

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust
Spring – Summer 2006

PEACHLAND ROAD HOMESTEAD PROTECTED By Barbara Goodell



Hereford Homestead courtesy of Anderson Valley Historical Society

As a result of Briana Burns, her sister, Charity, and her brother-in-law, Morris Hirsch's wishes to permanently protect the significant extant forest and grassland ecosystems on their 115-acre historic Peachland homestead, they have recently completed a conservation easement with Anderson Valley Land Trust. The easement will enhance, restore and maintain over time a complex native coastal redwood and Douglas fir ecosystem that has distinct old growth qualities. Included are remnant old growth and mature second-growth redwoods and Douglas firs, mature oaks, madrones, and California nutmegs, as well as riparian and in-stream fish habitats in Tony Creek and its unnamed tributaries. They also are ensuring that the property remains intact and are encouraging sustainable, diversified, and organic agriculture for all current and future owners of the land.

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Briana reports that, with the significant exception of removal of old growth trees and the resultant recession of the creek, the development of the property has not changed markedly from what it was prior to European settlement in the later 1800s. Remnants of original Native American settlers remain in artifacts, such as worked flint and grinding stones that have been found. The property and the surrounding area, known as the Peachland community subsequent to indigenous habitation, was homesteaded by settlers of European origin who came across the United States as pioneers in caravans. They split redwood, harvested tanoak bark, planted some grain, and kept cows, horses, pigs and sheep to live on the land.



Walnut orchard

According to *The Diary of Clem Heryford*, published by the Anderson Valley Historical Society in 1995, Clem Heryford and his father came to Anderson Valley around 1887 and helped to build Peachland road. Della McNeill and he married in 1889 and Clem declared for the Peachland homestead in 1894. They moved the existing house from a former site in 1910 because the hand-dug spring at that site had dried up. Clem Heryford cut single redwoods along the creek (later named Tony Creek) and split them for sale as his cash income. Briana became acquainted with Prudee, Clem and Della's daughter, in the early 1990's in Santa Rosa. Prudee said that she had been so saddened to visit the property in the 1980's when she saw the condition of the creek and the redwood valley after the property had been commercially logged in the 1950's.

From 1917 to 1949 the property was owned by Tony Dellaqua who was known as the hardest working man in Anderson Valley. He reportedly outlived two wives, never had any children, but did have a younger man, a relative from Italy, living there some of the time helping with the ranch work. Most of the development of the property is the work of Tony Dellaqua, such as over four miles of perimeter and cross-fencing of the property in picket or rail, the apple drier, a walnut orchard, a

horse barn (which collapsed in 1972), the existing barn, and the hand-dug basement under the house. He also planted a walnut orchard for Emil Rossi's father. Emil Rossi remembers Tony digging the basement under the house, and thereafter being served homemade wine and goat cheese in said basement.

Briana writes that, "This conservation easement is motivated by the perception that the commercial logging done during the 1950's had an adverse effect on Tony Creek, which used to run year-round and in greater quantity and at ground level... Where the redwoods were logged on the south-facing hillside on this fork above...they have not recovered. This may be why the main source of Tony Creek, at least since 1970, when the property was purchased, has only run during the rainy season." She discovered that Tony Dellaqua, the namesake of the creek, had used a water ram requiring more water than there has been in the thirty-six years that the Hirschs and Burns have owned the property. Briana also notes that there are redwood roots hanging in midair over the eroded creek bed showing the depth of the erosion that occurred after the commercial logging.



Erosion on Tony Creek

The Land Trust joins Briana, Charity, and Morris and future owners as stewards to carry out the purpose of the easement in protecting the trees and grassland ecosystems; the fish and wildlife; the water resources and its quality; sustainable, diversified, organic agriculture; and to prohibit any uses of the property that will interfere with the conservation values of the property. This conservation easement provides another important link in protecting the Navarro River Watershed for current residents and future generations to enjoy and appreciate.

AVLT WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER THOM ELKJER



Thom Elkjer got his first taste of environmentalism in 1971, when an oil spill hit the beach at Bolinas, California and he cut school to rescue birds. His penance the next day was to write a justification of his decision, and he is still striving to live up to that essay, both in his life and his livelihood.

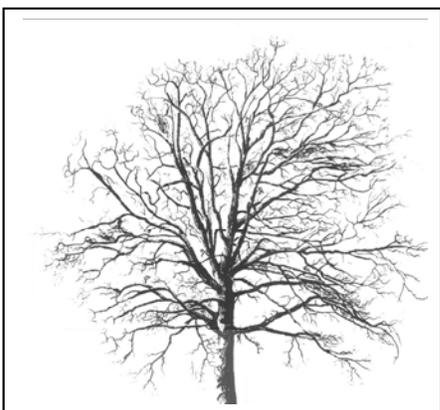
After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1977, he wrote and produced documentary and training programs funded by Bank of America, Hewlett-Packard, Pacific Bell and other corporate sponsors. During this period he was also a regular summer visitor to Anderson Valley and became familiar with its topography of interlocking watersheds.

