

THE
**ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST**
INCORPORATED



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

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of The Anderson Valley Land Trust
Fall - Winter 2000 ~~2001~~

AVLT Makes Major Strides in Valley Conservation During 2000

By Laurie Wayburn, AVLT President

This year Anderson Valley Land Trust will add at least five easements to the roster of protected lands in the Valley, with another three to happen in early 2001. These will permanently preserve roughly 2,500 acres of prime agricultural lands, forest, riparian resources and wildlands in the Navarro watershed. Amongst the very generous donors who are protecting their lands this year are Kent and Anne Rogers; Connie Best and Christopher Mann, partners in a biodynamic orchard and farm; Melody and Paul Haller, the owners of Shenoa; Bud and Pauline Ledbetter; and Laurie Wayburn and Connie Best. Following below are brief descriptions of these easements. (Anne Rogers, Connie Best and Laurie Wayburn are all Board Members of AVLT).

Connecting Conservation Corridors along the Navarro

The Haller's easement on the Shenoa property will build upon a corridor of already conserved land upstream from Hendy Woods State Park, as it is adjacent to AVLT's easement on the Wellspring Renewal Center property granted by the Evans family in 1996. This easement will conserve 160 acres at the confluence of Rancheria and Anderson Creeks where the Navarro River begins. The majority of the property will be dedicated to remaining as forest, while organic agriculture are ensured to continue in the future. On-going uses of the property as a retreat, religious and educational center will also continue. Forestry under the easement will be focused on restoration, re-establishing the native mature and late-seral redwood forest. The easement will also encourage the restoration of the native grasslands, or Potrero ecosystem, on the property.

***AVLT Recruiting for Staff
See announcement inside***

Given its central importance for the Valley's fish and wildlife, AVLT has a focus on building this conserved corridor along the Navarro, and encourages any landowner with property that adjoins the River to contact us and see how they can contribute to ensuring this legacy for the future.

Preventing Boonville Sprawl Ensuring a Legacy of Organic Farming

Christopher Mann and Connie Best have granted a conservation easement on 87 acres of prime agricultural land along Anderson Valley Way which serve as a buffer to the expansion of Boonville. As Boonville has grown over the past years, several of the larger parcels bordering town have been broken up into 1 - 5 acre parcels, limiting future agricultural use. With this easement, the farm, which was the home-place on the old Farrer Ranch, continues an agricultural legacy.

The easement protects the well-established riparian vegetation along both sides of Anderson Creek, where Best and Mann completed a major streambank restoration project over the past few years. Anderson Creek is one of three tributaries to the Navarro, and had resident steelhead on the stretch through the farm during 2000. The easement protects the redwood forest along the western side of the property, as well as the native hardwoods, from harvest. The property is dedicated to remain in biodynamic and organic agriculture, as it has been for the last decade. Christopher Mann, who has been instrumental in expanding biodynamic agriculture in the U.S. and abroad, intends for the property to serve as a demonstration, research and education center for sustainable agriculture.

Protecting a Key Forest Watershed

Connie Best and Laurie Wayburn granted an easement on their 80 acres of redwood and oak forest where they live on the eastern ridge above Boonville. Part of the old Rickert Ranch, this protected property effectively merges two 40 acre parcels, limits future building and agricultural conversion of the oak woodlands. Commercial timber harvest is permitted for habitat restoration and enhancement purposes. Much of the property consists of regenerating Douglas-fir and redwood forest, and supports an abundance of wildlife. The conservation easement also protects the Con Creek watershed and portions of the south branch which run through the property. Con Creek is a tributary to Anderson Creek, and identified in the Navarro Watershed Restoration plan as critical for delivering clear, cold water critical for salmon.

