

## CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES THESIS PROJECT UNDERWAY AT LITTLE BLACK MOUNTAIN PRESERVE



The Sonoma Land Trust's Little Black Mountain Preserve is the subject of a master's thesis project currently underway through the Cultural Resources Management Program at Sonoma State University. The project involves a cultural resources inventory and management plan that will illuminate the historical and cultural aspects of the Preserve.

The story of the Little Black Mountain Preserve contains the makings of a modern day drama. From the Native Californians inhabiting the land to the contemporary era, Little Black Mountain gives a glimpse into the passage of time, the changing nature of the area and the varying forces influencing the property. The Preserve provides an illustration of the nature of cultural change, ranging from rituals in Native American culture to the scars of intensive logging, from the simple joys of living in a peaceful, natural setting to a well-known San Francisco family's loss of their home to the catastrophic Creighton Ridge Fire of 1978.

Not only does Little Black Mountain serve as the focus of the master's thesis, but the property has been visited for two field seasons by Santa Rosa Junior College Field Methods classes. It provides a beautiful and multi-faceted venue for anthropology students to learn basic survey and site recording techniques.

Although the thesis project is only in its early phase of development, many individuals have extended their efforts and cooperated to make this project happen. Some of the people that need to be thanked are: Leslie Smirnoff, graduate student with the Cultural Resources Management Program at Sonoma State University, Tom Origer of Origer and Associates, Michelle DeLong and the field class students, SLT project manager Shanti Wright, former SLT executive director Joan Vilms, and many neighbors of Little Black Mountain, including Nancy Blum, John Bei and Judy Harada, who have provided information about the intriguing history of the area; and Reno Franklin and Walter Antone, representatives from the Kashia Pomo Tribe.