

THE
**ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST**
INCORPORATED



P.O. BOX ONE
YORKVILLE, CA 95494

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of The Anderson Valley Land Trust
Spring 1994

ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST RECEIVES GIFT OF TIMBER RIGHTS ON NAVARRO PARCEL

ANONYMOUS DONOR PROVIDES FOR \$430,000 GIFT

Recently, the Anderson Valley Land Trust was very pleased to conclude the acquisition of timber rights on Hap Tallman's 40 acres of prime redwood land on Highway 128 in Navarro. Thanks to Hap and a very generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous, the AVLT is able to take title to a vigorous young growth forest with approximately 620,000 board feet of redwood, douglas fir and grand fir, the value of which has been appraised at \$430,000. Simultaneous with the acquisition of the timber rights, Hap also donated to the land trust a conservation easement which will ensure that residential and commercial development is permanently limited on the parcel so as not to conflict with the preservation of the timber.

The Board of Directors of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, on accepting this gift, passed a resolution not to ever log the property, except in the interest of public safety, so as to preserve this forestland for the many public benefits it provides -- including wildlife habitat, watershed protection and scenic enjoyment.

What's All This About Riparian Protection?

Join us **Saturday, June 4 from 2 - 4 PM** at the **Scharffenberger Cellars Winery** in Philo to for a slide show and talk by **UC Extension/Farm Adviser, Greg Giusti**, a wildlands ecologist, **about the practical whys and hows of riparian (streamside) protection on ag land, forestland and residential property.**

In this latest in our series of free educational workshops on voluntary resource conservation, Anderson Valley Land Trust president, Connie Best, will also provide information about **how conservation easements can protect riparian and other habitat for the benefit of the soil, fish and wildlife, as well as the rest of us.** Questions are invited! Delicious refreshments will be served up with this stimulating discussion. Tax deductible donations to help cover the expense of this workshop are welcome.

The Scharffenberger Winery is located on the east side of Highway 128 in the heart of Philo, with the entrance opposite the BP gas station. Greg will be speaking in the reception room above the main winery building, just past the tasting room.

The Tallman timber gift is an example of another type of action a landowner can take to permanently protect key natural qualities of his or her property. In addition to conservation easements, gifts of timber rights, water rights, mineral rights or other property rights that you and your family don't intend to develop should be considered as a means to preserve what you love about your property -- and likely receive considerable tax benefits for your public-spirited action. If you'd like more information about the full range of **Conservation Options** available to you, **contact the Anderson Valley Land Trust today for a free booklet.**

DEDICATED TO THE VOLUNTARY PRESERVATION
OF THE LAND AND ITS ABUNDANT
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT
OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

Timbermen Art Harwood and Rick Priest Donate \$10,000 to The Anderson Valley Land Trust for Creek Restoration Work in the Navarro Watershed

On a lovely March morning at the Mendocino County Courthouse, Art Harwood, President of Harwood Products, and timberland owner Rick Priest presented a check for \$10,000 to AVLT president Connie Best in a brief ceremony arranged by Indian Creek timberland owner, and Sierra Club activist, Helen Libeu. This generous contribution will form the foundation for a creek restoration project fund being initiated by the AVLT for the Navarro watershed.

The Harwood-Priest gift had its origins in a Sierra Club lawsuit against the California Dept. of Forestry over a timber harvest plan filed by Priest for the headwaters of Indian Creek -- a lawsuit, we should point out, in which the Anderson Valley Land Trust was *not* a party. So, then, how did the AVLT become the recipient of such a welcome contribution to our resource conservation work?

A Logger's Gift for the Fish

In the out-of-court settlement reached with the Sierra Club, Harwood and Priest agreed to modify their logging plan to provide better protection for Indian Creek, including not harvesting any trees within 50 feet of the creek. At the same time they wanted to make an investment in improving fishery habitat in this watershed, so they offered to make a \$10,000 contribution to a mutually agreeable third party. In seeking a group that could be relied upon to follow through, they approached the Anderson Valley Land Trust and we accepted the opportunity.

"We're very pleased," AVLT president Connie Best commented. "This donation will serve as the seed money for a program of watershed enhancement projects that the land trust will be initiating to improve the salmon habitat in the Navarro watershed. Having these funds allows us to better leverage other grants, from both government and foundation sources. The first step, though, is to find out more about the overall health of the watershed and where scarce creek rehab dollars can have their best effect, that's why we're initiating the Navarro River Basin

Strategic Assessment." (See article pg. 5)

Helen Libeu, chair of the Sierra Club's Redwood Chapter legal committee, noted that in this settlement, "All the parties committed themselves to trying to achieve zero net discharge of sediment into Indian Creek. That should be the new standard for all timber harvests if we are to help preserve salmon habitat from further deterioration."

