



**SAN BERNARDINO
MOUNTAINS
LAND TRUST**

Forest View

Autumn 2014

Dedicated to acquisition of forest open space & wildlife habitat on private land in the San Bernardino National Forest to ensure lasting public benefit of the natural mountain environment

Pebble Plain Site Protected

165 Acres of forest land acquired in Moonridge Area of Big Bear



Botanists identifying rare plant species

What is a Pebble Plain?

Pebble plains are a combination of rare miniature plants and heavy clay soils loaded with quartzite pebbles—a unique habitat that exists only in Big Bear and nowhere else in the world.

It is one of the most biologically rare plant communities found in California. The plants are relics of the Pleistocene Age, when glaciers receded. The soil composition—deposited over eons—inhibits conifer seeds from sprouting on the local ridge tops, thus preserving the ancient habitat for many millennia.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

Three of 11 primary pebble plain plant species are on the federal threatened species list. Large sites like the 12-acre Sawmill Pebble Plain with all 11 endemic types together are extremely rare.

SBMLT is collaborating with 20 other organizations (including Forest Service and Department of Fish & Wildlife) to conserve this critical area. Big Bear Valley Education Trust is spearheading a major effort to promote greater public awareness, protection, and scientific study of this rare habitat.

The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST (SBMLT) is elated to report a major step forward in protecting Big Bear's most outstanding pebble plain habitat. In April SBMLT bought 165 acres between Moonridge and Sugarloaf east of the Lake. The purchase helps safeguard a landlocked U.S. Forest Service parcel, formerly surrounded by planned housing tracts.

MAJOR GRANT AWARDED

THIS acquisition was made possible by a **\$2 million grant** from the WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD, a state agency that helps secure key natural resources in California. The two properties together form a 467-acre nature preserve and wildland park, where existing hiking trails will be expanded and environmental education opportunities initiated.

In the 1980s the Nature Conservancy identified pebble plains as one of the 10 most threatened habitats in California. Biologists refer to the so-called **Sawmill Complex** (i.e. this key area of ridge top plateaus surrounding Sawmill Canyon) as possibly the largest and best pebble plain habitat of all.

Photo by Ed Wallace



Sawmill Pebble Plain in bloom—contains the best example of rare miniature plant habitat that is found only in Big Bear and nowhere else in the world.



San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust

is a community-based charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to buying threatened forest land for greater conservation and long term protection of the San Bernardino Mountains.



For more information visit us at
WWW.SBMLT.NET

SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

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SBMLT CONTACT INFORMATION

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WEBSITE: www.sbmlt.net

HELP SUPPORT

The SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

Mail your contribution *with* the FORM below

- or - **visit our informational website to make an online gift at www.sbmlt.net**

Your Membership Is Essential To Success!

The Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible.

My contribution is:

☐ Forest Supporter (\$35)
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Join *the* LAND TRUST (or renew your support) with a generous contribution today

San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust PO Box 103 Fawnskin, CA 92333 **-or-**
 PO Box 490 Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352

Four Magnificent Forest Lands Rescued by SBMLT

Visit these forest lands and enjoy the trails

The San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust has rescued three major forest properties since 2010 plus a fourth site saved April 25, 2014 thanks to a major grant from the state Wildlife Conservation Board (see story on page 1).



A USFS crew from the Deerlick Station cuts an opening in a fallen tree blocking the road through the Coyote Rock site



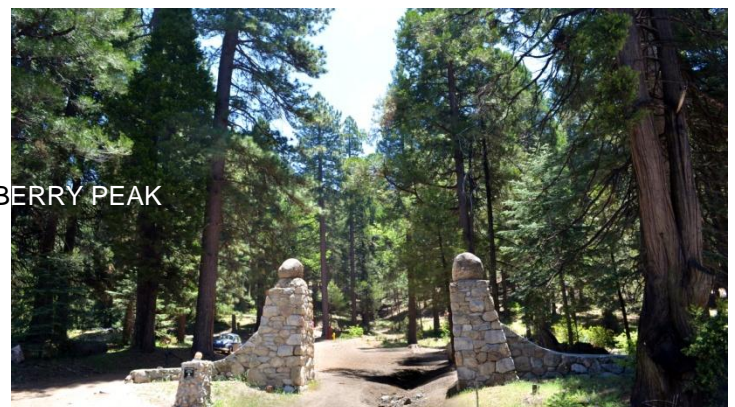
Equestrians enjoy a scenic ride through the inspirational forest setting of SBMLT's beautiful Coyote Rock property



Above is the SBMLT sign marking Arrowhead Ridge, where a 1.8-mile Will Abell Memorial Trail weaves through the magnificent 80-acre site. BELOW are entry pillars to the Strawberry Peak site, part of the historic Pine Crest retreat.



Heroic tree on the trail at the 50-acre Strawberry Peak site. The parcel now has benches and interpretive signs thanks to GardenWorks4Kids, a organization that introduces kids to nature. A vista point offers a wide view of coastal valleys



Photos by Scott Secombe

LEGENDARY FLAGSTONE DONOR WALL

AT ARROWHEAD RIDGE

Arrowhead Ridge is the preeminent forest preserve in Lake Arrowhead –and not just because it's the only one. It truly is a magnificent example of a southern Sierran montane forest –the best example in the San Bernardino Mountains. Its champion qualities include a well-mixed diversity of major tree species with dynamic growth characteristics, proud ancient giants, remarkable fertility and a uniquely sheltered micro climate.

