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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION
AND RESTORATION OF OUR UNIQUE
RURAL LANDSCAPE WITH ITS
ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR THE BENEFIT OF
FUTURE GENERATIONS.

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust
Fall - Winter 2004

WATERSHED PROTECTION A LAND TRUST PRIORITY

In the fall of 1994 the Anderson Valley Land Trust joined forces with The Coastal Conservancy and the Mendocino County Water Agency to develop a restoration plan for the Navarro Watershed. Many public meetings were held, volunteers made field surveys, and over the period of four years, thanks to hours and hours of work on the part of many people, a comprehensive plan was developed and published. Now four more years have passed and work on the restoration plan is taking place in several locations throughout the watershed.

Patty Madigan, the Navarro Watershed Coordinator, has been instrumental in finding funding for road restoration, riparian corridor and native plant enhancement projects. She has also secured grants for creek restoration projects, including one in Boonville on Robinson Creek. The local community has contributed time and energy to this project by helping with various clean-up days. In 2003 several high school students participated as a part of their Community Action Day and in May of that same year volunteers from the Land Trust also worked to clean up the creek as well. This is an ongoing project that will take time, but it will result in a much healthier environment both for the animals that depend upon the creek and for the people who live near it.

If you have been reading *Good Dirt* over the years you know that we have long been committed to water issues and as we acquire more easements we will continue to make watershed protection an important priority. In 1994 we had conservation easements on 202 acres of land and three of these easements included watershed protection. Today we have 14 conservation easements on 849 acres of land and twelve of them provide watershed protection. The chart on the following page identifies the landscape values that are protected by of each of our easements.

We are currently working with several more landowners to develop conservation easements that will protect the forests, streams and animals and ultimately contribute to the preservation of Anderson Valley and the Navarro Watershed.

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CONSERVATION EASEMENTS – One by One We Make a Difference

For 13 years the Anderson Valley Land Trust has been diligently working with property owners to preserve over 840 acres of land in Anderson Valley through conservation easements. These lands remain under private ownership and management, but are subject to conservation easements through which the landowners have voluntarily restricted future development on their properties. The table below lists these easements and highlights the key landscape values that are now protected in perpetuity for the benefit of future generations. These values are at the core of the question most often asked of the Land Trust: “Why as property owners would we want to place a conservation easement on our land?”

Name	Acreage	Key Landscape Values Protected by the Conservation Easement
AgriPerpetua / Yggdrasil	87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed and Riparian Habitat Protection (Anderson Creek) • Organic Agriculture • Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation
Ashton	86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed and Riparian Habitat Protection / Water Quality (Mill Creek) • Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation
Bates	80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed and Riparian Protection / Water Quality (Little Mill Creek) • Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation
Best / Dodt	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Habitat Protection
Evans (Wellspring)	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation • Watershed and Riparian Habitat Protection / Water Quality (Navarro River)
Goodell	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecology • Watershed Protection (Mill Creek) • Scenic Backdrop (as seen from Highway 128)
Haller (Shenoa Retreat)	160	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation • Agriculture • Watershed and Riparian Habitat Protection (Navarro River) • Grassland Conservation
Ledbetter / Soderman	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Rehabilitation • Watershed Protection (Honey Creek)
Morris / Brown	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecology • Watershed Protection (Greenwood Creek)
Rogers	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest and Grassland Ecology Protection
Scharffenberger / Roederer	63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed / Riparian Habitat Protection (Indian Creek) • Water Quality and Supply
Tallman/Johnson	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Protection / Water Quality (Perry Gulch) • Wetlands / Habitat Protection
Tallman / La Campagne	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecology / Timber Conservation • Watershed Protection / Water Quality (Perry Gulch)
Wayburn-Best	40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Ecology / Timber Production • Watershed Protection (Con Creek)
TOTAL	851	

ART AUCTION



Bud and Pauline Ledbetter frequently visited Anderson Valley from their home in Oklahoma. They owned thirty acres off of Mountain View Road and took great pleasure in the natural beauty of their land. In December of 2000 they signed a conservation easement with The Anderson Valley Land Trust that allowed them to protect and restore the Redwood/Douglas-fir forest on their property as well as to provide protection for the riparian habitat along Honey Creek. Sadly, Pauline fell ill and passed away a couple of years later and Bud decided to sell the property. As a parting gift to the Land Trust he has donated seven works of art by Paula Gray that he and Pauline had collected over the years.

There are two white ceramic plates with black images on them ("Singing Dog" and "Cat with Bird"); three fabric pieces ("Goat", "Chow Dog", and "Night Watchman"); and a black and white lino print of a goat, "Zydeco." All of these works date from the early 1990's and are mainly in media Paula is not using at present.

