

# GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST  
Fall • Winter, 2022

## We Look Back – A Few Words from Pete and Flo Bates

The following is from the Summer 2000 issue of Good Dirt. Though Pete and Flo Bates are no longer with us, the legacy they left through their Conservation Easement continues in perpetuity with the AVLT assuring the Conservation Easement guidance and restrictions that they put in place are met.



Last December Pete and Flo Bates generously donated a conservation easement on their 80-acre property in Philo, up on top of the ridge where the Holmes and Nash Ranches come together. The conservation easement protects the vigorous regenerated redwood and Douglas-fir forest that covers much of the property by prohibiting more development while allowing for forest management that helps restore old growth characteristics. The fish habitat and water quality of Little Mill Creek, that passes through the property, is also protected as an important element of the Navarro River's salmon habitat. In fact, Mill Creek and its tributaries were made priorities for Coho and steelhead habitat restoration within the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan. This conservation easement represents a major commitment on the part of two private landowners to achieving the objectives of that Plan.

We asked Pete recently why they established the conservation easement. He told us that he and Flo had looked all over northern California for a peaceful rural spot in which to create a new home and they found it in Anderson Valley in 1988. The longer they lived on the place, he continued, the more they valued it. They saw the forest recovering from past logging. They realized, too, that it would be a shame to lose what had been gained - especially as development pressures increased in the Valley. Pete told us that he had heard about AVLT from a realtor's newsletter, so he got in touch and the process began, culminating several years later in their gift of the conservation easement. Pete and Flo talked things over with their kids, who became just as enthusiastic about the idea as their parents were. All in all, they are happy to think that with the help of the conservation easement they will be able to leave the property better off than when they acquired it. When asked how he found the process of working with AVLT to create the easement, Pete replied that it was not a difficult experience. In fact, they learned a lot about their place in the process. The Land Trust was very helpful -- and had creative suggestions on language to help the Bates accomplish their goals in forest restoration and in accommodating the rebuilding of their creekside cabin to another site outside of the riparian zone.

Their motivations, however, were not based on the federal tax deduction they received for the gift of the easement. While that savings helps facilitate the creation of the easement -- offsetting all the costs and providing some reward - Pete emphasized *“Those going into creating a conservation easement need to be committed in their hearts and minds, not just their pocketbooks.”*



## President's Message Anderson Valley Resilient Lands

The Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium came together like a full and rich symphony on October 15th this year and it was all about the watershed!

The Symposium brought together diverse Anderson Valley residents and organizations to see where we have been as a watershed community, where we are today, and what we need to do, collectively and independently, to make this home as resilient as possible. It was a fantastic sell-out crowd of 140 with dozens of supporting organizations sharing their voices and perspectives.

I am extremely grateful and proud of our organizing committee. A huge shout-out to AVLT board members Barbara Goodell, Nancy Hornor, and Steve Wood; Linda MacElwee with the Navarro River Resource Center; Joslyn Thoresen with the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association; and Patrick Miller, AVLT Volunteer Conservation Director.

Highlights of the day included:

- Ron Lincoln and his son Lewis of the Round Valley Pomo tribe who reminded us of true resilience over centuries and millennia.
- Ananda Mayne, student at Anderson Valley High School, who talked about how anxieties around climate change, including wildfires, are becoming “normalized”, and how important it is to include and empower youth to take action.
- Sarah Wuethrich, President of the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association, sharing that a remarkable 70% of our vineyards are already “Fish Friendly Certified”, and that our Valley, long a pioneer in sustainable vineyard management, hopes to gain distinction by doing even more.
- Obi Kaufmann, artist and conservationist, talked about the miracles of Anderson Valley that we see every day, our transition from an age of creating waste to one more cyclic, one “resembling the shape of an eagle’s nest” and of a hopeful

approach to work together for resiliency by sharing perspectives through our stories.

- Brock Dolman, visionary and teacher, energized the audience at both the beginning and end of the day with his soaring passion for our watershed as a lifeboat to the future.
- “Flyover” by Patrick Miller, our Conservation Director extraordinaire, who put together the maps, data, and images of Anderson Valley.
- Three packed, thoughtful panels - one on the state of the Valley and watershed, one by key sectors of the Valley - wine grapes, forests, ranches and orchards, and a final all-star cast featuring “Anderson Valley stories”.

Throughout the day, themes of diversity, holistic and long-term thinking, collaboration and learning rang out, and by the end, people were eager to follow up on the many wonderful ideas and partnerships emerging. Stay tuned for next steps! Soaking up as much information as possible, many stayed for the whole day, and even helped us put away the chairs and tables before they left! Indeed, many hands make light work. Thank you!