Fitting Tribute

It is a fitting tribute to this inspirational site (the last of its kind in Lake Arrowhead) to dedicate the best donor wall in all of Southern California. Donations will be used to help finish critical restoration projects that will make the site a first class outdoor gathering place and a historic landmark of Lake Arrowhead's original scenic splendor.



Conceptual artist's rendering of the Arrowhead Ridge donor wall --illustrated by Scott Peterson Landscaping

Restoration Projects

Key restoration projects that need to be funded include a water well, restrooms, a parking lot, filling in ditches, leveling stockpiled dirt mounds and eliminating the upper paved roads. These projects are all concentrated in the most visible entry area (i.e. 12 acres of the overall 80-acre site). Full restoration is estimated to be about \$350,000.

This sum can be raised if 70 donors (local organizations, merchants, foundations, families and other supporters) each purchase a \$5,000 commemorative flagstone on this epic wall of heroic patrons to our legendary forest.

Donor Wall Lettering

The fine chiseled lettering for each stone's engraving is being done by famous stone carver, Marcel Mächler, who worked on the Orange County Performing Arts Center and the George W. Bush Presidential Library.



*A stonemason starts the first phase of the donor wall
Largest stones and lettering are available at \$5000 each*

Be a Part of the Legacy of Southern California's Best Forest

Our forest is a priceless gift to everyone who enjoys its beauty, serenity and inspiration. It is fitting for all of us to make a generous gift on behalf of such a bountiful and living treasure. The commemorative donor wall will be a lasting bedrock testament of our mountain community's appreciation for the rich heritage of our legendary forest, a symbol that will stand for scores of years to come.

Please consider being a part of this historic effort and spread the word to everyone you know who admires and cares about our majestic forest.

It is no longer possible to rely on the Forest Service to protect our local community forests. That role is now left up to the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust. Your help makes a big difference. (Contact information is on page 2)



*Some samples above from the first group of flagstones
(Prices are calibrated by size of stone and lettering)*



LAND TRUST NOTES and NEWS



Potter Cynthia Young makes chili bowls for the summer chili cook-off at Arrowhead Ridge attended by 300 people.

MORE LAND PROTECTED in SBNF

The collaboration of land trusts partnering to protect our idyllic mountain environment in the San Bernardino National Forest is greatly facilitated by having our own local organization leading the way. This basic job of land protection can no longer be accomplished by the Forest Service itself, unless all of us help together.

In April, 490 acres of the historic Fleming Ranch near Idyllwild were transferred to the SBNF by the Trust for Public Land, a complex transaction taken on at the request of SBMLT (a job we recognized as too large for us to handle). In September 107 acres were protected by the Pacific Crest Trail Association in the area of Onyx Summit, where a half mile of the PCT was at risk.

SUMMER GATHERING AT ARROWHEAD RIDGE

Over 300 people attended the Chili Cook-off hosted by SBMLT at Arrowhead Ridge on July 19. The successful fundraising picnic was enjoyed by all and even featured a light summer shower to freshen the parched mountain landscape. Hungry Bear, K&S Entertainment and Arrowhead Sports Grill provided food, while the Grapevine served drinks. Local vendors sold artistic wares, and the *ENJOY THE MOUNTAIN* tour guides gave ATV rides to the ridge top. The event helped introduce lots more people to the restoration work still needed at this future nature park in central Lake Arrowhead



SBMLT guests enjoy the great outdoors at Arrowhead Ridge during the July 19 Chili Cook-Off celebration.

2015 SBMLT CALENDAR AVAILABLE

The new 2015 edition of the *San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust* CALENDAR is now available with more great shots of our local National Forest. The calendar is a production of many dedicated local photographers.

The photo contest winners this year are Ed Wallace 1st place and John Hummel 2nd place. The other calendar prizes went to Michelle Macri, Cameron James, Sharon Skonetski, Lee Reeder, Joe Whyte and Ryan Farace. Congratulations for all the excellent photos.

SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES VISITS

SBMLT was proud to sponsor a talk by the Honorable John Laird, our state's Secretary of Natural Resources at Lake Arrowhead on August 11. Mr. Laird oversees all major state agencies which coordinate with both land trusts and counties to secure our vital scenic, wildlife, watershed, and key recreational values on the pristine natural lands (like the San Bernardino Mountains) that make California such a great place. One agency, the state Wildlife Conservation Board, has helped to protect forest areas in Twin Peaks, Deep Creek and most recently in Big Bear (see page 1). SBMLT is now partnering with WCB on a 2nd project in Big Bear at Metcalf Bay. Mr. Laird impressed a large audience with his grasp of all the state's major issues.



Secretary John Laird, Peter Jorris and SBMLT board President James Asher

IN MEMORY OF ARNIE BEAN



Arnie Bean 1957-2014
On the trail in 2001

Arnie Bean, a longtime Member of SBMLT's Board of Directors, departed this world October 4, after waging a courageous battle with cancer, a fight he miraculously won the first time around 20 years ago. Arnie had long served as the Land Trust secretary and also one term as president. He loved to hike and was an ardent supporter of protecting the San Bernardino National Forest. He represented SBMLT at the national Land Trust Alliance's Advocacy day in Washington DC in March 2013. Arnie had a natural facility for making friends easily. He will be profoundly missed by all those who knew him well.



SBMLT trail volunteer at the Strawberry Peak site in Twin Peaks

Photo by Scott Secombe



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