

# GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust  
Dedicated to the Preservation and Restoration of Our Unique Rural Landscape  
Summer, 2018

## *Sequoiadendron giganteum* Giant Redwood

You may remember that last fall, this column covered an iconic tree native to Anderson Valley (and beyond), the Coast Redwood. So it seemed a nice segue to shift our attention this spring to its cousin, the Giant Redwood, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, also known by other common names: Giant Sequoia, Sierra Redwood, and my personal favorite, Big Tree – a nickname used by John Muir. It is a very long-lived tree; the General Sherman tree in the Giant Forest of [Sequoia National Park](#) is estimated to be approximately 2,500 years old and the oldest known giant sequoia based on ring count is 3,500 years old. Not native to Anderson valley, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* is found solely in scattered groves in the southern Sierra Nevada. This native range renders the Giant Redwood endemic to California, while the Coast Redwood is not, as its range extends north into Oregon. Although our two native redwoods share many characteristics, such as immense size, natural resistance to fire and insect damage, and thick reddish bark, they differ in many ways. Given the different natural habitats in which they dwell, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* is more tolerant of occasional summer rainfall, as well as both more heat and cold. It can reach heights approaching, but not exceeding, that of *Sequoia sempervirens*, but gains more in girth (20-26 ft.) - thus its overall bulk is larger. It is a truly magnificent tree, considered the most massive living organism in the world. The foliage of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* is composed of tiny overlapping prickly scales that often taken on a bluish-green hue, as opposed to the dark green short needles of the Coast Redwood.

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## SPECIAL EVENT:

**FIELD NOTES AND FARM BITES AT FILIGREEN FARM**  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 10AM-2PM  
11800 ANDERSON VALLEY WAY



AVLT invites you to join us at [Filigreen Farm](#) in Anderson Valley for a look at diverse fruit culture, followed by a reception featuring tastes from the farm and wines and cider made from fruit grown in Filigreen's vineyard and orchards. Chris and Stephanie Tebbutt will lead us on a tour of this [Demeter](#) certified Biodynamic farm, and share some of their experiences in over 36 years of planting, development, harvesting and restoration on this very special place along Anderson Creek.



FIELD NOTES AND FARM BITES: \$100 PER PERSON  
PURCHASE TICKETS ON OUR WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE

[HTTP://WWW.ANDERSONVALLEYLANDTRUST.ORG/EVENTS](http://www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org/events)

CONTACT US AT [AVLT@MCN.ORG](mailto:AVLT@MCN.ORG) OR 707-895-3150

## Wildflower Days in the Oak Woodlands

AVLT recently collaborated with Sonoma State University (SSU), [Galbreath Wildlands Preserve](#) (GWP), and [Navarro River Research Center](#) (NRRC), to host "A Day in the Oaks" and a wildflower walk. Both outings were held in Galbreath Preserve, which is located in southern Mendocino County, a few miles from the small community of Yorkville. The 3670 acre preserve was donated to Sonoma State University in 2004 by Fred Galbreath. In his gift to SSU, he sought to protect his land in perpetuity as a site for research, education and art.

Continued on page 4

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a volunteer for AVLT, I have prepared maps for virtually all the AVLT conservation easements. In doing so, I have met many individuals who clearly care about their property, its natural values, Anderson Valley, and the Navarro River watershed as a whole. We all owe these individuals a debt of gratitude. Their generosity in voluntarily entering into an agreement with the AVLT to conserve their property in perpetuity benefits each and every one of us.

I would bet that some of you reading this issue of Good Dirt do not know that there are open lands visible from Highway 128 that will remain that way because the AVLT holds a conservation easement on them. These easements include significant acreages of: forest land that, while zoned as TPZ (Timber Production Zone), involves sustainable restrictions on logging that protect water resources and provide habitat; agricultural lands that are farmed to produce vegetables, and olives, and grapes and any number of other items that often end up on our tables at dinner time; viewshed lands that will simply remain as open space keeping the Valley's rural character; and primarily residential lands that have limits on development and further subdivision. Actually, most of the easements we hold have self-imposed limits on development and further subdivision. It is quite a mix. All of this is possible because of select property owners who care deeply about their legacy. And there will be more to come.