In 1991 he moved to Inverness, California and joined the Environmental Action Committee (EAC) that served as an umbrella advocacy group for the many narrowly focused environmental groups extant in rural West Marin. With his background in television production, he was instrumental in EAC's production of "Hay Solo Una Madre" ("There is Only One Mother"), a television program designed to teach the children of Latino immigrants about preserving and protecting the environment. He also became a supporter of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT), the first land trust in the county.

While living in Inverness, Elkjer began writing about wine and learning the craft of winemaking himself in order to better explain it to readers. During the past ten years he has become one of the more widely published wine journalists in America, contributing to Wine Spectator, Wine Enthusiast, Wine Country Living, WINE International, and many other magazines. He specializes in making wine more accessible to broad audiences; he began writing his educational column "By The Glass" in 2000 and continues it online today as a weblog. He also contributes occasional features to the weekly wine section of the San Francisco Chronicle, and is Wine Editor for WineCountry.Com, the nation's number one wine visitor portal.

He has continued writing books, including a 2003 collaboration with Paul Dolan entitled "True to Our Roots: Fermenting a Business Revolution" that presents lessons from the wine industry about managing a sustainable business. He has also written about environmental issues in wine for publications in Europe and the U.S., and is co-founder and host of BD Forum, an annual conference devoted to holistic viticulture.

He and his wife, fine artist Antoinette von Grone, purchased their creekside home between Boonville and Philo in 2001 and moved to Anderson Valley fulltime at the beginning of 2004.



pencil sketch by Patrick T. Miller

Quercus spp. Oak

by Jane E. Miller

One simple way of describing the landscape of the Anderson Valley is to say “on one side of the Valley are Redwood and Douglas Fir; and on the other you will see grasslands and Oaks, maybe along with a sprinkling of Bay and Madrone”. But, oh the oaks!

The genus *Quercus* is a large one, comprising many species originating in areas around the globe, but occurring mostly in the northern hemisphere. As a state, California is blessed with several native species of Oak that lend grace and majestic beauty to much of the state's natural landscape. In the Anderson Valley we have at least three oak species: *Quercus kelloggii* (Black Oak); *Quercus garryana* (Oregon Oak); and *Quercus wislizenii* (Interior Live Oak). To top these three off there are a variety of oaks without a name that are likely a cross between *Quercus wislizenii* and *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak). And the icing on the cake is that all the Oaks can hybridize making for thousands of variations on the theme. So maybe, just maybe, you may find Oracle Oak on your property, the best-known California oak hybrid, which is a cross between Black Oak and Interior Live Oak.

For many people, the image of angular, picturesque Oaks whose branches sweep across fields of waving grasses defines the quintessential California countryside. California's Oaks are indeed special during this time of year. They all display graceful golden dangling catkins full of tiny flowers, and the Black oaks add to the show by bearing beautiful pink-purple new leaves.

Beyond aesthetic grandeur, these trees are hard to match for their importance to many types of birds, rodents, fox, deer, and insects - thus immeasurably enriching natural habitat values throughout much of the state.

There are many ways we humans have related to oaks over the ages. Acorns for food; wood for warmth or furniture; shade above our hammocks; or the swing hanging from a horizontal branch way up there. Likewise, there are a great many sayings about oaks and the human condition. The one we like at the Land Trust is “sturdy as an oak!” It explains why we use the oak as our logo since we’re working toward an enduring conservation legacy to benefit all in the Valley. For those who wish to learn more about oaks, we recommend you look for “Oaks of California” look for by Bruce M. Pavlik, *et. al.*, a most enticing, enjoyable, and beautifully illustrated treatise on the species as you will find.



WE SEND OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We were able to continue our conservation work here in Anderson Valley in 2005 thanks to the generous donations from the following wonderful people.