Creating a Wildlands Refuge

When Kent and Anne Rogers first came to Anderson Valley, they fell in love with it just as it was. Now, they are protecting their 100 acres to ensure their special place will always be there for their children and grandchildren. Lying above Anderson Valley, off Peachland Road, this property is home to myriad wildlife, as well as having residual old growth redwood groves, several trees of which measure greater than six feet in diameter, and a vigorously regenerating Douglas fir forest. This easement sets aside over 80 acres for wildlands, with the remainder as a "Homestead Zone" where the Rogers have their home, garden and other improvements, and may also build another house. Another 10 acres is reserved for potential timber harvest.

**WANT TO HELP PROTECT ANDERSON
VALLEY'S NATURAL BEAUTY & RESOURCES?
STEWARD PROTECTED LANDS?**

The Anderson Valley Land Trust is seeking a talented, motivated and skilled person to serve as our **salaried part-time Program Coordinator**. Working with the AVLT Board, this person will be responsible for stewardship of conserved land, fundraising, building membership and volunteers, working on new conservation projects, public outreach and education. We seek someone with a Bachelor's degree and/or work experience in natural resources management, agriculture, forestry, conservation, land-use planning, real-estate, or related fields. You must have knowledge and familiarity with Mendocino County, especially Anderson Valley. General computer skills, including word processing, spreadsheets and databases are needed, as is the ability to work well in a self-directed fashion and with a volunteer Board of Directors. Competitive compensation with benefits.

Contact Susan Addison 895-2103 for more information

AVLT Volunteer Profile: Patrick and Jane Miller

By Susan Addison

Twelve years ago when it became apparent that they were about to outgrow their East Bay work space, Patrick and Jane Miller decided to look for a new location for their landscape architecture business, 2 M Associates. They had several requirements for the new place. It needed to be within two hour's drive of the Bay Area, in an area that was not likely to grow rapidly into an urban center and a place where clean air and open spaces were the norm. They eventually found the perfect location in Philo in the Anderson Valley. Here they discovered a tranquil valley with appealing seasonal change, 35 miles along a winding road that seemed like a barrier to rapid development. The communities were small, but the residents were friendly and appeared to be committed to preserving the rural nature of the location. As they began to build their barn/work/living place they realized that it would be important for them to make a connection with the community beyond just being here.

Patrick and Jane have been working on projects around the Bay Area involving park planning and trail development. These projects call upon their special talents – Jane's in plant identification and Patrick in organizing spaces that work. It also fulfills their goal of being good stewards of the land.



When they met Connie Best and learned about the Anderson Valley Land Trust, it only seemed natural to them to help conserve what they loved about their new home, so Patrick and Jane volunteered to help draw up baseline documentation for conservation easements.. Their special skills and commitment to stewardship were just what were needed to produce the maps and descriptions of the land and its resources that are part of any conservation easement. This is meticulous and time consuming work as one must become very familiar with the land in order to describe it carefully to guide future monitoring of easement compliance. The Millers have completed three baseline projects for AVLT and are working on two more. Their commitment to giving something back to the community in which they live has contributed significantly to the success of AVLT in its conservation work. As a volunteer organization AVLT relies on the talents and labors of generous people such as Patrick and Jane Miller. We are very grateful to them for their support of the work of the Land Trust.

