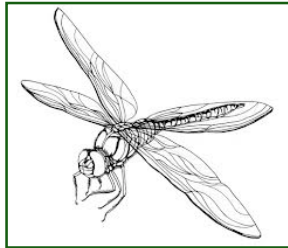


GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OUR UNIQUE RURAL LANDSCAPE
FALL-WINTER, 2016

DRAGONFLIES, DAMSELS, NEWTS AND OTHER DENIZENS OF THE DEEP

We are very pleased to announce an exciting collaboration between AVLT and [Sonoma State University](#) (SSU) and its Galbreath Wildlands Preserve (GWP) in Yorkville. When local rancher Fred Galbreath donated these 3,670 acres to SSU in 2004, he envisioned it playing a critical role in helping students of all ages learn from the earth and be prepared to address the environmental challenges of the future. By working with GWP, AVLT joins in this dream.



We are planning a series of learning journeys together to take place in 2017 and beyond. Many of them will be held on the preserve, where participants can learn from its varied landscapes and ecosystems. Preserve lands range from grasslands to dense hardwood forests, mixed Douglas fir and redwood stands, and riparian woodlands along Rancheria Creek and its tributaries in the Navarro watershed.

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Chamaecyparis lawsoniana – Port Orford Cedar

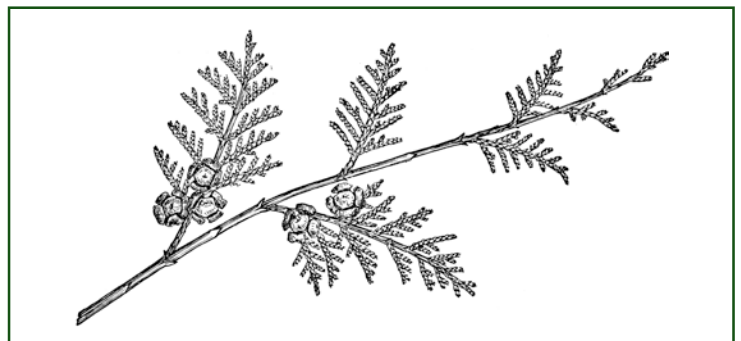
The Port Orford Cedar, also known by the common name Lawson Cypress, is - botanically - neither a cedar nor a cypress. It is in its own special genus, albeit one that includes many ornamental species. Indeed for a few years, when the 1993 edition of the [Jepson Manual of California flora](#) was published, this plant was placed in the genus *Cupressus*, rendering it a true cypress. However, the official botanical name has since reverted to *Chamaecyparis*. Difficult to keep up with nomenclature!

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FUTURE OF WORKING FORESTLAND PROTECTED WITH A NEW CONSERVATION EASEMENT

AVLT is proud to share the news that Allan Green has just signed a conservation easement on 114 contiguous acres of mixed forestland on Philo-Greenwood Road, approximately 7 miles west of Highway 128. The Green family first acquired property on Greenwood Road in 1971, when they purchased an old sheep ranch along with the remains of a vineyard that had been in operation during prohibition, up on what was euphemistically known as “Vinegar Ridge”. They later purchased a neighboring vineyard property planted by Tony Husch that provided many of the grapes for Allan’s successful Greenwood Ridge Vineyards, the first bonded winery in what is now the [Mendocino Ridge American Viticultural Area](#) (AVA). Over the years, the family purchased additional neighboring parcels as they became available. The new conservation easement will preserve undeveloped acreage of rugged forestland of redwoods, Douglas fir and tan oak. Allan’s conservation goals include maintaining and creating the structural characteristics of an older coast redwood forest with provisions that allow sustainable logging. He also wishes to protect the property from commercial development and subdivision, but has included provisions that will allow a limited amount of residential development for future owners.

Allan’s partnership with AVLT to ensure the conservation of his property is an example of a straightforward, but powerful effort to permanently protect this land for future generations.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

This year we added one Snyder to our Board (see the article on page 4) and lost another one. Steve Snyder stepped down after 7 years on the Board, including serving two years as President. He provided muscle and heft on monitoring, community outreach, and easement development. He took the lead on the Allan Green easement that we signed this month. He will continue to help with monitoring, to provide continuity on properties that he knows well. Thank you, Steve, for your excellent service to AVLT. And thanks for persuading your son, Jim, to join our Board.

Our new Board members, Nancy Hornor and Jim Snyder, have been busy getting up to speed on the substance of what we do. We are a working Board. While we bring different skill sets to the effort, everyone on the Board takes a role in making the judgments that we must sometimes make. These include whether or not to

pursue a particular easement opportunity, and how best to enforce an easement when we see violations occurring, or about to occur. Our two new Board members are thoughtful, hard-working, poised and good-humored people who I am confident will make a significant contribution to AVLT.