Susan & Michael Addison	Janet & Kenneth Foote	Dave & Helen Papke
Karen Altaras	Frogwood Lodge Retreat	Lanny & Sandy Parker
Mary Stuart Alvord	Center	Jed Pogran & Gary
Mark & Deanna Apfel	John & Deborah Gaudette	McGregor
P. Evelyn Ashton	Gail & Ron Gester	Alan B. Porter
Rene & Judith Auberjonois	Barbara & Rob Goodell	F. Kathryn Porter
James T. Ball	Dr. Jean H. Green	Carroll & Carrie Pratt
Stephen Barlow	Theodore & Martha	Ronald J. Rice
Lawrence & Florence Bates	Griffinger	Kent & Anne Rogers
Connie Best & Laurie	Henry E. Gundling	Al & Lynn Roman
Wayburn	Hallomas	Roger and Ann Romani
Robert & Marion Blumberg	Morris & Charity Hirsch	Peter & Collette Rothschild
Ric & Alice Bonner	Walter & Susan Hopkins	Drs. Thomas & Nona
Maureen & Michael	David Hopmann & James	Russell
Bowman	Taul	Tex & Lynne Sawyer
David E. Bunim	Martha Hyde	John Scharffenberger
Brian Button	Charles & Muriel Kittel	Lee Serrie & Rob Giuliani
Cakebread Cellars	Kathie A. Kinzie	Ed & Ann Short
Wendall & Stephanie	Mary Kundel	Phillip D. Smith, M.D.
Carlson	Eric Labowitz & Kathy	Daniel & Raychelle
Lyman & Carol Casey	Bailey	Sokolow
William Chambers	Katherine & George Lee	Terry Surles
Lisa Chen & Robert	Larry & Shirlee Londer	Ama Torrance
Finkestein	Helen Longino	Ray and Susan Triplett
Joel Clark	Robert Mandel	Walt & Ginger Valen
Dr. & Mrs Mark Crozier	Martina Mann	Leona Walden
Brian & Janet Davis	Lenard Mayrisch, Jr.	Gary E. Wandrey
Arline Day In memory of	Matthew & Dixie McCarthy	J. Russell Wherritt
her husband, Richard G.	Catherine Merschel	Cindy Wilder
Day	Jane & Patrick Miller	Peter Wiley & Valerie Barth
Jose Diaz & Martha	Marshall Newman	Keith Marshall & Margery
Valencia	Michael & Bonnie	Wolf
Elizabeth Dusenberry	O'Halloran	Steven & Deborah Wolfe
Thom Elkjer	Judy Palmer	

We also wish to say a special thank you to Bud Ledbetter for matching the money we raised at the Art Auction in Fall of 2005. The Auction was possible because Bud donated several Paula Gray paintings to the Land Trust. This event and his match gave a great boost to our Pioneer Fund.

If you would like to join this group of donors we have enclosed an envelope for your convenience.

AVLT 2005 Financial Statements

The following summary of unaudited financial statements for 2005 was prepared by
AVLT Treasurer, Lee Serrie, and bookkeeper, Amy Soderman.

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2005

Assets	
Operating Accounts	22,881
Pioneer Stewardship Fund	15,732
Stewardship Endowment	83,080
Furniture/Equipment	2,813
Timber Rights*	430,400
Total Assets	554,906
 Total Liabilities	 -0-
 Net Assets	
At Beginning of Year	545,015
Change in New Assets	9,891
At End of Year	554,906
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$554,906

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets December 31, 2005

Support & Revenue	
Donation	14,993
Pioneer Stewardship Fund	5,141
Stewardship Endowment	4,125
Interest & Dividends	3,271
Total Support and Revenue	\$27,530
 Expenses	
Dues, Maps & Subscriptions	542
Insurance	2,776
Miscellaneous	100
Office Supplies/Computer	2,585
Contract employee	2,250
Postage & Delivery	1,581
Printing & Reproduction	2,093
Professional Fees	1,625
Rent	2,954
Special Events	0
Utilities	965
Total Expense	\$17,471

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2006 Garden Tour, a Must-See for all Miss Mary's!!!

AVLT is hosting Anderson Valley's 2006 Garden Tour and we invite you all to take this delightful tour on Saturday, May 13th from 10am to 4pm. This promises to be a fun-filled event with spring's luxuriant display of foliage and glorious flowers providing interest for everyone.

Arrange to tour with your family and friends, sharing the pleasure of walking along fragrant paths, contemplating art sculpture, appreciating extraordinary garden design and installation, as well as taking in valley vistas from new vantage points.

Spend time with other garden mavens who can appreciate the skilled plantsmanship of five dedicated garden owners ranging from Yorkville Highlands to Navarro's Deep End.

A few sponsorships are available at \$125. These provide special support for the Land Trust and in return the sponsor is invited to attend the pre-tour on Friday afternoon from noon to 4 pm followed by a reception at the home of Jane and Patrick Miller.

Sponsorships and Saturday tour tickets @ \$35, must be purchased two weeks in advance to allow time for return mailing. Box lunches are available for \$15. Please call Ginger Valen at 707 895-9424 for tickets and information, or mail your check to P.O. Box 222, Boonville, CA 95415.
