide essential funding to bring together the research, partnerships and financing for our increasingly complex conservation projects. With your help, we are protecting properties that add to the remarkable natural landscape of the San Francisco Peninsula.

Your contributions to POST are tax-deductible. Additionally, how a gift is given can make a difference to you. Here are four ways to make a lasting contribution to POST today:

1. **Give cash.** Write a check, make a pledge, charge your credit card. Get a tax deduction and maybe miles on your credit card.
2. **Give appreciated stock.** A gift of securities to POST is free of capital gains tax, and you can deduct the current market value of the gift.
3. **Give your home, retaining life tenancy.** You may give POST your home subject to your continuing use of the property. In so doing, you will earn an income tax deduction now.
4. **Give real estate.** Donated property is evaluated for its conservation resources. If a decision is made to sell the property, the proceeds will be used to further our land-saving mission. You can realize tax savings by deducting the market value of your real estate and avoid capital gains taxes.

Our families and community value and benefit from the investment we make today in protecting our remaining natural lands. For more information, please contact POST's Director of Development Daphne Muehle at (650) 854-7696. ■



Landscapes

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Bair Island © 1998 Brian O'Neill

FRONT COVER: Postcards from top to bottom: Phleger Estate © 2005 Karl Kroeber; Pigeon Point © 2003 Robert Buelteman; Bair Island © 1995 Brian O'Neill. Letters inset photos: Robert Buelteman, Nina Nowak, Brian O'Neill.



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