The Land Trust is busy welcoming new board members, reviewing a number of potential promising new conservation easements and projects, and pursuing renewed partnerships with many amazing organizations and leaders of Anderson Valley. Something special is certainly in the air! Thank you all being part of our wonderful community of supporters.

Yoriko Kishimoto, President, Anderson Valley Land Trust Board of Directors

PS: I hope you will give generously this year and engage with us in 2023 to support our work. We can do more together!





What if you organized a Symposium on resiliency and everyone actually showed up? That was the case in October, 2022. The **Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium** was a great, sold-out success. Over 140 participants from all walks of work and life in and around the Navarro River watershed put their thinking caps on and “thought like a watershed” while being pleasantly provoked by an amazing list of presenters and presentations. The big question, of course, was what does “resiliency” mean to Anderson Valley and how we, as a local community, can define and build our own best management practices to respond to climate change, conserve the watershed resources, and maintain the quality of life and rural lifestyle that makes Anderson Valley unique.

### SUPPORTING PARTNERS



### SUPPORTERS



Starting with recorded remarks by Congressman Jared Huffman and echoed by many speakers and audience participants, clearly the threat of continued drought and being resilient to wildfire were the priority topics of the day. However, there were many other topics raised that deserve continued conversation. Like how to conserve water to support the amazing Navarro River fisheries? How to respect and learn from the Pomo culture that has lived in Anderson Valley for over 10,000 years? How to form smaller community groups to assure that we avoid both unmanageable wildfire events and siltation of our streams? As such, the Symposium organizers consisting of the representatives of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association, and the Navarro River Resource Center will be continuing their work to facilitate a series of workshops starting with fire resiliency in 2023. One program will be a fire resiliency workshop with the Anderson Valley Fire Department. So look for announcements coming soon.

By the time you read this a summary of the Symposium, video recordings of individual presentations will be on our web site. Please take a moment and check it out at [andersonvalleylandtrust.org](http://andersonvalleylandtrust.org). We want to also take this opportunity to thank the over 35 businesses and organizations that supported the Symposium without whose interest the event would not have been possible let alone so successful. **THANK YOU!!!**



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## Symposium Followup

### A Tour of Biodynamics and Agriculture at Filigreen Farm!



What makes this farm so special? Its ingredients of water, soil, and nutrients that are all derived from within the farm, not imported from elsewhere. Just right there. Rainwater is collected in ponds, not pumped from a restored Anderson Creek. Irrigation water passing through siphons is alive. The soil is enriched with high nutrient Azolla harvested from the farm ponds. Combined with active composting, the soil structure is nourished with a true horizon moving downward from: the “O” horizon of organic matter vital to the growth of crops because it holds nutrients such as carbon, phosphorus, nitrogen and sulfur; to the “A” horizon most of us call topsoil and composed of mostly humus (decayed organic matter); and onward down to the “C” horizon that is essentially bedrock. No pesticides or herbicides are used.

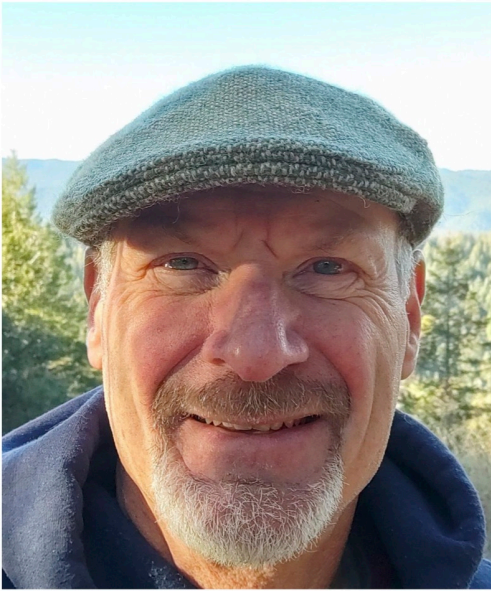
And the crops produced that end up on our dining tables are bountiful. Olives, apples, pears, quinces, grapes, blueberries, virtually every kind of vegetable that will grow in our climate, and flowers and more flowers (cut and dried).

For the 30 adventurist individuals weaving through the farm being led by Chris and Stephanie Tebbutt there were answers for every question and informative stories along the way. Like why this year were there no blueberries? Well, drought of course. And then there were the swarms of birds crushing nets to the ground and having a wonderful meal. The extended 115-degree temperatures we experienced in September did not help very much either. Every farmer is always challenged by nature in one way or another. So goes farming. But happily, apples were in abundance and special tasting treat at the packing shed served as a pleasant respite along the walk.

**A big thank you! to Chris and Stephanie!**



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### MEET DAN SICULAR

Dan grew up in Berkeley and attended U.C. Berkeley, where he earned a Ph.D. in Geography, a degree that allowed him to pursue his fascination with both the natural and social worlds. He has owned land in Anderson Valley since 1991.