We will have a live auction of these rare and unusual pieces by Paula Gray on Saturday, November 6, 2004. The proceeds will be added to our Pioneer Stewardship Fund, which is earmarked to help support stewardship grants for landowners who wish to place conservation easements on their land but do not have the means to make the necessary grant to the stewardship fund. Bud has generously offered to match the amount raised from the sale of these pieces at the auction.



Paula has also donated one of her new works to the auction and in addition four other local artists, Charlie Hochberg, Colleen Schenck, and Torrey Douglass and Alan Thomas have each donated one of their works of art. If you would like to join us for A Zydeco Evening including a Cajun dinner with local wines for \$35.00 per person, please send your check to AVLT, P.O. Box 141, Boonville, CA 95415. Reservations must be made in advance as space is limited.

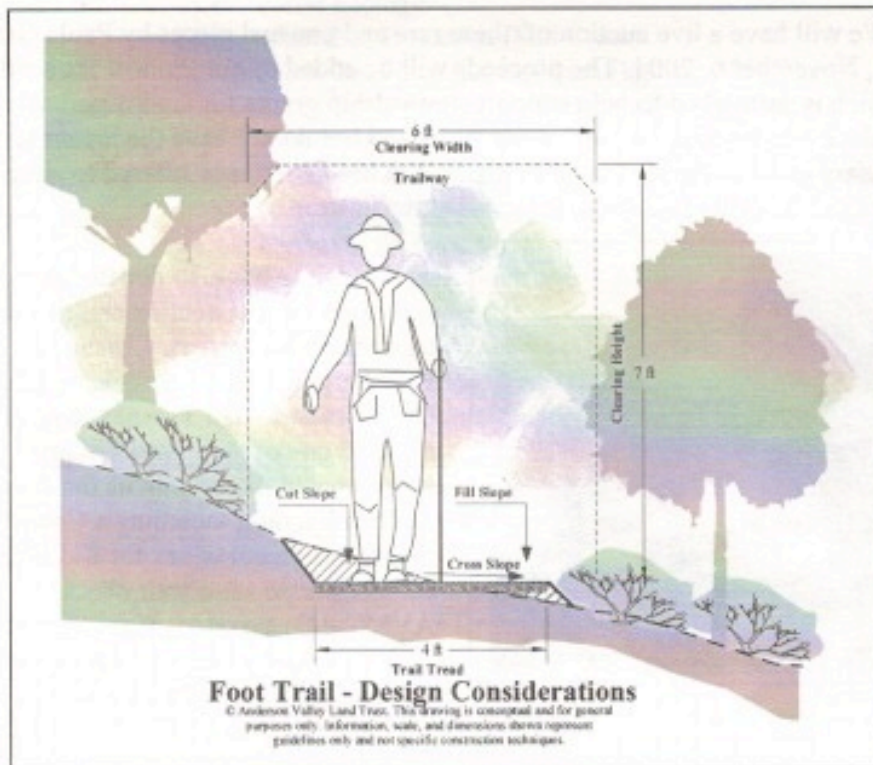
On the Trail

By Barbara Goodell

Where shall I walk? The importance of having functional, aesthetic, environmentally sound trails on your land was amply demonstrated on a crystal clear, early June afternoon when Patrick and Jane Miller took a group of interested pedestrians on a tour of their Philo Gardens' trails system. Though Patrick and Jane are landscape architects by profession, they emphasized basic design principles we all can implement to access, enhance, and further appreciate our land.

Some of the topics touched on in the workshop included:

- How a topographic map helps to visualize and plan a trail system
- Identifying "points" that guide the trail system layout
- How to identify "route options" for connecting the points
- How to treat streams and drainage
- The advantages of loop trails
- How the dynamics of cross-slope conditions affect a trail
- Basic tools and techniques for constructing foot trails
- Where steps and bridges are really needed
- How to create a comfortable and visually interesting trail
- Where a straight trail is appropriate
- How different trees in Anderson Valley affect trail layout and maintenance





Though steep or barren terrain can be challenging we can sometimes take tips from the deer trails where contour prevails over gravity to create well-designed trails.

When you have constructed inviting trails that have easy access from your living space you create a lure for exercise, encourage appreciation for seemingly remote portions of your landscape and provide ways to share your land with visitors.

Many thanks to Patrick and Jane for hosting this well-attended AVLT workshop and to the many happy trails it will inspire.





