

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, Incorporated
Spring 2012

Eighteen-year Retrospective on the Navarro River Watershed Plan By Barbara Goodell

The loss of the once thriving coho salmon fishery from the 315 square-mile Navarro River Basin has become nearly complete over the last several decades. Historically, cohos returned every year to their natal tributary to lay eggs. The juveniles then remained in the fresh water for a year, well adapted to the cold, shaded forest streams with deep pools created by huge fallen logs that once characterized the watershed. In recent years, the coho have been declared a federally endangered species, the steelhead a threatened species, and the Navarro River officially impaired for temperature and sediment. In 1994, AVLT sought and received \$228,000 worth of grants from the California Coastal Conservancy, the State Water Board through the Mendocino County Water Agency, and other donors. The goal was to scientifically determine the factors hampering salmonid production and damaging water quality, and to demonstrate specific steps that could be taken to restore the historic fishery in the Navarro River watershed.

Extensive hydrologic and geomorphic fieldwork was conducted, with a community advisory group convening regularly to help guide the study and public meetings held periodically to keep the local populace informed.

Completed in 1998, the 544-page Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan (NWRP) (for a copy see our website at www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org under Projects) provided the baseline and documentation for the real work of restoration. The updated Mendocino County Plan now has specific action items designated for the Navarro River with reference to the NWRP as a guide.



W.J. Meyer Sr., with Steelhead caught in Anderson Creek in Boonville (1940). Reprinted from the Spring 1994 *Good Dirt*.

Kirk Vodopals, the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) Hydrologist is one local scientist who finds the plan helpful. “One of my main job tasks is to help develop grant projects to restore salmon habitat,” he says. “A key requirement of the grant writing process is to be able to refer to basin-wide restoration plans such as the NWRP. These comprehensive plans enable resource managers like myself to set restoration priorities and focus on locations with the greatest need. MRC utilizes the Watershed Analysis process to monitor landscape and stream habitat conditions. . . . However, this process does not include specific recommendations on habitat (continued on page 4)

President's Message

As the new president of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, this is my first message in *Good Dirt*. My interest in AVLT began in 2007 when my wife Janet and I did a conservation easement on our property in Anderson Valley.

This property has been in my family since 1893 and has been important to me throughout my life. It's difficult enough just keeping it "in the family." How could we also have a say in its future management when we have no idea what that future will hold?

What we liked about an easement was that it's a voluntary legal document. As an agreement between AVLT and us to permanently protect our land while controlling future land uses, it's based on our own personal vision. Our easement is restrictive in a way that we chose, and it fits our unique property. We love this land and wanted the open pastures and redwood groves that we enjoy today to be part of our legacy of ownership to the generations that follow. There's no other legal document that can ensure that.

I was gratified to join the Land Trust board in 2009 to help them carry out the job of assuring property owners that their wishes will be honored. We take this responsibility very seriously and all of us are committed to assisting our 25 current easement holders as well as anyone else taking this step.

An easement is forever, and it's an important decision for any landowner. No one knows your land like you do. Perhaps, as you read this issue of our newsletter, you have some questions about how you can protect your own land. We're here to answer those questions and to help you in any way we can.

~Steve Snyder

BARBECUE & BARN DANCE AT YELLOW DOG RANCH

August 11, 2012



In Yorkville

August 11, 2012

3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Put on your dancing shoes and join us on Saturday August 11, 2012 for the AVLT Barbecue and Barn Dance at Yellow Dog Ranch in Yorkville. Steve Snyder, AVLT Board president, and his wife, Janet, have generously made their ranch available for this event. Yellow Dog Ranch, 160 acres with spectacular views of the Rancheria watershed, is a conserved property managed through an easement with the AVLT.

The festivities will run from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. The ticket price is \$100 per person and includes a delicious barbecue dinner, your first glass of wine or beer and dancing to the

Country & Western sounds of Dean Titus & the Coyote Cowboys. Organized hikes of the property will be available during the afternoon. All proceeds will go to our efforts to protect AV's natural resources and beauty.

Please contact Patricia Jeffery at 707-895-2620 to find out more about the event and to purchase tickets.

Glynnis Jones Joins AVLT

Glynnis has lived in Boonville for ten years, after moving here from Sacramento with a broad background in administration, public policy and planning. She also worked for rural county and regional agencies on jobs/employment, economic development and community development issues in the Midwest.