At AVLT we of course have officers, including a President. But our real-world organizational chart is actually fairly flat. We try to operate by consensus, in a collegial style. We follow the tradition of rotating the Presidency every few years—via a peaceful transfer of power, no less! I've served as President for 3 years. I have been honored to serve in that capacity. Now I will go back to being a regular Board member. I am pleased to announce that Patrick Miller will be our new President in 2017, supported by Steve Wood as Vice President. It is their turn to hold the baby. No worries. They will do a great job.

Your continuing support is the most valuable asset we have to continue our work. Thank you. And best wishes for the New Year.

Sincerely,

David Hopmann

President, AVLT Board of Directors



AVLT Summer Fundraiser a big success!

The picturesque setting of John Scharffenberger's Philo gardens was home to this summer's event benefitting AVLT. Guests enjoyed delicious food prepared by Chef Cory Morse and exceptional Anderson Valley wines under a perfect summer sky. Special thanks to John for hosting the event and providing some of the best oysters we have ever tasted.

The event raised \$6800 to support AVLT's on-going conservation efforts. We greatly appreciate the generous support of those of you who purchased tickets and the donors who contributed items for the silent auction, which was a huge success. We hope to see you all at our events and interpretive programs in the coming months.

Port Orford Cedar - continued

The species name and one common name are due to seeds having landed in Peter Lawson's nursery in Edinburgh Scotland in the 1850s. Seedlings showed many variations in color, form and foliage density; thus the multitude of cultivars available today in the nursery trade. The other common name derives from an area where these trees were once abundant in nature: Port Orford, Oregon. Indeed *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, although its native range extends south to the central Mad River drainage in Humboldt County, reaches its greatest majesty in the coastal Oregon, where it can attain heights of over 200 feet. Its characteristic look is of a graceful, weeping, densely foliated pyramidal conifer that sports tiny overlapping scales for leaves and may appear anywhere from bright green to bluish-gray. The cones are very cypress-like, but quite small - less than 1 inch in size - hard and rounded and often borne in profusion at branch tips.



Port Orford Cedar grows naturally in many habitats, ranging from dunes near the ocean to streambanks and slopes in forested areas, where it shares space with other tree species. Away from the coast it increasingly appears on serpentine soils. However, it is most likely to be seen at the coast, where it enjoys the mild temperatures and high humidity. It is also a long-lived tree, some specimens exceeding 600 years of age.

Unfortunately, a root rot fungus has attacked *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* in recent years, rendering the native population much smaller than it once was... although the species is still easily found under cultivation. So if you happen to be fortunate enough to come across one of these elegant trees in its natural habitat - consider yourself lucky. They are becoming rarer and rarer, so we should treasure those that are remaining!

Article by Jane Miller

Save-the-Dates for 2017

March 11 – Pond Ecology: Dragonflies, Damsels, Newts and Other Denizens of the Deep, Part One

[Kate Marianchild](#), naturalist and author of [Secrets of the Oak Woodlands](#), will use a variety of media and approaches to help you become familiar with pond ecology, including its plant, amphibian, insect and mammalian life through a lecture and learn format. Location TBD, but will be in Anderson Valley.

April 15 - Pond Ecology: Dragonflies, Damsels, Newts and Other Denizens of the Deep, Part Two

Kate will be joined by biology experts from Sonoma State University as we visit the Wood Duck Pond on the [Galbreath Wildlands Preserve](#). This natural pond sits on top of a ridge, is spring fed and contains water year round. The wildlife is abundant and active this time of year.

May 6 – A Walk in the Wildflowers

No one understands local wildflowers better than local experts and Anderson Valley boasts many of those. We have intentionally scheduled this immediately following Anderson Valley's Spring Wildflower Show and will invite two or three of these experts to join us on this walk in the Preserve.

If you wish to be on our email list or for more information on these events contact us at

<mailto:avlt@mcn.org> or call the office at 707-895-3150

AVLT WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS NANCY HORNOR AND JIM SNYDER

Nancy Hornor and her family have enjoyed their property in Philo since 1989, after falling in love with Anderson Valley over several years of camping with family and friends at Hendy Woods and on the coast. They have a vegetable garden and small orchard in Philo and have been regular participants/exhibitors in the Mendocino County Fair. They spend as much time as possible in AV and enjoy many of the local events, including AVLT, Not So Simple Living Fair, the annual Permaculture meeting/scion exchange and Grange events.

