

THE
**ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST**
INCORPORATED



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GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of The Anderson Valley Land Trust
Fall - Winter 2000-2001 ~~2001-2002~~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AVLT! WHERE WE'VE BEEN, WHERE WE'RE GOING

Over one hundred friends, supporters, and dignitaries celebrated the Anderson Valley Land Trust's tenth anniversary at a lawn party on September 22nd. Hosted by Susan and Michael Addison at their home in Boonville, the celebration also featured presentations from the California Legislature, The U.S. Congress, and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to mark AVLT's decade of grassroots land conservation. Officials who offered remarks and presented resolutions from their legislative bodies included State Senator Wes Chesbro, Fifth District Supervisor David Colfax, and Kendall Smith, representing Congressman Mike Thompson. Senator Chesbro acknowledged Assemblywoman Virginia Strom-Martin's support for AVLT although she could not be in attendance. Music was provided by members of Off The Cuff, and catering was by the Boonville General Store. Wine for the event was donated by Greenwood Ridge, Lone Tree and Navarro Vineyards.

The Addison home was an apt venue at which to mark AVLT's anniversary. As the former home of John Scharffenberger it was the site of the first meetings of concerned landowners to discuss the environmental and developmental threats to Anderson Valley's way of life. From these meetings, the Anderson Valley Land Trust was formed in 1991.

The local visionaries who founded the Anderson Valley Land Trust saw the Valley as a place to enjoy a life surrounded by peace and beauty. They realized that the rural, agricultural nature of the Valley, its small town rhythms, the respect and cooperation between neighbors, and the unspeakable beauty of the hillsides, forests, fields, and waterways had been damaged and threatened in the past and would face unpredictable pressures in the future. Among the common concerns at these first meetings were how best to preserve the land they love, to keep land in families rather than losing it to estate taxes, to avoid subdivisions, and to see the valley not become overly 'built up'. It was, and remains clear that Anderson Valley is changing. It has been 'discovered'. Newcomers and old-timers alike love it, although the danger is of it being 'loved to death', and in the process transformed into the sprawling development that characterizes so much of California. These issues and concerns brought about the beginnings of the Anderson Valley Land Trust. Among those who formed the first Board of Directors for the AVLT were Connie Best, John Scharffenberger, Bill Chambers, Joel Clark, Micki Colfax, Barbara Goodell, and Norm Clow. **(continued on next page)**

10th Anniversary Fete (continued from page 1)

The vision of the founders was for the AVLT to serve as a forum for discussing the public planning issues before the community so that we may take our destiny into our own hands. An essential part of this proactive mission includes the acquisition of conservation easements on privately held property in Anderson Valley. While each easement is as unique as the property it protects, all are designed to further the well being of the Navarro River Watershed. The easements are donated voluntarily, and are custom tailored to the characteristics of the land and the interests of the landowner. The landowner relinquishes no rights concerning ownership and transfer of the property, and public access to the land under easement is not a requirement. Entered into the deed, in perpetuity, are such provisions as limitations or prohibitions on logging, drawing water from streams, road building, subdivision, and further building. These provisions help protect the viewshed for all of us, as well as preserving habitat for wildlife, and lessening sedimentation and increasing water flows in our streams, which promotes the return of salmon and steelhead.

In its ten years of operation, AVLT has succeeded in placing about 700 environmentally valuable acres, on ten properties, under perpetual protection. Five of those easements were acquired in the year 2000 alone, and we expect 2001 to be almost as productive. The first easement was donated by Scharffenberger Cellars in Philo, now known as Pacific Echo Cellars, and protects Indian Creek as it runs through the property, and a significant swatch of riparian land with old growth redwoods. **(See the article in our center pages for details on the easements held by AVLT)**

Consistent with the mission envisioned by its founders, AVLT took an active role in the planning, field research, and completion of the extensive Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan. AVLT provided not only a large part of the project's funding by acquiring grants and through the generosity of its members, but also contributed hundreds of hours to the management of the project through the efforts Connie Best, Julia McIver, Dennis Slota, and Dan Sicular.

Another vital element to AVLT's mission is public education. AVLT serves as a clearinghouse of information relating to land use and watershed protection, and conducts at least two workshops or community forums annually to address issues related to conservation and to provide instruction on land use practices. AVLT publishes a newsletter twice annually that includes updates about AVLT's activities and presents information on sound land use practices.

