

# SAN BENITO Agricultural Land Trust NEWS

FALL 2018

SANBENITOLANDTRUST.ORG

***The Mission of the San Benito Agricultural Land Trust is to conserve regionally significant lands that sustain productive agriculture, preserve open space and maintain the rural character of the County.***



**Soap Lake Easement: 1113 acres**

## Vision

The San Benito Agricultural Land Trust envisions a San Benito County that supports a thriving agricultural economy, sustainable communities, and open space, and that honors and maintains its rural heritage. The Land Trust is the trusted, local institution to facilitate land conservation in San Benito County, foster conservation partnerships that benefit the county, and responsibly steward its property interests.

**New SBALT signs have been installed on the Rancho Larios open space. Watch for our signs soon to be installed on other properties we have protected.**



## San Benito GIVES...

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**S**BALT succeeded beyond our wildest dreams in the San Benito GIVES campaign sponsored by the Community Foundation for San Benito County. We received donations from 106 supporters and matching funds from the Land Water Life Fund and the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. We also received prizes for the most donors, and a \$1000 matching contribution to our endowment for a grand total of \$20,000 raised in just 24 hours.

We are very grateful to all of you who supported us in this campaign. ■

## SAN BENITO



## AGRICULTURAL LAND TRUST

### Board of Directors

Paul Hain, President  
Ron Ross, Treasurer  
Sara Steiner, Secretary  
Dan Dungy  
Zoey Diggory  
Emily Renzel

### Advisory Board

Christine Breen  
Dave Brigantino  
Michael Brigantino  
Karminder Brown  
Sallie Calhoun  
Mark Gibson  
Kerry Tobias

### Our Valued Partners

Community Foundation for  
San Benito County  
San Benito Working  
Landscapes Group  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land

### SBALT

P.O. Box 1066  
Tres Pinos, CA 95075  
[www.sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://www.sanbenitolandtrust.org)  
[www.facebook.com/  
sanbenitolandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/sanbenitolandtrust)



## Nyland Property Update

**T**he San Benito Agricultural Land Trust recently had the opportunity to acquire the Nyland Property southwest of Highway 156 in San Juan Bautista in partnership with The Trust for Public Lands (TPL). Community support for this project was fantastic. Our Board has learned that due to an impasse, TPL and the landowner have terminated their purchase agreement. Though we are disappointed, we are grateful for the relationships formed with both entities and hope to explore future opportunities to protect this property.

Meanwhile, your donations are supporting several other of our current projects to protect agricultural lands in San Benito County. As your local land trust, and with your support, we will continue to find creative ways to conserve local agricultural land and open space.



### President's Message

**W**ow! What a year for the land trust. We're 25 years old! We've helped conserve 7 properties totaling 6700 acres with an all volunteer board.

We had the opportunity to work with The Trust for Public Land to acquire the Nyland Property in San Juan Bautista. Unfortunately this effort fell through but it served to expose our efforts to more of our community and gather a lot of support for our mission.

Finally, I will be stepping down as President of the land trust after 25 years at the helm. Thanks to so many folks over the years for allowing me to serve our community. The future is bright for SBALT!

Sincerely,  
Paul Hain

Paul F. Hain is a farmer/rancher in Tres Pinos, California. He is the owner/operator of John Hain & Sons and Hain Ranch Organics. Paul has also long served the community on the local School Board, the San Benito Resource Conservation District, the Central Coast Ag Water Quality Coalition, and also 27 years as a volunteer firefighter.





## SBALT moves forward with a generous grant from the Community Foundation for San Benito County

This summer SBALT received a Strategic Planning and Capacity Building grant from the Community Foundation for San Benito County. In August the Board and our Advisors held a retreat, led by facilitator Kathleen Sheridan, to develop a Strategic Plan for the next two years. Key goals and objectives follow.

### Our Goals for the next two years

- Preserve agricultural and heritage land in San Benito County
- Expand an engaged and vibrant Board of Directors
- Raise awareness of the value of SBALT's work
- Build our financial and human resources

### Our Objectives

- Become accredited with the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) which will make us a stronger organization.
- Implement the highest priority actions of our Monitoring, Public Relations, and Finance Committees.



*Community  
Foundation*  
FOR SAN BENITO COUNTY

**SBALT is  
On the Move...**





## Volunteer of the Year: Karminder Brown

**W**e are very pleased to recognize Karminder Brown as our Volunteer of the Year. Karminder serves on our Advisory Board and has faithfully attended our Board meetings. She has shared with us her vast knowledge of agriculture in San Benito County. She has brought her energy, intelligence, goodwill, and enthusiasm to all our Board activities. Thank you, Karminder for all your help. ■

### Please Join San Benito Agricultural Land Trust

**SAN BENITO**



**AGRICULTURAL  
LAND TRUST**

We appreciate your membership and support. Your support enables SBALT to become more effective in preserving our County's agricultural heritage. If you wish to join or donate to SBALT, you can do so at [sanbenitolandtrust.org](http://sanbenitolandtrust.org). If you would like to join a committee or have a special skill to offer as a volunteer, please contact [zooley@sanbenitolandtrust.org](mailto:zooley@sanbenitolandtrust.org). ■

## Introducing Lynn Overtree

**O**ver the past 25 years, SBALT has protected seven properties covering 6,700 acres strictly with volunteers! The board aims to leverage this success to protect many more agriculture and open space properties in the county. SBALT cannot do this with volunteers alone, so we have contracted with Lynn Overtree, a resident of San Benito County, to make this goal a reality.

Lynn has spent over 30 years working for land trusts in California. She brings to SBALT her breadth of experience managing land - including grazing, timber, recreation and wildlands - along with the skills she developed supporting coworkers in planning, acquisitions, fundraising and administration.

She recently worked on the successful national accreditation of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. SBALT intends to achieve that accreditation within the next few years. ■

