

Gary Bogue: Our open space is truly inspiring

[By Gary Bogue](#)

[Contra Costa Times](#)

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What makes life in our cities at once still tolerable, exciting, and stimulating is the existence of an alternative option, whether exercised or not, whether even appreciated or not, of a radically different mode of being out there, in the forests, on the lakes and rivers, in the deserts, up in the mountains "...

We cannot have freedom without leagues of open space.

— Edward Abbey

Happy Easter!

We received \$14,287 from 228 donors! Only \$55,713 to reach our \$70,000 goal!

Those are the exciting figures at the end of this second week of our fundraiser to help the Muir Heritage Land Trust raise the funds it needs to complete an important series of local open space acquisitions.

Please join us and become a vital cog in our ever-growing community effort to save and manage open space in your own backyard. If everyone who reads this donates something, we'll make it! If 228 people can raise \$14,287 in just two weeks, think what 500 people could do. Or 1,000.

As I've said before when we've joined together in years past to help raise funds to save other local open spaces: "Gary's Readers for Open Space! We are legion! Join us!"

\$20,000 challenge

The Muir Heritage Land Trust just received an anonymous \$20,000 challenge gift.

The donor will match everything we raise in our Save Our Open Spaces fundraiser up to \$20,000, which would double our fundraising results to \$40,000!

The anonymous donor also hopes this generous gesture will inspire others to join in and expand this \$20,000 challenge to an even larger figure to help us exceed our \$70,000 goal.

I'm sure inspired! Any other challenge gifts out there that need a home?

Open Space business

Four of this week's donations came from businesses:

- Orinda Cruises & Tours, Orinda.
- Bible Harp in connection with Joyce's Church on the Rock, Antioch.
- Preferred Financial, San Ramon.
- Family Tree Service, Hercules.

Your business can join "Business for Open Space" by sending in a donation. I'll print your organization's name here in my column so your customers and others will know you care about preserving our last remaining open spaces.

Donor comments

- At 80 I won't get to visit (the open spaces) much, but my great-grandkids will. (Dottie Jackson, San Pablo)
- We have read about your campaign to raise funds for preservation of open space (Gary Bogue's column in the San Mateo Times), and want to assist. Maybe we can't save the world, but we can try to save parts of our beautiful Bay Area. (Marlene Jobaris, El Granada)
- My gift is one of the small ones; I make it in honor of the Earth and with gratitude for your efforts. Best wishes with the campaign. (Judy Brown, Albany)
- We are all for preserving our open spaces! It is not only for the wild creatures, but for humanity as well. (Aiko & Bob Mitchel, Pleasanton)
- Save Acalanes Ridge! (G. Michael and Barbara Hoversten, Lafayette)
- Best of luck in saving what's left of our open space. (Jane Roberts, Kensington)

A final note

We need your help, large or small (or monstrous!), to make it all happen and raise \$70,000. Please send your tax-deductible donation to: Muir Heritage Land Trust, Save Our Open Spaces, P.O. Box 2452, Martinez, CA 94553.

Donate online at www.muirheritagelandtrust.org.