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Founded in 1971, Save Mount Diablo has helped expand preserved natural lands on and around the mountain from 6,788 acres to more than 100,000 acres

Masthead Panorama:

Dragon Oaks 550, Stephen Joseph

Proud Member of



From the Executive Director:

We all know about the serious budget issues for the state and for our State Park System. We are now faced with the closure of nearly one third of our state parks. As we continue our mission to preserve, defend and restore Mount Diablo, and look for ways to solve the long term funding needs for State parks, we also continue to help Mt. Diablo State Park resolve its immediate operational problems. This year SMD paid for routine maintenance on two septic systems to keep restrooms open. We are currently developing plans to repair the dangerous conditions that exist on Mt. Diablo Scenic Road and restore the historic beacon on the Summit museum.

When Art Bonwell and Mary Bowerman founded SMD in 1971 they thought that their effort of preserving the mountain could be accomplished in 5 years mainly with State funding. Well, here we are - 40 years later and we are busier than ever. Together with our allies we have protected more than 100,000 acres of natural lands. Recently the important wildlife (and future recreational) corridor from Black Diamond Mines to the State Park was permanently protected (see article on page 10). But 80,000 acres of natural lands are still privately owned and threatened by development in places such as the Tassajara Hills and Doolan Canyon (see pages 10 and 3). Our job is not done – we continue to face complex challenges in our continued effort to reassemble the Diablo wilderness that has been so fragmented over the past 200 years.

SMD continues to acquire land from willing land owners and to get involved in public policy issues affecting urban growth and land conservation, at times through aggressive community organizing and political advocacy. We are successful in our efforts because of the relationships we have built. We are honored to have a wide array of sponsors, partners and supporters like you. As we continue our efforts together, let's remember our collective responsibilities for protecting and healing this earth.

Now that we are about to enter our 41st year, let's keep in mind the promise of what might be, the beauty in the world, the wonders of nature, the complexity of this amazing landscape and what it represents for ourselves and for future generations. We do this work because we have a duty to leave the planet in a better condition for our children than when we got it from our parents.



Diablo Watch is printed on recycled paper with soy based ink.



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2011 Mountain Star Awards

Mountain Star Awards recognize individuals and organizations whose contributions have been significant in helping Save Mount Diablo's land preservation programs. The 2011 Mountain Star Awards are sponsored by Dave and Dana Dornsife. Save Mount Diablo thanks them for their continued support.

This year's Mountain Star Award recipients are:

Doug Bell of East Bay Regional Park District, *Mary Bowerman Award for Science and Discovery*

David Loeb of Bay Nature Institute, *Mountain Star Media Award*

Doug Burr, Phil O'Loane, and Sally Scholl of People Opposed to Measure W Breaking San Ramon's Urban Growth Boundary 2010, *Mountain Star Leadership Award*

Congratulations to our 2011 Mountain Star Award winners. Their dedication and pioneering spirits help to ensure that people and wildlife can enjoy all of Mount Diablo and its foothills for future generations.

Read about their inspiring feats at SaveMountDiablo.org under About SMD



Left to Right: Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, Phil O'Loane, Doug Burr, Sally Scholl, David Loeb, Senator Mark DeSaulnier and Dr. Doug Bell

Scott Hein