MISTLETOE
 (*Phorodendron villosum*)
 By Jane E. Miller

The common plant name 'Mistletoe' conjures up for many people thoughts of the winter holidays. Is Mistletoe a plant under which to kiss someone, or is Mistletoe that slow killer of the oak tree out front? Like many plants, Mistletoe's traits are not so simply summed up. There are three different genera and a number of species that share the common name of Mistletoe. All are members of the *Loranthaceae* plant family. And all are well-known for their symbolism, although these are different from region to region.

In Anderson Valley, *Phorodendron villosum* is the Mistletoe commonly seen hanging from tree branches, especially favoring

oaks. Two other species of *Phorodendron* are noted to live in Mendocino County on Cypress and Incense Cedar trees. Often adding a patina of yellow-green color to the mixed evergreen forest association, *Phorodendron* bears small thick oval-shaped leaves that feel somewhat leathery with a rough, felt-like covering. Mostly inconspicuous flowers are followed by noticeable waxy, whitish berries, which are relished by birds. These winged messengers account for much of *Phorodendron*'s distribution; but the plant is considered toxic to humans, so sampling the berries is best left to the bluebirds!

This quasi-parasitic plant inserts its feeding apparatus, called "haustoria", under the tree's bark, and although gleaned sustenance from the host plant's water and nutrients, Mistletoe does possess chlorophyll so it can pull some of its own weight. This means that it may stress its host but is unlikely to kill it unless infestation is severe. Sources vary on this point, however; some state that Mistletoe will eventually deplete its host's resources, with the dwarf form within another genus, *Arceuthobium campylopodum*, considered the most destructive. This particular species occurs most often on coniferous trees.

But back to thoughts of the winter holidays. Although the local *Phorodendron*, which literally translates to "tree thief", is not the same plant as its European cousin, *Viscum album* of legend, both plants are intrinsically linked to ancient folklore. Native Americans in California believed that the life-spirit of the host tree retreated to the Mistletoe during the harsh winter period; the Druids of Celtic Europe held a similar belief when worshipping their own species which they considered a sacred plant that was much revered in their ceremonial gathering rituals. Since there exists virtually no written records of these priests of antiquity, the uses and meaning of Mistletoe is left to the interpretation of historians. Supposedly, only Mistletoe that grew on the deciduous oaks was collected and used in Druid pagan ceremonies, although Mistletoe grows on other species of trees in Europe as well. It is interesting

(continued on page 7)

THANK YOU!

We appreciate the support of the following friends during 2004

Sandhya Abee & Bob Tierney	Charles & Muriel Kittel
Joseph W. Aidlin	Al Korpela
Barbara Alhadef	Christopher & Martina Mann
Eric Anderson	Ken Montgomery & Susan
Rene & Judith Auberjonois	Bridge-Mount
James T. Ball	Elizabeth Murray
Stephen Barlow	Michael & Bonnie O'Halloran
Maureen & Michael Bowman	Judy Palmer
Coulter Claeys	William Palmer/Taylor
Mark & Mary Crozier	John & Meg Pelose
Brian & Janet Davis	F. Kathryn Porter
Dan Dodt & Linda Blacketer	Carroll & Carole Pratt
Laurens N. Garlington	Martin R. Riskin
Dore & Martha Griffinger	Roger & Ann Romani
John Hammerman	Barbara Scott
Morris & Charity Hirsch	Raymond & Susan Triplett
Charles Hochberg	Nikki & Jay Tureen
Robert L. Jones	Peter Wiley

Mistletoe – *continued from page 6*

to note the name “all-healer” is still given to Mistletoe in Celtic speech. In various European countries this plant is thought to possess marvelous powers of healing sickness or averting misfortune. In the book The Language of Flowers, Mistletoe is assigned the meaning “I surmount all difficulties”.

And what about the popular practice of “kissing under the Mistletoe”? The origins of this tradition are believed to be distinctively English. One form of the ritual found young men plucking a berry from the bough, each time kissing a girl. When all the berries were picked, the privilege ceased. To this day, stealing a kiss under the Mistletoe remains a custom, berries or not. Bringing Mistletoe into the home during the winter holidays may have originated as a way to anticipate the coming rebirth of spring, so blow a kiss to spring, which is just around the corner.

Upcoming Workshops on Road Construction!

In February we will have a meeting with experts to talk about road construction and in May we will have a walk on a recent road reconstruction project. Look for announcements in local media and posters around the Valley.

THE
**ANDERSON
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TRUST**
INCORPORATED



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PLEASE SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE WITH US

From time to time the Land Trust needs expert assistance in developing a conservation easement. If you have any of the special skills listed below and you would be willing to have your name on our resource list please give us a call at 895-3150.

- wildlife habitat management
 - native plant identification
 - grass identification – native and alien
 - forest management
 - river and/or wetland ecology
 - bird & animal identification
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