

Tehachapi Cummings Land Trust

CVPA is doing the leg work to establish a new separate organization that will be qualified to hold conservation easements from land owners who wish to preserve the natural condition of their property while benefitting from the enhanced income tax benefits afforded by the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The Tehachapi Cummings Land Trust (TCLT) will serve the entire Tehachapi area. During the establishment phase the CVPA Board will serve as the voting directors of TCLT, but with time the plan is to broaden the Executive Board beyond CVPA, and to have a number of Associate Board Members. The following have already agreed to be Associate Board Members: Supervisor, Don Maben; Mayor, Ed Grimes; retired General Manager of TCCWD, Bob Jasper; Oak Creek Energy Executive Vice President, Ed Duggan; and Indian Hill Ranch owner, Rob Schultz. *cnm*

What Other Land Trusts Have Accomplished

According to the Land Trust Alliance, nature areas, wildlife habitat, open spaces, waterways, wetlands and other lands conserved through private means rose to 37 million acres, roughly the size of Georgia.

The nonprofit charitable group attributed the trend to the rising popularity of private land trusts wanting to preserve their quality of life, state and local bond initiatives and people concerned about sprawl and unplanned development.



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CVPA News

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Ag Futures Alliance

In early 2006 when CVPA undertook sponsorship of the Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance there was great promise of creating a broad consensus among farmers, ranchers, civic leaders, business owners, environmentalists, educators and others for the importance of preserving agriculture. We felt that preserving and enhancing agriculture would be consistent with our goal of preserving our rural quality of life.

We reached out to some three dozen who we hoped would play a role in forming the desired coalition. About two thirds of these came to the first of the 10 meetings we contracted for. The attendance at subsequent meetings has dwindled steadily until at meeting number 8 there was representation only from CVPA, the City farmers market, two growers and a nutritionist.

When the proposal from Joseph McIntyre, the Ag Innovations Network facilitator, provided for CVPA to fund a large share of the second year budget your CVPA Board voted to allot no more money to the venture.

Joseph believes there is still potential for the AFA to succeed and is suggesting that it continue on a reduced budget with fewer meetings.

In perhaps a final effort, CVPA is organizing on behalf of the AFA, a workshop to try to stimulate local landowners to grow produce for the Tehachapi farmers market, Woodward West Sports Camp and other markets. The invitation as shown below was sent out with the Water District's January bills and we have advertised it in the Tehachapi News.

We want to thank all of you who volunteered earlier to help jump start the growing of fresh local produce, and we invite you to come to the workshop January 20th.

February Meeting - Souza Speaks

Bob Souza will tell us how he and Patty pioneered the first commercial wine vineyard in all of the Tehachapi area. Their outstanding High Mountain Primitivo Zinfandel is receiving rave reviews and selling like hotcakes. Bob will also share their vision of Tehachapi and especially Cummings Valley becoming a unique wine region of note. This vision of adding another level of agriculture to the valley bodes well for helping to preserve our rural quality of life. This is a meeting you won't want to miss. **Mark your calendar, February 1, 2007, SSCSD meeting room at 7:30PM.**

Bus Tour June 2 – Save The Date

Some interesting places to visit and things to see are being considered for this year's tour. More information will be provided in future newsletters.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELLING Your LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

Come to a workshop at the Veterans Hall, 125 East F Street at 4:00 PM, Saturday, January 20th to learn about new opportunities to make money growing food for the local community

PROGRAM

- Opening address: Bob Souza, Souza Family Vineyards.
- Tehachapi Farmers market: Jason Caudle, City Manager and Rebecca Bergstrom, Administrative Analyst.
- Organic Gardening: Gerry Davis, Grimmway Farms.
- Feeding Woodward West Action Sports: Bill Silva, Food and Beverage Manager.

EXHIBITS

What to grow? A list of crops appropriate for the farmers market and Woodward West will be available.

Gerry Davis, Grimmway Farms Agronomist, will be on hand to answer individual questions.

The workshop is sponsored by the Small Grower Task Force, a unit of the Tehachapi Ag Futures Alliance

Admission is free

Wine, hors d'oeuvres and other refreshments will be served

RSVP to 822-3478
ASAP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If your mailing label shows a year earlier than 07, it is time to send your check for one or several years at \$12 per family per year.

We need your support now more than ever as we face challenges to the rural qualities we came here to enjoy. CVPA may again find it advantageous to provide some financial support along with other contributors to continue the Ag Futures Alliance into the second year. Member numbers and money may be critical as we strive to preserve the integrity of the area.

Please complete the membership form and return it with your check. We would hate to lose you, if you haven't kept up with your dues, but we feel we should drop members who are more than two years in arrears. A check for the current membership year (July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007) will put you back in good standing.

The Tarantula Hawk

Last summer provided the opportunity to witness efforts of a Tarantula Hawk (wasp) to furnish a proper nest for its young. The Tarantula Hawk is the common name given the insect wasp "pepsis formosa" or "pepsis thisbe", many of which we have seen flying during our summers, often resting on or seeking nectar from the blossoms of our "Silk Tree" (albizzia julibrissin). This wasp has a body about two inches in length, metallic blue-black with wings that are blue-black, bright orange or mahogany in color. It is a rather strong,



Hauling along the stoop.

flying animal, the better to battle its spider prey. Its sting has been reported to cause the most pain of any insect sting, although of relatively short (two minutes or so) duration, provided that no allergic reaction ensues. The female searches for a Tarantula (a Trapdoor spider will do well enough, however) of sufficient size to feed its larvae until maturity. She will disable the spider with her venomous sting during battle and that spider, though remaining alive, is unable to move ever again. After dragging the prey to a proper birthing den she will lay a single egg upon its back and leave,



Lifting up the redwood wall.

securing the entrance from observation. The larvae hatches and judiciously, as a parasite, feeds upon the still living, immobilized spider, ultimately consuming it, then enters the pupae phase to transform to a flying adult.

The wearying path this particular wasp had taken from battle on the patio to the point these pictures were taken was already over 100 feet, but can you imagine the "emotions" of the helpless, paralyzed spider? *jfm*

Cummings Valley Protective Association, Inc.
Membership Application - July 1 through June 30

Name(s) _____

Local Address _____ Phone () _____

Mail Address _____ Phone () _____
(If not same as local)

Check Appropriate Area

<input type="checkbox"/> Alpine Forest Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Country Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Golden Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Knolls	<input type="checkbox"/> Stallion Springs
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Valley Springs	<input type="checkbox"/> Cummings Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Oaks	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Town	<input type="checkbox"/> Tehachapi
<input type="checkbox"/> Brite Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Fairview Ranches	<input type="checkbox"/> Indian Hills	<input type="checkbox"/> Sand Canyon	<input type="checkbox"/> ? _____

e-mail addr: _____

Annual dues are \$12 per family.
Please check one:

One year \$12 Two years \$24 Three years \$36

Mail with payment to:
Cummings Valley Protective Association
P.O. Box 1020
Tehachapi, CA 93581-1020