When the AVLT was founded in 1991, it was one of about 900 land trusts in the United States, and we enjoyed the moral and financial support of 30 contributing members. Today there are twice that many land trusts, indicative of the heightened awareness of private citizens to preserve land and resources, and our annual donor list has grown to nearly 200 members. Our success over these ten years portends well for the future. We are not a government agency, nor do we pursue lawsuits. Our focus is on the personal and private actions that individuals can take to protect and restore the ecosystem for the benefit of wildlife, natural resources, and the community at large.



AN OLD ROSE IN THE VALLEY

by Susan Addison

As the white settlers moved west and made new homes they brought with them many remembrances from their old lives. Some of these treasures have survived over 150 years and we can still count them as part of our heritage. This is true of a special rose that was brought to the Valley in 1856 by Beth Tuttle's great, great grandmother, Susan Stubblefield. The rose was given to Susan as a wedding gift from her mother who presented it saying "My mother's mother brought it from France." There are large specimens of this beautiful old rose growing in the Tuttle's backyard as well as at Evergreen Cemetery and the Health Center in Boonville. Thanks to the efforts of Ken Montgomery there are several other smaller ones in various spots around the Valley. Ken propagated cuttings of the Grandma Stubblefield rose to be sold at the Boonville Farmers Market this past summer as a benefit for the Anderson Valley Historical Society. Twenty roses sold like hot cakes and should now be gracing fences and arbors with their slender scrambling branches and delicate pink flowers. The history of this rose and Grandma Stubblefield and her adventures are recorded in *The Grandma Stubblefield Rose*, a book written by Beth and her brother, Dennie Burke Willis. If you would like to learn more about the early days here in Boonville and environs you can purchase the book at the Historical Museum when it is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

10 YEARS OF LAND STEWARDSHIP: OUR EASEMENTS

Chances are, if you own land in Anderson Valley you have a deep appreciation of the wondrous intricacies of nature and of how fragile the balancing act of 'walking softly' on the earth can be. In AVLT's ten years, we have acquired conservation easements on ten properties in Anderson Valley that are assets well worth preserving so that future generations can enjoy the same beauty and bounties with which we have become familiar. Here is a look at properties we have had placed under easement, and the generous land owners and stewards who have backed up their conservation principles with a gift that benefits us all.

PACIFIC ECHO CELLARS

Originally Scharffenberger Cellars, this property in Philo was AVLT's first easement. Completed in 1992, this easement covers 63 acres. John Scharffenberger, in his capacity as President and Director of Scharffenberger Cellars, responded to a growing concern in the community regarding the degradation of the Indian Creek watershed from logging, increased water usage, and on-going sedimentation and other erosion problems. The reduction of water quality and quantity in Indian Creek was clearly evident, and detrimental to the native salmon fishery of the Navarro watershed. The resulting Conservation Easement protects in perpetuity the riparian habitat, forestland, riparian water sources and open space of the Indian Creek floodplain, as well as the in stream habitat of Indian Creek itself where it flows through the former Scharffenberger Ranch

YGGDRASIL LAND FOUNDATION

Finalized in 2000, this easement was donated by Agriperpetua, Inc., and succeeded in ownership by the Yggdrasil Land Foundation. Encompassing 87 acres between Anderson Valley Way and Anderson Creek, this easement protects significant scenic, aquatic, forest, and agricultural resources, including relatively natural redwood, oak, woodland, and riparian forest ecosystems, including riparian canopy along Anderson Creek. In addition to other conservation values, the property also includes a half-mile of Anderson Creek and two other unnamed tributaries to the Navarro River, supporting fish and other aquatic life including steelhead.



Bob Nye (2nd from right), GM of Pacific Echo Cellars and some of his crew.



Pete and Flo Bates

PETE AND FLO BATES

Pete and Flo Bates donated a conservation easement on their 80 acre Philo property in 1999. Pete is a current Board Member of AVL T. The Bates' goal in creating their conservation easement was to allow the forest on their property to be restored to an old growth condition and to help protect and restore the salmonid fishery of the Mill Creek system, a major tributary of the Navarro River. The purpose of this easement is four-fold: to protect the open forested redwood-Douglas-fir ecosystem, to protect associated fish and wildlife habitats, to protect the water resources of Little Mill Creek, and to maintain the capacity of the property for forest management that is consistent with the restoration of old-growth forest characteristics.



