



10. Kathleen Goddard Jones

Ten years ago, Kathleen Goddard Jones called the Nipomo Dunes a "true outdoor museum ... a living museum."

Ask anyone and they'll tell you Jones is the main curator of that museum.

Not just for the past decade, but for the last 30 years.

Her first victory was stopping construction of a proposed nuclear power plant in the dunes.

Faced with opposition led by Jones, Pacific Gas and Electric decided to build their plant up the coast a few miles.

But it was in the 1980s that Jones and others who have worked to fight development of the unique dunes have enjoyed a string of successes.

Jones was leading a campaign to have the dunes made a national seashore when state voters approved a \$776 million parks bond measure in 1988.

Some of that money was used to purchase 2,550 acres of dunes from the Mobil Foundation.

The parcel, now protected from development, was dedicated in October.

The acquisition by conservation groups was hailed as a key to ultimate protection of the 16,000-acre coastal dune complex.

For the 82-year-old Jones, the dedication was one of the sweetest moments in her nearly 30-year love affair with the dunes.

"I am so grateful to have lived to see some of my dreams come true," said the Arroyo Grande resident.