A graduate of UC Berkeley in Conservation of Natural Resources/Environmental Planning, Nancy recently retired from the National Park Service as the Planning manager at [Golden Gate National Recreation Area](#) (GGNRA), ending a career in planning and environmental review dedicated to helping shape that new national park. Her work involved planning and community involvement in a wide range of projects from master plans to site plans, restoration, trails, transportation and land acquisition. Since retiring in 2015, Nancy stays involved in the GGNRA as a member of the park's volunteer horse patrol.



Nancy and her husband John also maintain a residence in San Francisco. They have 2 children and 3 grandchildren living in the Bay Area. Nancy and John are open water swimmers in San Francisco Bay and are long time members of the Dolphin Swimming and Rowing Club and enjoy nature, cycling and hiking.



New Anderson Valley Land Trust board member Jim Snyder has been an Anderson Valley resident for 15 years and is currently in his tenth year teaching at Anderson Valley High School. He teaches Mathematics, Music Production and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and is working with Sonoma State University on several programs for high school students, including bringing students to the Galbreath Preserve in Yorkville for environmental education projects. Jim holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Composition and Performance and a Masters Degree in Mathematics Education. He is the father of two daughters, ages 8 and 15, and in his spare time enjoys hiking, backpacking, traveling, composing music and geeking out with all forms of technology.

Jim's family has had ties to Anderson Valley since 1893 when his great-grandparents purchased land near Rancheria Creek in Yorkville. The family still owns a portion of this original property, and they have dedicated themselves to its permanent conservation by putting it in a conservation easement through the AVLT. "I have joined the AVLT Board of Directors," Jim says, "because I believe in the organization's mission of helping landowners achieve permanent protection for their land as well as the group's broader conservation efforts in the Anderson Valley. I hope to help the organization further engage our community, especially our young people, in conservation efforts and in environmental and watershed education."

DRAGONFLIES - continued

AVLT board member Barbara Goodell, GWP Coordinator Margot Rawlins, and Linda MacElwee from Navarro River Resource Center (NRRRC) are heading up the project, and in their words, “Joining forces gives us access to open lands meant for discovery and learning and destined for preservation. Our missions align so beautifully”.

To kick off the series, AVLT, SSU, and the NRRRC have scheduled two classes this spring: a two-part Pond Ecology seminar and a Wildflower Walk.

“I hope this is just the beginning of the kinds of programs we create together,” says Claudia Luke, director of the Center for Environmental Inquiry, which manages the preserve. “We want the preserve to serve as an educational resource for the Anderson Valley and beyond.”

See the Save-the-Date on page 3 for more information about these events and to join our mailing list.

These programs are made possible by a grant from the Pearson Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County and support from Sonoma State University and Navarro River Resource Center.



NAVARRO WATERSHED FLOW ENHANCEMENT PLANNING PROJECT

[Mendocino County Resource Conservation District](#) recently presented an update on the Navarro Watershed Flow Enhancement Planning Project at the Philo Grange. AVLT Board member Barbara Goodell is on the Technical Advisory Group. The following is an excerpt from the article about the project.

The Navarro River watershed is home to state and federally endangered Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon and threatened Northern California Coast (NCC) steelhead trout. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has ranked the Navarro watershed as key for the recovery of both CCC coho and NCC steelhead in California (NMFS 2012, 2014). In some years, the Mendocino Coast region represents up to 50% of individual coho returns, and steelhead still range widely throughout the watershed (Howard et al. 2011). The Navarro River is also an impaired waterbody on US EPA's Clean Water Act 303(d) List for both temperature and sediment. Cold water fish habitat for species such as salmon and steelhead, is the most sensitive beneficial use of water according to the State Water Resources Control Board and USEPA.

These fish face significant challenges in the Navarro watershed. Both CCC coho salmon and steelhead fish populations are critically low and coho are close to extirpation in the Navarro. Increased demand for freshwater, ongoing drought conditions, and sediment impacts exacerbate threats to coho salmon and steelhead populations.

To help address these challenges the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) working in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, was awarded a highly competitive grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board's Streamflow Enhancement Program funded through Proposition 1.

The Project is a two-year coordinated planning process for the Navarro River watershed to update existing restoration recommendations, with a focus on drought and climate resiliency; create a reach-specific prioritized implementation plan and timeline; and develop pre-project implementation and permitting packages for five to eight high-priority, property-specific projects that will enhance and optimize streamflows. “Enhancing streamflows” refers to increasing streamflow during critical summer low-flow periods.

This is an exciting opportunity for fish and people! If you would like further information, visit the AVLT or MCRCD websites.

Article by Linda MacElwee and Patty Madigan

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