Dan Dodt



Bud and Pauline Ledbetter

DAN DODT

This easement was donated to AVL T in 1994 by founding (and current) Board Member Connie Best. The property is on Elkhorn Road in Yorkville, and is 41 acres in size and is currently owned by Dan Dodt. This easement is significant in that it is the first property in Mendocino County to be sold while under a conservation easement, confirming our belief that reasonable restrictions in the interest of the environment would not deter prospective buyers from considering the purchase of a property. The primary provisions of this easement include a prohibition on subdividing the property (it could have been split into two 20 acre parcels), commercial timber harvest, and various activities within the riparian zone that might impact that area or instream flows, creek alteration, most cutting of trees, livestock grazing and development or use of water.

BUD AND PAULINE LEDBETTER

The Ledbetter Easement, off Mountain View Road outside of Boonville, features 30 acres of open and relatively natural Redwood-Douglas fir and Montane Hardwood-Conifer forest ecosystems. Protected under the easement are fish and wildlife, both instream and terrestrial, as well as significant water resources including that of Honey Creek.

TODD AND MARGARET EVANS

Placed under easement in 1993, the two parcels on the Evans' Wellspring property in Philo total 50 acres. The Evans easement includes nearly a half-mile section of the Navarro River as well as open timberland. Protecting this property not only provides natural riparian and instream habitat for native plants, wildlife, steelhead, and coho salmon, but its adjacency to Hendy Woods State Park contributes to the biological integrity and well-being of this significant old-growth redwood forest preserve.

PAUL AND MELODY HALLER

In the year 2000 Paul and Melody Haller donated a conservation easement on their Shenoa Retreat property in Philo. This 160 acre zone, adjacent to the Evans' property, features open mixed evergreen and riparian forests, meadows, and a 6,210-foot section of Rancheria Creek and the Navarro River, plus more than 800-feet of an unnamed tributary. Also adjacent to Hendy Woods State Park, the Haller Easement, along with the Evans' property, provides contiguous protection along a significant portion of our beloved and threatened river, as well as old-growth redwoods.

JOHN AND ANDREA LACAMPAGNE

This easement, donated to AVLT by Hap Tallman in 1993, is currently under the ownership and stewardship of John and Andrea LaCampagne. These 40 acres on Perry Gulch near Navarro, feature a section of an unnamed tributary to the Navarro River which possesses habitat for native plants, wildlife, and aquatic organisms. The water flow supports habitat on the Navarro for steelhead and coho salmon. Also supported by the property is an upland redwood ecosystem providing habitat for dependent native plant and wildlife species.

LAURIE WAYBURN AND CONNIE BEST

Donated by AVLT Board Members Laurie Wayburn and Connie Best in 2000, this 40 acre easement on Deer Meadow Road in Boonville features forest, grassland, and water resources which provide important fish and wildlife habitat. The easement also protects redwood-Douglas fir forest and oak woodland ecosystems. In addition, the property includes a portion of Con Creek, and the subsequent watershed values promotes the health of the Navarro River as a habitat for steelhead, and coho salmon.



Todd and Marg Evans



Laurie Wayburn and Connie Best

JOHN AND ANDREA LACAMPAGNE

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KENT AND ANNE ROGERS

The land protected by the Rogers easement, donated in 2000, covers 100 acres on Peachland Road in Boonville. The conservation values on the property include a mixed conifer ecosystem, rare residual old-growth and older second-growth redwood stands, meadows, and seasonal creeks that provide diverse habitats for plants and animals. Watershed values contribute to the provision of clean, cool, water for a variety of beneficial uses, including fish and wildlife habitat, downstream recreation, and water supplies.



John and Andrea LaCampagne



Kent and Anne Rogers

RIPARIAN PLANTS WORKSHOP OCTOBER 28TH

Ken Montgomery will conduct a workshop on native riparian plants on Sunday, October 28th. Montgomery, of Anderson Valley Nursery, will present an overview of the process of native plant propagation and a demonstration of seed collecting techniques. The time of the workshop is from 10AM to 2PM at the Mendocino Natives Nursery greenhouse, located at Anderson Valley High School.

Part of the workshop will be conducted on the Anderson Creek restoration demonstration site next to the High School Agriculture Department. Those attending should bring a lunch, water, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes. As we return to Pacific Standard Time the night before, make sure your clocks are set accordingly.

A registration fee of \$10 per person or \$15 for families and land partners will be charged, and you may register by contacting Patty Madigan, Navarro Watershed Coordinator, at 707-964-0395.

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

The Anderson Valley Land Trust has set a goal of raising \$20,000 this year to continue the important conservation work we have begun over the first ten years. Your contribution will help us make the next ten years even more productive.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing
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I wish to support AVLT at the following level:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 |
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Thank you!

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:
The Anderson Valley Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 141 Boonville, CA 95415