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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  
Spring – Summer 2004

## EXPANDED FUNDING FOR NAVARRO RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

By Patty Madigan

The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District was recently awarded \$713,000 for the coordination and implementation of identified restoration projects in the Navarro watershed. On August 6, 1999, the State Coastal Conservancy adopted the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan (NWRP). At that time, the Conservancy also authorized \$200,000 to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to begin implementing the Plan. The RCD has overseen coordination of community outreach, technical assistance, and project development over the past four years. During the period between 1999 and 2003, the RCD has implemented restoration projects in all of the five major sub-basins of the Navarro watershed. Of these sub-basins, two have been extensively addressed: 1) the Navarro Mainstem (including Mill Creek) and 2) North Fork Navarro. A community outreach campaign was launched and the Navarro Watershed Working Group (NWWG) was formed. To date, nearly 1 million dollars have been applied to implementation projects in the Navarro watershed through the RCD/State Coastal Conservancy partnership. Funding from additional sources matched Conservancy dollars more than 3:1 for Navarro projects.

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The second phase of the implementation and coordination effort will focus on road assessments and road restoration projects, riparian corridor and native plant enhancement, in three major sub-basins: Anderson Creek, Rancheria Creek, and Indian Creek. Projects included in the recent Conservancy grant had already been developed, and were required to have permits as a condition for funding. The Navarro watershed has the only operating permit coordination program north of Monterey Bay. Coordinated Permitting was piloted in 2003 with 5 projects. This program will be conducted over the next five years with an expectation of increased annual participation. A workbook version of the Navarro Plan is

anticipated to be a resource for enlisting a broad base of stakeholders in watershed restoration and stewardship, will be printed in 2004, and be available in local retail outlets, or through the RCD, soon! Over the next three years, the RCD/Conservancy partnership will continue to participate with the Navarro Watershed Working Group to expand participation in project development and community *(continued on page 2)*



education with the goal of sustaining community outreach. With NWWG and other restoration partners, we hope to establish a Cooperative Resource Center to provide assistance to landowners and community stakeholders in watershed restoration planning. To encourage an ethic of community restoration, the RCD, NWWG and restoration partners will develop strategies to ensure that the workshop series, Mendocino Natives Nursery and website are self-supporting.

Contracting woes have delayed the Robnson Creek Restoration Project, and the RCD anticipates beginning that project this summer or fall. For further information on Navarro restoration opportunities, please call Patty Madigan, Navarro Watershed coordinator at 707-964-0395, or email at [pmad@mcn.org](mailto:pmad@mcn.org). The Navarro Watershed Working Group meets the first Tuesday of the Month from 4 to 5:30pm at the firehouse in Boonville.

*Editor's note:* The Land Trust supported and participated in the development of the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan, from the fall of 1994 through to its completion in the summer of 1998. We want our readers to know how the restoration work is progressing and encourage participation.



The Navarro Watershed Working Group at the *Arundo donax* removal training, spring 2003—Photos by Linda Mac Elwee







## POISON OAK (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*)

By Bon Goodell

Much to the chagrin of many a landowner this native member of the pistachio, cashew and mango family readily grows near your house or on your trails. Yet it can be enjoyed from a safe distance for its beauty, its helpful role in erosion stabilization, providing berries and nesting sites for birds, its role as a nursery for young oaks, and its oil utilized as a spectacular black lacquer.

*Toxicodendron diversilobum* is found in most areas of the Western United States below 4,000 feet in the form of a vine, shrub, or in a thicket. Beyond its chameleon-like ability to adapt to a given environment, poison oak is also deciduous, making identification difficult at times. The most identifying characteristic is the three-lobed leaf with slick, shiny crimson foliage as it emerges in the very early spring; spring and summer green leaves; spectacular fiery red and yellow autumnal foliage with white berries; and light brown bark in the winter. Neither the vines nor the leaves are hairy or thorny like those of edible berries.

Beyond its painful notoriety, poison oak plays an integral role in our ecosystem. It is a species that thrives in disturbed areas of earth. In the wake of fires, grazing, flooding, or slides poison oak will be one of the first plants to take root. It is one of the most difficult plants to eliminate from the landscape due to its extensive, highly regenerative root system's ability to resist fire and drought.

Though not related, poison oak and oak trees grow more frequently together than apart. There is thought to be a symbiotic relationship between the two species and poison oak's shrubbery provides protection for emerging young oaks.

Early explorers took poison oak back to Europe for its ornamental qualities. The Chinese have used its unguent, urushiol, the toxic oil, as a shiny black glaze in their lacquer ware and American Indians created designs in their baskets with its oil. It has been used both in Europe and America in the pharmacopoeia.