The Sierra Club's California State Forestry Chair and Anderson Valley resident, Kathy Bailey, was also instrumental in the successful dispute resolution on Indian Creek. She noted that, "We were plowing new ground, staying out of court and operating outside the usual regulatory framework, so the goodwill of all the parties was crucial to success. The timber owners' agreements to improve the plan to better benefit the fishery were quite significant -- so the gift to the Land Trust was a real gesture of commitment by Art and Rick."

Lack of Coho Causes Wide Concern

This contribution for fishery habitat restoration work is especially important in light of several developments relating to the state of the coho salmon fishery in general and the Navarro watershed in particular:

- Petitions have been filed with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to list the coho salmon in Oregon and California as a threatened species.
- The California Dept. of Fish and Game has petitioned the State Board of Forestry to list the coho as a *sensitive species* in certain watersheds, including the Navarro, requiring special forest practice rules.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has included the Navarro in its list of California waterways that do not meet the standards of the Clean Water Act for what's called "non-point pollution." Sedimentation and increased stream temperatures (typically from loss of the cooling forest canopy), according to the EPA, have impaired the *beneficial uses of water* in the Navarro, threatening the fishery in particular.



"Spring at Gowan's Orchard"

Photo courtesy of Evan Johnson

JUST WHO IS THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST, ANYWAY?

The Anderson Valley Land Trust is a non-profit charitable corporation that was organized by a group of local residents in 1990 to aid in the "voluntary preservation of the land and its abundant natural resources for the benefit of generations to come." The AVLT is governed by a volunteer Board and accomplishes its projects thanks to the efforts of about a dozen other volunteers, including lawyers, land use planners, botanists, resource specialists and just plain folks who love the valley. Our work is supported by the tax-deductible contributions of more than 125 valley residents and landowners. The following list includes the AVLT Board and officers, with their phone numbers. Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions about the activities of the AVLT -- or if you want some help with resource conservation on your property.

Connie Best, President
Business consultant
895-3616

John Scharffenberger, Vice President
Scharffenberger Cellars
895-2525

Joel Clark, Treasurer
Valley Oaks/Fetzer Vineyards manager
744-1250

Micki Colfax, Director
Rancher, author
895-3241

Bill Chambers, Director
Retired, landowner
895-3713

Laurie Wayburn, Director
Conservationist, executive
895-2166

Barbara Goodell, Secretary
School teacher
895-3897

There are always opportunities to volunteer your time and expertise to the AVLT -- as a Board member, land project assistant, conservation easement monitor, newsletter producer or otherwise. Just give us a call at 707-895-3616 and we'll find a task that suits your talents!

On June 7 Vote "Yes" for Proposition 180: Californians for Parks & Wildlife Bond Act *Guarantees \$3 Million for Conservation Easements in the Navarro Watershed*

On Tuesday, June 7, the Anderson Valley Land Trust urges you to vote "Yes" on Proposition 180, a bond initiative placed on the ballot by a statewide coalition of community and conservation groups, business and labor, historic preservation and other organizations. Prop. 180 will provide up to \$2 billion statewide -- **and more than \$15.2 million for earmarked Mendocino County projects** -- to ensure the protection of productive agricultural and timberland, as well as providing for fish and wildlife habitat, urban forestry, parks, recreation facilities, cultural preservation and coastal access -- as well as at-risk youth programs to reduce crime, drug activity and the threat of gang violence in communities across California.

In addition to the Land Trust Alliance of Mendocino County, hundreds of organizations as well as city and county governments have endorsed Prop. 180 statewide, including --

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors | ✓California Assn. of Police and Sheriffs |
| ✓California State Treasurer, Kathleen Brown | ✓San Francisco DA, Arlo Smith |
| ✓California State Controller, Gray Davis | ✓Los Angeles DA, Gil Garcetti |
| ✓Chair, Board of Equalization, Brad Sherman | ✓The League of Women Voters |
| ✓Los Angeles Chief of Police, Willie Williams | ✓The California Teacher's Assn. |
| ✓The NAACP, California State Conference | ✓Audubon Society |
| ✓AARP - American Assn. of Retired Persons | ✓Sierra Club |
| ✓ The American Farmland Trust | |

The County of Mendocino will receive directed funding for eleven local projects which will benefit our citizens through resource conservation, watershed and fisheries restoration, expanded parks and recreation facilities, cultural preservation and improved coastal access. Hundreds of local jobs will be created by the passage of Prop. 180 -- and thousands statewide.