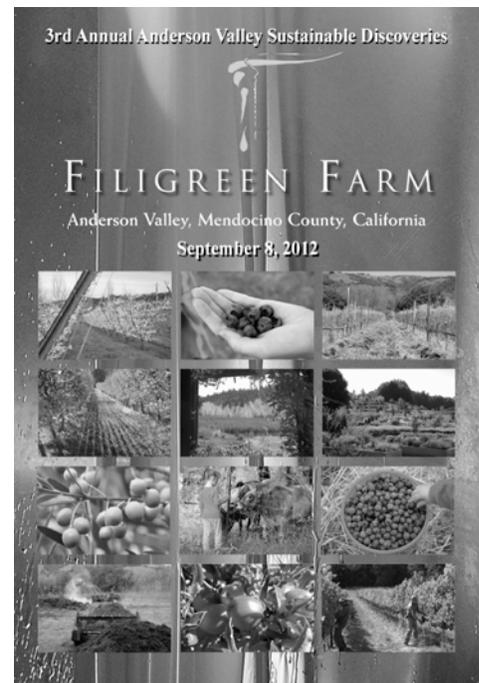
As the Principal Planner for the Governor's Rural Development Council in St. Paul, Minnesota, Glynnis worked on agriculture and natural resource programs. At the time, the Council was addressing a farm crisis, and her focus was preserving family farms and easing the intergenerational transfer of farms. In this difficult situation, the Council helped young aspiring farmers with scholarships in farm business management and business planning. Other projects focused on researching and encouraging development of value-added farm products and their marketing. Keeping the land in production kept it from development interests and created not only fresh farm products but stronger, more stable rural communities.

Glynnis says it is intriguing to have left a small, rural community in upstate New York where she grew up, never intending to go back to a small town, and now living and very much enjoying an even smaller community in AV! Glynnis realizes that being on a board does not just mean having opinions at meetings—it means putting in a lot of work. We have plenty to keep her busy!

AVLT • 3rd Annual Anderson Valley Sustainable Discoveries September 8, 2012

This third installment of our AVLT Sustainable Discoveries excursions will take us to the heart of Anderson Valley, to a truly unique place, to a memorable and educational experience...to **Filigreen Farm**. Developed and managed by Chris and Stephanie Tebbutt, this 87-acre property is dedicated as a mixed Biodynamic™ farm and garden, consisting primarily of high-density orchards and vineyards. Apples, pears, blueberries, peaches, cherries, pluots, plums, grapes for both table and wine (Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris), and olives for oil production are grown. The farm's harvest season begins with blueberries in early June and ends with late apples and olives in December. The farm is bisected by Anderson Creek, a major tributary of the Navarro River, where the same holistic approach used in the farm's agriculture has been applied to restoring the creek's floodplain and riparian corridor over a thirty-year period. We are particularly proud to be hosting this year's Sustainable Discoveries at Filigreen Farm. A conservation easement held by the Anderson Valley Land Trust ensures this remarkable property's stewardship in perpetuity.

Participation is limited. For more information and to reserve a ticket, which includes lunch featuring locally grown produce, please call the AVLT office at 707-895-3150.



Tanbark Oak
Notholithocarpus densiflorus
 By Jane Miller

Our featured tree for this issue is the Tanbark Oak, *Notholithocarpus densiflorus* (just recently categorized into this genus; formerly known as *Lithocarpus*). The tree gets its common name from the high tannin content in its bark—once used widely in the leather-producing industry—for which it was long highly prized. That trade has declined over time, however, and for tanning that is still done today, imported and/or synthetic material has mostly supplanted the use of Tanbark Oak. This may be beneficial to the species, as it is no longer so heavily logged for its bark alone. Historically, the inner wood of the tree, although hard and durable, was routinely discarded. Currently, the remaining trees tend to be widely scattered, often appearing amongst coastal redwood forests, although *Notholithocarpus densiflorus* can also thrive to elevations in excess of 5,000 feet, and is sometimes found co-existing with various species of oaks.

Native to moist valleys and mountain slopes from southwest Oregon to southern California, including the Anderson Valley, Tanbark Oak can assume different looks depending on its environment. Out in the open, it is a stocky densely foliated tree; when in the forest and reaching for sunlight, it can attain heights of eighty feet or more. The evergreen leaves sport obviously toothed margins, and are glossy green on the upper surface and covered with a whitish woolly coating underneath. The tiny white flowers are borne on dense spikes up to four inches long in spring and summer, resembling silky, decorative “tails” that are visually striking even from a distance. One source describes them as “lighting up the tree like candles.” The seeds take the form of acorns held upright singly or in pairs, enclosed in a burry cup that is quite distinctive. Closely related to the true oaks, *Notholithocarpus densiflorus* was once categorized as such; however it has long been placed in a different genus. Native Americans ground the acorns to make a flour that needed to be leached to remove the bitter taste, but was believed to be have high nutritional value.



When you’re hiking in the redwoods, do look for this unassuming tree – it can be a fun surprise. With its blooming season just around the corner, the unusual flowers of the Tanbark Oak are on their way – quite a sight!