Urushiol is in every part of the plant, except the pollen, and contact causes a severe rash among roughly three-quarters of the exposed human population. Urushiol binds to cells deep in the epidermis within 3 to 30 minutes after contact. The rash itself is the result of the body's immune system reacting in an effort to purge the poison. The affected area, even the excruciatingly painful, itching, oozing eruptions of the rash, are not contagious--only direct contact with oil causes the reaction.

Often the unwary victim does not know that he or she has been exposed to poison oak, however, active rinsing immediately after contact can greatly reduce the severity of the reaction. After the urushiol has bound to the skin there are no automatic cures beyond time and endurance. Mudpacks, Tecnu and other commercial products provide variable success. Extensive cases may require a doctor's visit. If you spend time outdoors, the best prevention is to learn to identify the many stages and forms of poison oak you may encounter and avoid it like the plague. A couple of helpful facts--urushiol can also be spread by smoke, and soap removes the body's own protective oils making clean skin more susceptible. So, shower after hiking, not before. And, of course, remember the old adage, 'leaves of three let it be, berries white poisonous sight'.



## WELCOME TO NEW OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

After working with Patrick Miller for a dozen years on documentation for our various conservation easements it seemed like time to ask him to join the Land Trust Board. Fortunately, he agreed to work with us in this new role while he continues to provide us with maps and his expertise in understanding plant communities.



Patrick is a landscape architect and planner. His work experience covers wildland and urban open space planning, public access planning, park planning, facility design, interpretive programming, and visual resource analysis. He and his wife Jane are partners in their landscape architecture business, 2M Associates. Fifteen years ago when it became apparent that they were about to outgrow their work space, Patrick and Jane decided to look for a new location for business. They eventually found the perfect location in Philo in Anderson Valley and have since built a

barn/work/living place where they now spend much of their time working on projects and tending their garden. In 1998 their Philo Garden received an *Award of Excellence* in Sunset's Western Garden Design Awards.

Patrick has worked on master plans for over twenty-five open space, park and recreation areas around California and the west. Many of these projects involved park planning and trail development. For example he was the Project Director for the award-winning Santa Clara County Trails Master Plan Update (an element of the County's General Plan) that involved routing studies for over 600 miles of shared use trails throughout the county. He also worked as a Consulting Planner for a 110 mile trail network extending from the Pacific Crest to the Pacific Ocean and for the Pacific Crest Trail Management Options Plan for trail segments managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the California Desert. His list of projects and awards is an impressive one and we are most fortunate to have his expertise to draw on as we work on our goals to preserve the land here in Anderson Valley.

### TRAILS WORKSHOP

As one of his first contributions as a Board Member Patrick has agreed to host a "trail siting and design workshop". He has invited us to come to his place in Philo on June 4 at 5pm where we will take a walk around his trail system and he will show us some very basic design principles and construction techniques. We are then invited to come back to his studio for a glass of wine and discussion about what the Land Trust is doing here in Anderson Valley. Please meet us at 4:30 at the Land Trust Office, 14125 Hwy 128 in Boonville. There we will arrange car pools and give everyone directions. Please do call us at 895-2103 to let us know you are coming.



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## MEET THE AVL T BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Over the past two years we have introduced you to three new Board Members, Lee Serrie, Ed Short and Patrick Miller. Their bios have appeared in past issues of Good Dirt, or in Patrick's case in this issue.

There are six more Directors that we would now like to reintroduce to you:

Susan Addison, is currently the President of the Land Trust. For the past year and a half she has been working as a volunteer one day a week in the AVL T office handling the ongoing business of the organization.

Karen Altaras joined the Board in 1999. She is our Treasurer and sits on the Outreach and Communications Committee, which is responsible for the publication of the semi-annual newsletter, arranging workshops, and coordinating volunteers

Pete Bates joined the Board in 2000. He is our Secretary and serves as chair of the Conservation Committee, which is responsible for developing new conservation easements.

Connie Best was the founder of the Land Trust in 1991. It is thanks to her that this organization began its important conservation work. She continues to work in developing many of our conservation easements.

Bill Chambers is also one of the founding Directors of the Land Trust. He is currently serving as chair of our Stewardship Committee, which is responsible for the yearly monitoring of each of our easements.

Barbara Goodell is another founding Director of the Land Trust. She has served as secretary in the past and is now chair of the Outreach and Communication Committee.

In addition to their individual responsibilities, each of our Board Members is responsible for the yearly monitoring of one or more of our conservation easements. We visit each property to talk with the landowner and discuss what they have done during the year that might effect the provisions of their easement. It is one of our priorities to have good working relations with all of our easement donors.

