

Native Tree Committee of San Luis Obispo County

Friday, May 21, 2010
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Wolff Vineyards
San Luis Obispo, CA

Minutes

Participants: Amy Breschini, Jackie Crabb, Steve Ela, Greg Ellis, Lionel Johnston, Ann Lazo, Sue Luft, Tim O’Keefe, Steve Sinton, Bill Weitkamp, Mark Wolff, and Jim Zingo.
<apologies for any omissions>

Introductions were made.

Working Among the Oaks: Jim briefly reported on the future workshops.

- The next workshop will be on the many public values of grazing animals and grazing lands – “How Does the Public Benefit from Private Ranching?” – and will be held on Monday, 21 June 2010, at the Paso Robles Culinary Arts Academy.
- Workshop flyers were available at the meeting.
- See the website for details and updates – <http://ucanr.org/centralcoastoaks>.

Stewardship Award: Jackie reported that additional volunteers were needed to serve on the selection committee. Contact her if interested.

Learning Among the Oaks: No report.

Ecological Programs at Wolff Vineyards: Mark Wolff gave a “walk-and-talk” tour of parts of the vineyard. The family’s stewardship efforts include environmentally responsible and otherwise sustainable vineyard practices, pond wildlife management, and streambank restoration. They introduced native pond turtles into their pond, which was probably a pig stock pond originally. Management includes a floating basking platform installed well away from the edges; basking options like this are favored by the turtles and provide protection from predators that have access to the edges and shallows. Prior to the Wolff’s taking ownership of the property, the stream ran fast and had deeply eroded the banks. They restored a substantial portion of their stream by slowing the rate of flow (stone diverters in the streambed) and planting native trees and other plants along the bank, and plan to restore the rest in the near future. Their streambank hedgerow includes willow trees, coyote brush, and wildflowers and provides diversely structured wildlife habitat in addition to having practical farming benefits. While discussing the virtues of various plants, there were questions and answers flying back and forth that may have created some confusion about the nativity of a couple plants; to clarify for the record, coyote brush (*Baccharis* sp.) is native while fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is non-native and has invasive tendencies.

Onecoolearth.org: Lionel Johnston and Greg Ellis, enroute to an education/planting project at the Carrisa Plains Elementary School, talked a bit about their organization’s

conservation activities. They are looking for partners on various planting and education endeavors, and would be grateful if any NTC members were interested in getting involved. Greg offered the following for inclusion in these minutes:

One Cool Earth - www.onecoolearth.org - A San Luis Obispo based nonprofit focused on growing and planting native trees, works with San Luis County schools, from Montessori to university level, to offer access to curriculum, hands-on learning experiences, expertise, materials and funding. Our direct action projects range from campaigns to grow one tree for every student, to planting trees on school grounds and throughout the community for restoration, beautification, as windbreaks, pollution buffers and sound barriers between schools and highways, for passive solar benefits, and for native gardens. For more information, and to get involved in our frequent plantings and excursions, contact us at action@onecoolearth.org or call Greg at (760)382-5164.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 18, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Meet at Luft Vineyard. Be sure to wear long pants and covered shoes.

Contributed by Jim Zingo, UCCE