Some of you may remember Dan as the coordinator for the pioneering Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan, which came out in 1998. He has walked much of the river and its many tributaries, met many land owners and, for three years, with a broad and very diverse stakeholders group, wrestled with the complexities of the watershed's hydrology, sediment and temperature, fisheries, and forests.

Dan went on to work as a consultant with ESA on environmental issues, as forest manager for the Pacific Forest Trust, and now as a highly respected independent consultant. We are so fortunate to have him join the Anderson Valley Land Trust Board of Directors where his skills have immediately been put to work. He and his wife, Hana, split their time between their place on Nash Mill Road and Berkeley. It is a pleasure to have him on our board!

### ROB RISUCCI: A NEW VOICE ON OUR BOARD

Whether it be the corker, the case-packing robot, the tractor, the chicken cage, the waste water ponds, or the labeler that needs fixing at Roederer, guess who gets the call? The Facilities Manager, Rob Risucci! Busy all year 'round at Roederer, Rob still has ample energy and desire to delve into the AV community to understand how it works with all its intricacies. He believes in investing in his community.

Rob was born in Southern California and came to Anderson Valley through Sebastopol, where he worked on a mushroom farm. He likes challenges in many forms, from art to the skill of ordering machine parts in French or Italian. He is working on adding Spanish to his repertoire, and helps host the *Trading Time Show*.

Enjoying backpacking and the natural world, Rob feels conservation is direly needed, but requires better packaging. He sees good communication as the key to shepherding AVLT's work to the next level and he is ready to put that in motion. We welcome him!





## **Salix spp.** **Willow**

Another deciduous plant graces the pages of *Good Dirt* for this issue. While not sporting foliage in the depth of winter, many species of willow display colorful branches, typically bright yellow or orange, when they shed their leaves. This characteristic makes them easy to spot from a distance, especially the shrubby types that many of them are.

There are many species of willow native not only to California and the Anderson Valley, but to much of North America. They hybridize prolifically, so it is often difficult to distinguish among them, even for the botanical experts. Thus the title of *Salix spp.* above, referring to the fact that this isn't about one particular species, but the group of them in the *Salix* genus.

Ranging from good-sized shrubs that grow in dense clumps with many branches sprouting from the base to trees achieving heights of 30 feet or more, this diverse group of plants does share some characteristics. Willows like water, and are usually found in nature growing in close proximity to it. Leaves are typically long and narrow; twigs are flexible and easily bent, thus lending the branches a natural affinity for use in basket making. Think of the term “willowy.”

Flowers are not very conspicuous, but the developing seed structures form fuzzy elongated clusters at the branch ends, forming “pussy willows” that are popular in flower arrangements and feel velvety to the touch. However, most of the species used this way are not California natives.

Stems of *Salix* easily root in wet conditions (even in a glass of water on the kitchen counter) and are often used in erosion control efforts along watercourses. The cuttings can be stuck in the ground directly, or are tied in bundles (called “wattles”) that are placed horizontally along a stream bank. Their quick growth and stabilizing roots help keep the soil in place. Often reputed to have been the original source of aspirin, research mostly debunks that theory. However, there is history of many types of willow being used for varied medicinal purposes over the centuries. So when you're out and about this winter, look for stands of brightly colored upright branches along waterways, and enjoy!



### **The Power of Willows!**

About 20 years ago the day use area parking lot at Hedy Woods State Park was eroding into the Navarro River. Willow wattles and sticks came to save the day in restoring the river's edge by capturing silt and rebuilding the banks over an underlay of rock rip-rap. Today, visitors only experience a natural willow edge, teeming with wildlife.



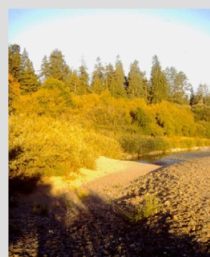
1. Initial staking.



2. Conditions after the first flood. Willows sprouting and taking hold.



3. Conditions after a spurt of leafy spring growth.



4. After a few years a restored shoreline that traps silt and provides cover, nesting habitat, and a continuous movement corridor for wildlife along the Navarro River.



## THANK YOU! TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We must not leave the year 2022 without thanking the individuals, families, and organizations of 2022 (so far) who have generously supported the operations of the Anderson Valley Land Trust!

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**A LEARNING STROLL THROUGH  
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**WILLOW**

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Contributors:

Barbara Goodell, Yoriko Kishimoto, Jane  
Miller, Patrick Miller

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**THE POWER OF WILLOWS**

Protecting Hendy Woods State Park  
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ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST

14150 HIGHWAY 128

BOONVILLE, CA 95415

707-895-3150

avlt@mcn.org

www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org