**AND NOW WE SAY MANY THANKS TO LAURIE WAYBURN** who was a Member of the Land Trust Board for eleven-years. She resigned from the Board last December. We owe much to Laurie for her years of service. She has been one of the principal authors and negotiators of our conservation easements and we will continue to draw on her expertise in this field. She served as President of the Board of Directors in 2000 and headed our Development Committee for several years. Thanks to her sparkling wit and way with words she has given our organization a sense of vibrancy that will stay with us even though she is no longer on our Board. She continues to devote much of her time and energy to conservation as she works in Santa Rosa with the Pacific Forest Trust, which is committed to preserving productive forestlands.

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## TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE MADE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

We say thank you. It is because of the generosity of these friends and neighbors in 2003 that the Land Trust has been able to have another successful year of land conservation here in our lovely Anderson Valley.

Susan & Michael Addison	T. Raymond Evans	Lanny & Sandy Parker
Karen Altaras	Jurgen & Barbara Fehr	Jed Pogran & Gary McGregor
Mary Stuart Alvord	Fetzer Vineyards	Lawrence & Kathleen Ratto
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Briana Burns	Hallomas, Inc.	John Scharffenberger
Bruce Cakebread	John M. Hammerman	John Schmitt - Boonville Hotel
Mark Carpenter	Mr. & Mrs Morris Hirsch	Barbara Scott
Lyman & Carol Casey	Walter & Susan Hopkins	Lee Serrie & Rob Guiliani
Cheryl Cathey	Martha Hyde	Ed & Ann Short
Patricia A. Caughey, M.D.	Robert L. Jones	Barry & Betsy Smith
William Chambers	Charles & Muriel Kittel	Stella Cadente Olive Oil
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Jose & Martha Diaz	Catherine Merschel	Bryant & Penny Whittaker
Dan Dodt & Linda Blacketer	John Merz & Carole Ross	Cindy Wilder
Elizabeth Dusenberry	Jane & Patrick Miller	Brad Wiley
Jean & Anne DuVigneaud	Dennis Mills & Neva Dyer	Nancy Witstine
East Bay Community Foundation	Cynthia Morris	Dorothy Witt
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Thom Elkjer	John & Susan Newstead	George Wolverton
	Michael O'Halloran	Steven & Nancy Wood
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**We also wish to thank** the following generous donors to the Pioneer Stewardship Fund

Kendall Jackson Winery  
Ed and Ann Short

Dan & Rae Sokolow  
Russell Wherritt

Wightman House  
Vineyard

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN 2004** as supporters of the Land Trust as we work to fulfill our mission of preserving and restoring our unique rural landscape with its abundant natural resources for the benefit of future generations, we would welcome your support. You will find an envelope enclosed for your convenience. If you have questions please call us at 895-2103.

## AVLT 2003 Financial Statements

The following summary of unaudited financial statements for 2003 was prepared by AVLT Treasurer Karen Altaras and bookkeeper Mary Anne Wilcox.

### Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2003

<b>Assets</b>	
Operating Accounts	21,426
Pioneer Stewardship Fund	3,100
Stewardship Endowment	77,340
Furniture/Equipment	821
Timber Rights*	<u>430,400</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>533,087</b>
 <b>Total Liabilities</b>	 <b>-0-</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
At Beginning of Year	514,398
Change in New Assets	18,689
At End of Year	<u>533,087</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$533,087</b>

### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets December 31, 2003

<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>	
Donations	17,120
Pioneer Stewardship Fund	3,100
Stewardship Endowment	0
Interest & Dividends	<u>1,759</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$21,979</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Dues, Maps & Subscriptions	425
Insurance	2,995
Miscellaneous	66
Office Supplies	328
Payroll	0
Postage & Delivery	1,190
Printing & Reproduction	2,769
Professional Fees	2,196
Rent	2,871
Special Events	0
Utilities	<u>845</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$13,685</b>

\*Timber Rights: We hold these rights in perpetuity and no logging is allowed.



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## Paula Gray Art Auction Coming This Fall



The Land Trust has been given a very special gift: six works of art by Paula Gray collected by Bud Ledbetter and his late wife, Pauline. He has sold his property here in Anderson Valley (protected by an easement with the Anderson Valley Land Trust) and donated these works in memory of his wife.

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

We plan to have a live auction of these rare and unusual pieces by Paula Gray in the fall to raise money for our Pioneer Stewardship Fund. This fund 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. As you will see in our financial report in this issue of "Good Dirt" we have made a good start on this fund and Bud's generous donation along with his offer to match the amount we raise at the auction will contribute strongly to the Pioneer Stewardship Fund.

If you would like to receive an invitation to this event please call us at 707 895-2103 to leave your name and address for our mailing list.