Very specifically, Prop. 180 includes:

- **\$3 million for acquisition of conservation easements in the Navarro River watershed for riparian protection and salmon habitat restoration, and other wildlife habitat ;**
- \$5 million for acquisition of productive forestland, ensuring it is managed for ecological and economic benefits;
- \$3 million for transfer and protection of the upland Sinkyone forestland parcel, providing public access and sustainable timber production;
- \$1.5 million for parkland and coastal access on the Albion headlands;
- \$1.5 million for expansion of Mendocino Headlands State Park to include portions of Big River Estuary;
- \$50,000 for salmon habitat restoration in the Garcia River watershed;
- \$150,000 for trails along the Gualala bluff;
- \$100,000 for trails in and around Sinkyone Wilderness State Park;
- \$50,000 for protection of cultural and natural resources at the Cloverdale Boulder site;
- \$40,000 for protection of unique plant habitat of Rickenbaugh Glade (Cow Mtn.);
- \$15,000 for trails at Point Cabrillo.

Prop. 180 provides a rare opportunity to take advantage of still historically low property values in California to invest in our natural infrastructure for our quality of life and economic well-being. Vote "Yes" on June 8 to bring needed dollars to Mendocino County to help preserve and restore the natural bounty on which we depend for so much.

Watershed Health: *What Is It? Why Does It Matter?*

Find Out More By Helping with the Navarro River Basin Strategic Assessment Project

The Anderson Valley Land Trust has a grant proposal before the California State Coastal Conservancy to substantially fund a community-based scientific overview of the 330 square mile Navarro River Basin. The resources of this basin form the backbone of our community, producing timber, livestock, apples, grapes, steelhead and coho salmon -- as well as the scenic beauty and quality of life that has drawn so many people here to live, as well as hundreds of thousands more to visit.

Today these resources are under increasing pressures, including new residential development, competing water uses, reduced soil productivity and increased erosion, and demographic changes as Anderson Valley is brought into the "greater Bay Area." In particular people have become very concerned about the virtual demise of the coho salmon fishery -- and the steep decline in steelhead populations.

The purpose of the Navarro River Basin Strategic Assessment is to help us all better understand how the Navarro functions as a watershed, what its natural processes are and what the impacts of our land uses can be on water quality, water quantity and fishery habitat. The Assessment will be organized by the AVLT, with the scientific investigations being lead by hydrologists, fishery biologists and other specialists under contract. The land trust will be aided by the in-put of a Community Advisory Group and a Technical Advisory Group. The Community Advisory Group is open to all valley residents and others with a stake in the health of the Navarro. In particular we want to make every effort for the major valley landowning groups and users of the water resources to be well represented.

The Assessment project will begin in July, pending grant approval. The information collected by the Assessment can provide the basis for individual and collective community-based solutions to protect and enhance the resources of the Navarro Basin, with special attention to fishery habitat restoration and soil conservation. Areas for specific creek rehabilitation projects will be recommended.

The Navarro River Basin Strategic Assessment project is being supported by the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Assn., the A.V. Grange, the Community Services District, the A.V. Unified School District, the Salmon Trollers' Marketing Assn., the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Assn., the Friends of the Navarro Watershed, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, Congressman Dan Hamburg, Assemblyman Dan Hauser, State Senator Mike Thompson, and the California Departments of Fish and Game, Parks and Recreation, Water Resources Control Board, Regional Water Quality Control Board and many others.



W.J. Meyer Sr., with Steelhead caught in Anderson Creek in Boonville (1940).

Call us with your questions and advice. A copy of the grant proposal is available on request. If you are interested in helping with the Assessment, as an advisory group member or otherwise, please contact Connie Best.

Thank you!

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$15) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$25) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charter (\$1000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$50) |

Membership Category:

Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____

"Dedicated to the Voluntary Preservation of the Land and its Abundant Natural Resources for the Benefit of Generations to Come"

Yes! I want to contribute to the preservation of the natural heritage of our valley by supporting the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

I want to learn more about the Anderson Valley Land Trust and private land conservation. Please send me additional information.

I want to volunteer my time to work with the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

Join the Anderson Valley Land Trust

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