

PRESS RELEASE

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450 Native Plants Installed by Volunteers at Black Lake Ecological Area

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County engaged nearly two dozen volunteers in planting over 450 native plants at Black Lake Ecological Area in Nipomo over Easter weekend. Children worked along side their parent's patting soil into place and learning first-hand what it feels like to place a living plant in the ground. Among the group were students, biologists and neighbors.



"It was really great to see the variety of people there – families, high school youth, college students, professionals – everyone was really happy to be volunteering. And it was gorgeous weather," said Stacy Shull, a volunteer from San Luis Obispo.

The planting included natives, such as Wallflower, Silver Dune Lupine, and Coast Buckwheat, that were grown from seed collected at the site. The ultimate goal is for these native plants to establish themselves and grow large enough to fend off unwanted competitors, like Veldt Grass, which threaten the diversity of the Dunes complex.

This site is private, but volunteers were able to experience a behind-the-scenes tour of this special place, including a walk to beautiful Black Lake, led by Land Conservancy Restoration Ecologist Daniel Bohlman. Volunteers have been invited back to the site in three months to check the progress of their volunteer planting.

Land Conservancy staff has been tending the sensitive restoration site much like any local gardener or farmer, fending off local deer from browsing above ground and voracious gophers from below. Each plant was encased in a mesh basket prior to placement in the ground to protect the tender roots from becoming gopher food. Additionally, the entire planting enclave is surrounded by deer fencing.



SITE INFO: Part of the Dune Lakes Complex, Black Lake is one of seven fresh water lakes in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. The Land Conservancy owns Black Lake and is restoring various areas near the lake itself. This unique habitat area is threatened by invasive, non-native weeds including veldt grass, and European beach grass. Planting native forbs and shrubs supplements the work of our Restoration Field Crew in removal of these invasive weeds.

For future event information visit: www.LCSLO.org or call Dave Rau at (805) 544-9096.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust dedicated exclusively to the natural healthy and beauty of our unique communities. We work to protect and restore lands having scenic, cultural and historic values throughout San Luis Obispo County. Our efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in our region. Since our formation in 1984, we have permanently protected over 9,200 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County.

For more information visit www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.