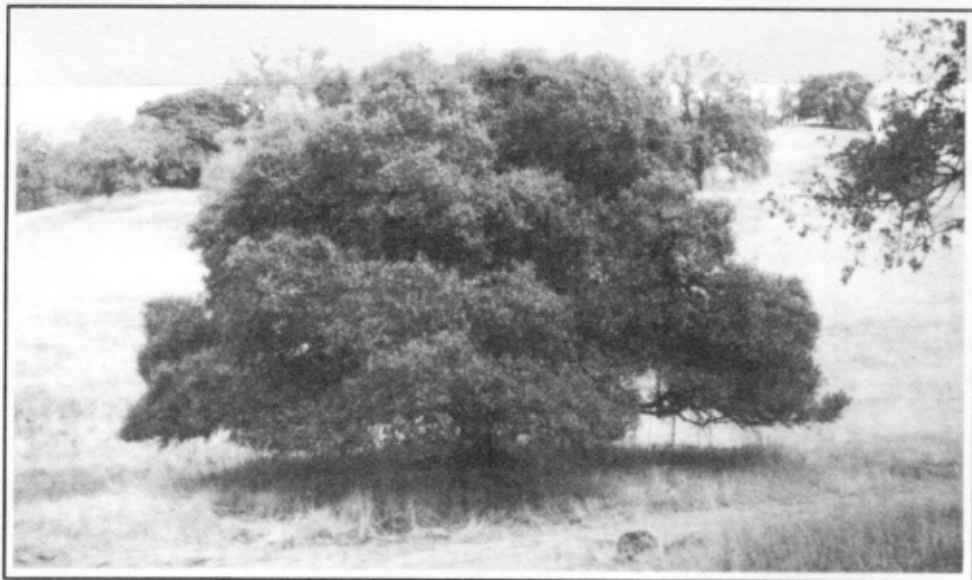
Shreve Oak Discovered at Sheep Dung Estates

New Northern Range for California Oak

By Susan Addison, AVL T Secretary

To help identify a plant botanists usually specify where a plant is located geographically. Some plants are known to grow only in a very small area and others may be found in several locations around the world. This geographic designation is called the range of a plant. The range of a plant can be one of several tools used to identify a plant. However, occasionally plants that fit all the descriptors of a certain species except the range will be found. Then begins the careful process of verifying that this is indeed the correct identification of the species in this new range.

Such a discovery occurred recently here in Anderson Valley, when in fall of 1996 Lois Weeth found several evergreen oaks at Sheep Dung Estates that puzzled her. Given the geographic location she expected to find *Quercus wislizeni*, commonly called Interior Live Oak. But these trees did not look like what she knew as Interior Live Oak. When she looked at the trees more closely there were several differences that made her think she had found a new species in this location. The dense dark green growth, the generally entire leaves with long petioles and the shape of the acorns were characteristics of another species, *Quercus parvula shrevei*. This subspecies has recently been identified but its range was not known to be as far north as Mendocino County.



Do you have Shreve Oak on your property too?

Lois, a native of California often took walks with her father to "greet the natives". He emphasized the importance of knowing the scientific names of plants. She studied botany at Davis so her interest in the flora of California has been life long. When she found the trees in question at Sheep Dung Estates she contacted Professor John M. Tucker at Davis, who wrote the section on Oaks in the Jepson Manual, the authoritative source for information about California native flora. He asked Lois to collect more plant material from these oaks for him, and thus began a four-year project to verify that these were indeed Shreve Oaks. Lois has mapped the locations of the trees, described the habitat and companion plants and developed a land use history.

This careful collection of plant samples and habitat information is being done in order to provide information for a paper Dr. Tucker is writing on this extension of range for the Shreve oak to be published in Fremontia, a magazine published by the California Native Plant Society. While I walked with Lois to look at the Shreve Oak, she was collecting branches to send to Dr. Tucker to be photographed for inclusion with the paper. She was also collecting acorns for him so he could send them to colleagues in the Midwest to grow for live specimens for study.



The distinctive leaves and acorns of the Shreve Oak

The subject of acorns led her to talk about a pet project of hers, the planting of acorns. We have all heard that "from tiny acorns mighty oaks grow", but in fact there are few new seedlings growing under our mighty California oaks. Cattle, sheep, deer and wild pigs all eat acorns or browse the seedlings so very few new trees make it to maturity. Lois thinks it is time for us to step in and give the trees a hand. The instructions are really quite simple, but there is not room here to publish them. If you would like a copy of the instructions please call the AVLT office at 895-3150 and we will mail you a copy. You can leave a living legacy to the Anderson Valley by planting and nurturing our native oaks.