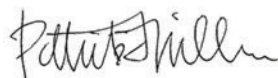
The other more visible aspect of our work is the AVLT-sponsored field walks, lectures, and events that raise consciousness about the landscape diversity of the Navarro River watershed and the need for conservation. In September, as a continuation of these types of programs, we will be collaborating with Stephanie and Chris Tebbutt to host a very special tour and reception at Filigreen Farm. The farm is an amazing biodynamic and organic operation along Anderson Creek right in the center of Anderson Valley. The Tebbutts have been stewarding and managing the land in partnership with the Yggdrasil Land Foundation, and it includes a conservation easement with AVLT. It is truly a great partnership for everyone involved. There is more information about the upcoming "Field Notes and Farm Bites" event in this newsletter.

In some ways the AVLT is not a typical land conservation organization. We work with private property owners who have a deep regard for their land who simply want to conserve its intrinsic values and cumulatively help protect the overall Navarro River watershed. None of our conservation easements thus far allow any public access and all easements have been donated by the landowner. That is where we differ in some ways from other land trusts in the region that purchase conservation easements and either purchase or own donated lands. Sometimes these lands are open to the public, sometimes not. Sometimes these lands are transferred to public agencies for ongoing stewardship as public parks, open space preserves, or wildlife preserves.

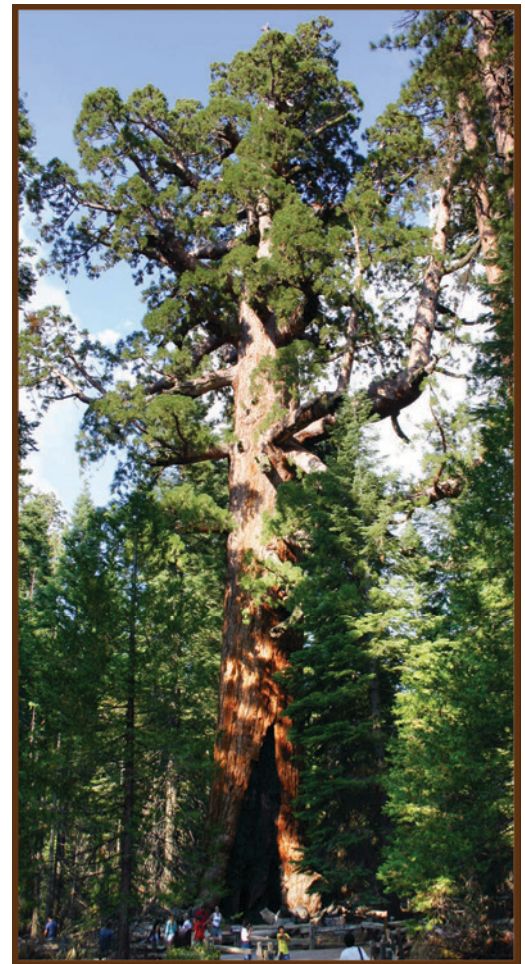
That said, the AVLT plans to continue what we have done traditionally, working with individual landowners to create conservation easements around their specific needs. However, there may be opportunities to collaborate with other organizations, apply for grants benefitting agricultural landowners, and even purchase conservation easements or key lands that would help us expand our horizons in a way to further benefit Anderson Valley and the Navarro River Watershed. As we continue to explore these possibilities we would value your thoughts, comments, questions, or your expertise in determining what we can do to better serve the community.

It would be a pleasure to hear from you and I can be reached through the AVLT office by emailing [avlt@mcn.org](mailto:avlt@mcn.org) or by calling 707-895-3150. In the mean time I look forward to seeing you around the Valley.

Best wishes,



Patrick Miller  
President, AVLT Board of Directors



Grizzly Giant

Sequoia National Park



## WELCOME RACHEL TURNER WILLIAMS

Please join us in welcoming Rachel Turner Williams to the AVLT Board of Directors. Rachel and her family have moved to Anderson Valley quite recently, though her love of the land here goes back to her childhood nearby in Albion, where she enjoyed being part of the sixth generation of her family to be raised on the Mendocino Coast. Influenced strongly by the natural beauty around her, she was instilled with a strong commitment to the environment at an early age.

After high school in Mendocino, she attended UC Berkeley, where she was awarded a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies, and later, an MS in Environmental Health Sciences, focusing on Global Health and Environment. Her educational background led her to work for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). At the EPA, Rachel worked on hazardous waste issues along the US- Mexico border; pesticide programs; waste reduction plans; environmental grants and programs for Native American tribes; and the development of national presentations and publications focusing on underserved populations in the US.

