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SBALT NEWS

Summer news from SBALT

By Lynn Overtree,
Executive Director

We have been meeting in person again, and it is a joy to see our amazing board members, volunteers, and colleagues without a screen! Here's what we've been up to recently...

In April we completed annual monitoring of our conservation easements. They include row crops on prime soils, expansive rangelands, and wetlands teeming with wildlife. I love meeting the landowners and managers who work these lands. They know the seasonal patterns, the extreme variations between years, and how to navigate the ever-changing conditions to feed us locally and across the country and the world.

Also in April we hosted a wildflower hike at Rancho Larios Open Space for residents. We will extend future invitations to our donors for guided hikes on this 500-acre property owned by SBALT, and to other special events.

In May we submitted our application for national accreditation through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission after three years of preparation. We reached this important milestone thanks in part to two grants from the Community Foundation for San Benito County (CFFSBC).

In August SBALT will participate in the San Benito Community Gives Auction. The online auction takes place August 27-30. Our auction items celebrate the agriculture and open space beauty of our county, including a boat ride and tour of Soap Lake Ranch, glamping at Rancho Tranquillo, a meat package from M&J French Ranch and San Benito Cattle Company, and



more! We hope you will register early and bid on these unique items in support of agricultural land conservation.

Learn more about our work at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org.

COVER ARTIST

Christopher Pate

The work of Christopher Pate utilizes painting, drawing, photography and collage, often in combination. His imagery ranges from the nonobjective to the fully representational, involving portraiture, landscape, geometric hard edge abstraction and painterly abstraction. His objective is to investigate the human condition, both macroscopically, in terms of the relationship of our species to the world at large, and microscopically, in the more intimate sense of psychology, dream states and personal identity. Grounded in abstraction, these investigations exist in the realm of the poetic, not the polemical. They are intended to induce



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