**Join your neighbors -- Become
a member of the Anderson Valley Land Trust**

Work to help preserve the abundant natural resources of
this valley for the benefit of generations to come.

Volunteer to help:

Organize workshops and events.

Produce this newsletter.

Monitor conservation easements.

We can't do it without you!

Call Laurie Wayburn at 895-3150

Navarro Watershed Restoration News

Bioengineering . . . Streamlined Permitting . . . Landowner Assistance

By Dick Jordan

Navarro Watershed Coordinator - Mendocino Co. Resource Conservation District

Good Dirt? In Anderson Valley there's a lot of it. We see the benefits in good gardens and local agriculture. It's also visible on our dusty vehicles, muddy roads and in brown winter streams. Water quality and good dirt are related. They don't mix well. In the Navarro, too much of our soil finds its way into the streams, filling pools and widening channels. This in turn has a rebound effect causing increased streambank erosion, which removes more riparian vegetation and reduces shade canopy. Subsequently, water temperatures rise. Plant and animal species become stressed and threatened.

The local world class salmon and steelhead fishing that once seemed boundless is in fact limited by excessive temperatures and high levels of sediment in our streams. Why is this of any concern? These fish are an "indicator species" at the top of their food chain and very adaptable. Their diminishing numbers represent an alarming sign that dramatic ecological changes are taking place.

The Environmental Protection Agency has now officially listed the Navarro River and its tributaries as temperature and sediment impaired. The National Marine Fisheries Service has listed the native salmon and steelhead as threatened. What does this mean? There are more requirements placed upon issuing land use permits as potential impacts are reviewed. As growth and development continue, what can be done? Practices can be implemented that will minimize negative impacts in the watershed and improve current conditions. As our hillsides erode, our entire community's quality of life is at risk.



Navarro-by-the-Sea circa 1880 (photo courtesy of Jeff Burroughs)



The town of Wendling around 1915 - 20, where Navarro is now located. Anderson Valley's history includes cycles of intensive use and recovery. Natural and human impacts have shaped our landscape through time. (photo courtesy of Jeff Burroughs)

Recently the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) has partnered with the Coastal Conservancy to implement recommendations of the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan (NWRP) through on the ground restoration projects. Recent activities include:

In July, a restoration workshop was held in Boonville. An excellent slide show as presented by Evan Engber of Bioengineering Associates demonstrating state of the art erosion control techniques using live vegetation.

Also, representatives from four of the Federal and State Agencies involved in issuing permits for restoration projects made presentations explaining the permit process. They had the opportunity to hear residents' frustrations and concerns and see how differently they interpreted the same regulations. It was clear to all present that interagency communication needs improvement. The MCRCD is now working on streamlining the permit process. We hope to have an agreement in place with these agencies by the end of 2001 that will allow particular practices known to have beneficial impact on water quality to be pre-qualified for the required permits. This should allow timelier implementation and reduced project costs.

Other specific projects currently being developed with private landowners in the watershed include some designed to stabilize eroding stream-banks, perform road assessments, implement recommended road upgrades and protect riparian zones while speeding recovery of degraded areas. We're also seeking the best ways to create off stream storage ponds for irrigation purposes with minimum impact to the streams. The overall goal is to reduce sediment delivery and lower water temperatures through local resident participation. The effect will be more stable stream-banks, better roads, and protected corridors that will benefit all in the watershed: human and non-human alike. Technical assistance and funding support for such projects are now available to private landowners. Residents of the Navarro watershed hold the key to the future health of our resource community. The quality of life that we enjoy is a precious gift. For further information about how to reduce erosion and improve fish habitat on your land or for copies of the NWRP please call Dick Jordan at the MCRCD. 468-9223 ext.3

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Join the Anderson Valley Land Trust

"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.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership Category:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer (\$100) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor (\$500) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter (\$50) | <input type="checkbox"/> Charter (\$1000) |

Thank you!

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:

The Anderson Valley Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box One, Yorkville CA 95494