While still working for the EPA, Rachel and her husband moved to Santa Rosa, where they started their family and, shortly after, a structural engineering firm. Rachel left her job with the EPA to focus on raising their family and helping to manage their business. Over the years, she remained involved in various environmental endeavors, which included serving as a board member and school liaison for The Compost Club of Sonoma County; environmental education and campus-greening efforts at her children's schools; and the launch of a neighborhood-wide, food-sharing program that has been used as a model to promote a more localized and communal way of living with a smaller carbon footprint.

Rachel is happy to be back in Mendocino County as a resident of Anderson Valley. Here, she continues to co-manage their engineering business, now located in one of the oldest houses in Boonville, and which they have been working to renovate. Rachel also helps promote and support local, sustainable food through her work with the Anderson Valley Foodshed. Her interests are wide-ranging and include much time outdoors, hiking, trail-running, spending time at the beach, gardening, cooking, and sharing meals with friends and family.

We feel fortunate to have Rachel's talents, training and energy added to our board, and look forward to her contributions.



### The View from Blue Meadow: Rainwater Catchment

If you have traveled along Highway 128 through Philo in recent weeks, perhaps you have seen the shiny beacon on the hillside at [Blue Meadow Farm](#) - a new 40,000-gallon water tank. [Mendocino County Resource Conservation District](#) (MCRCD) recently installed the metal rainwater-harvesting tank, which will capture rainwater from their barn



and the tank roof. In turn, it will provide storage capacity for the irrigation needs of Blue Meadow's one-acre vegetable and market garden, particularly during late summer when water resources are stressed the most. The project is part of a larger program to increase in-

stream flows in Mill Creek, and other focus tributaries to the main stem Navarro, by enhancing essential late summer pool habitat for young-of-the-year steelhead and coho salmon. Project funding was provided through a Proposition 84 grant administered through the California Department of Water Resources, as well as landowner and Natural Resources Conservation Service resources. Find out more information about this project at [www.mcrcd.org](http://www.mcrcd.org).

### *Adela trigrapha* (Zeller, 1876)

During our visits to Galbreath Preserve we observed *Adela trigrapha*, or Three-striped Longhorn, which is a moth of the family Adelidae or fairy longhorn moths. It was first described by Philipp Christoph Zeller, a German entomologist, in 1876. It is found in western North America, from Vancouver Island to California. The length of the forewings is 5.5-6.2 mm. Adult males have large eyes and long white antenna (three times the forewing length). The forewings are black and usually crossed by three white lines. Females are smaller and have smaller eyes and antennae. They have a bright orange head. The forewings are bright metallic blue and the hind-wings are purple.

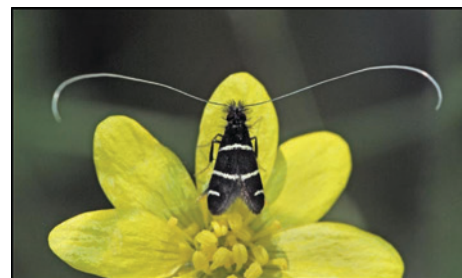


Photo by Ron Wolf

## Wildflower Days (Continued)

During the Wildflower Walk on May 6, 2018, Linda MacElwee, a naturalist with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, and Kerry Heise, a local plant botanist who has been involved in significant plant discoveries in Mendocino County, shared their expertise in identifying many of the abundant wildflowers and grasses throughout the preserve. During our visit, Kerry Heise, who has been involved with developing the GWP plant species list, identified a new species to Galbreath, the golden aster (*Heterotheca oregona*), which was spotted along the road as we entered the preserve. We continued our field studies on May 12, returning to GWP for “A Day in the Oaks”. Kate Marianchild, naturalist and author, and Linda MacElwee, naturalist with the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, led us on a day exploring the lives and ecosystems among the oak woodlands. Oak gall nurseries, lace lichen’s air cleaner, and the real value of mistletoe are just a few of the topics we dove into along the way.

Oak woodlands in Mendocino County and throughout the North Coast provide a wealth of ecological services to wildlife, people, and the landscape through improved water quality, maintaining fire-resilient landscapes, preventing erosion, and sequestering carbon. There are opportunities available to landowners interested in restoring and/or improving oak woodlands by working with local agencies such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), CAL



FIRE, and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD). These agencies can provide technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to participate in oak-centered conservation practices. For more information about eligibility and how to apply contact:

NRCS: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/>

MCRCD: <http://mcrd.org/>

To learn more about the Galbreath Preserve visit their website at <http://www.sonoma.edu/cei/galbreath/>.

*These outings and events are made possible through the generosity of The Frederick E. and Anne R. Barstow Fund of East Bay Community Foundation and The Pearson Family Fund of Community Foundation of Mendocino County.*

## Giant Redwood (Continued)

The cones are very similar, differing mostly in size (Giant Redwood’s are larger). The seed cones are 4–7 cm (1½–3 in) long and mature in 18–20 months, though they typically remain green and closed for up to 20 years; each cone has 30–50 spirally arranged scales, with several seeds on each scale, giving an average of 230 seeds per cone. The seed is dark brown, 4–5 mm (0.16–0.20 in) long and 1 mm (0.04 in) broad, with a 1-millimeter (0.04 in) wide, yellow-brown wing along each side. Some seeds are shed when the cone scales shrink during hot weather in late summer, but most are liberated when the cone dries from fire heat or is damaged by insects.

There are many examples of Giant Redwood to see around the state (and in the Valley) that have been planted. But if you have a chance to visit Sequoia and [King’s Canyon National Parks](#), you can see these trees in all their natural majestic glory, reaching sizes not seen when under cultivation. It is truly a humbling experience.

Article by Jane Miller

### AVLT 2017 Financial Statement

Statement of Activity as of December 31, 2017

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds*
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Operating Accounts	26,130.00	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		27,822.00
Stewardship Endowment*		354,873.00
Other Current Assets	1,985.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,115.00</b>	<b>382,695.00</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		
At Beginning of Year	366,827.00	
Change in Net Assets	204.00	
At End of Year Total Liabilities & Net Assets	367,031.00	
<b>Donations &amp; Grants</b>	<b>38,326.00</b>	
Misc	3,198.00	
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>41,524.00</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Easement Expense/defense	559.00	5,236.00
Office and Administrative	34,870.00	
Special Events & Workshops	1,272.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>36,701.00</b>	<b>5,236.00</b>

\* restricted funds for the continuing protection of our easements.



## THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Thank you to the AVLT Volunteers at the  
 Annual Legendary Boonville Beer Festival

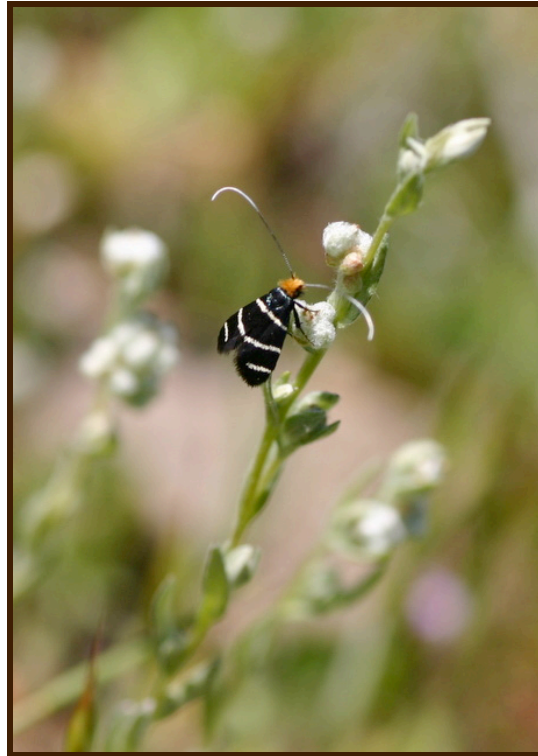
Barbara Goodell    Rob Goodell  
 Glynnis Jones    Linda Baines  
 Patrick Miller    Jane Miller    Dave McKay  
 Julia Sheng    Seth Silberman

And for the generous community support  
 from Anderson Valley Brewing Company





# GOOD DIRT



Fairy Longhorn Moth

Photo by George Jackson

## INSIDE DIRT

FILIGREEN FARM    PRESIDENT'S LETTER    GIANT REDWOOD

**NEW BOARD MEMBER: RACHEL TURNER WILLIAMS**

BLUE MEADOW FARM    WILDFLOWER DAYS & FAIRY MOTHS

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STEVEN WOOD

**“Conservation is a team sport.”**

Dave Jensen, Mendocino Coast Audubon Association

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Contributors: Barbara Goodell, George Jackson, Linda MacElwee, Jane Miller, Patrick Miller, Stephanie Tebbutt, Rachel Turner Williams, Steve Wood, Ron Wolf, Trey Petrey