Navarro River Watershed Plan – continued from page 1

improvements such as those found in the NWRP.”

Since 1998, MRC has completed restoration projects including CA Conservation Corps Large Wood Enhancement/Little North Fork Navarro River; Little North Fork Navarro River Road Restoration; John Smith Creek Barrier Modification/Instream Structure Restoration; South Branch North Fork Navarro River Road Restoration; Little North Fork Navarro (Sawyer Creek) Road Restoration; Little Jack Fish Passage Barrier Removal; Camp Creek Sediment Reduction; and Lower South Branch North Fork Navarro Sediment Reduction, Phase I. Fish Passage Barrier Projects in Navarro have been completed in Shingle Mill, John Smith, Bridge, Little Jack, Bear, Tributary to Cooks, and Coon Creeks, plus Neefus Gulch.

Linda MacElwee, MCRCO Navarro Watershed Coordinator states, “Thanks to AVLT for all their efforts in creating the NWRP. It has made all of the restoration efforts and dollars for on-the-ground projects possible.”

(continued on page 5)

Navarro River Watershed Plan – continued from page 4

“Without the NWRP,” Linda says, “we simply would not have been able to accomplish a fraction of this work—it provides the basis for much of our grant writing purposes and helps us find the spots most in need of restoration work. In 2000, the Coastal Conservancy provided funding through a grant to the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District (MCRCD) to hire a Watershed Coordinator; Patty Madigan was hired in 2001. Since then, MCRCD has been successful in leveraging 3.6 million dollars for on-the-ground restoration projects resulting in: a) 108 road miles inventoried for sediment control b) 59.14 road miles treated for preventing sediment delivery to streams with an estimated 100,327 cubic yards of sediment saved c) 3,190 feet of stream bank, treated with bioengineering, resulting in a total of 57 projects. MCRCD has worked on projects with landowners in all five major sub-basins of the Navarro. They continue to work closely with schools, businesses, ag producers, and community volunteers. An ongoing demonstration project included in the NWRP at the AV Jr./Sr. High School now includes a public access creek trail and provides a central component to a watershed and stream ecology curriculum.”

To learn more about watershed restoration opportunities, contact Linda at the Navarro River Resource Center (NRRC): (707) 895-3230, or rivercenter@mcn.org.

Clearly, we still have a long way to go. What can you do to help? Everyone can take steps where they live to protect the creeks, river, and aquifers. National Marine Fisheries report that 90% of the remaining freshwater habitat for salmonid species in California occurs on privately held forest lands. AVLT and NRRC continue to sponsor workshops on conservation and restorative actions that contribute to the long-term health of the ecosystem. Landowners can also permanently protect their land and riparian zones with a conservation easement. Contact Anderson Valley Land Trust at 707-895-3150 or avlt@mcn.org for more information and/or to add your email to our events list to stay informed about our field outings, projects, and workshops.

AVLT 2011 Financial Statements

Assets – December 2011	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Operating Accounts	\$ 31,414.	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		\$ 17,753.
Stewardship Endowment*		202,459.
Furniture/Equipment	1,574.	
Total Assets	\$ 32,988.	220,212*
Total Liabilities	0.	
Net Assets		
At Beginning of Year	\$ 243,992.	
Change in Net Assets	+9,208.	
At End of Year	253,200.	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 253,200.	

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2011

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Donations & Grants	\$ 27,425.	
Rent	2,160.	
Stewardship Endowment *		10,733.*
Interest & Dividends	4,242.	
Total Support & Revenue	33,827.	10,733.*
Expenses		
Insurance	2,925.	
Easement Expense	436.	
Office	1,373.	
Payroll	8,068.	
Postage	1,552.	
Printing	1,964.	
Rent & Utilities	7,849.	
Professional Fees	1,843.	

Total Expenses

\$ 26,010.

* restricted funds for the protection of our easements

SAVE THE DATE
MAY 20TH

An interpretive field trip to completed Navarro river restoration projects and a migrant fish trap counting station with a hydrologist and fisheries biologist. This event will be cosponsored by the Navarro River Resource Center. Contact avlt@mcn.org or rivercenter@mcn.org to reserve a space. No fee.

NAVARRO RIVER WATER TRAIL ASSESSMENT THE RESULTS START COMING IN By Patrick Miller

Last summer, with a small grant from the *California Department of Boating and Waterways* and the sponsorship of the *Anderson Valley Community Services District*, recreational use of the Navarro River at the five most popular public access points was documented. The survey methodology was prepared with the technical assistance of the Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service. The survey was conducted by Kam Goodell for AVLTL in coordination with Patrick Miller, the AVLTL project manager. This day-use survey marks the first time actual recreation use numbers have been collected for the Navarro during the prime recreation season. Sites were visited on weekends and selected weekdays to provide an accurate representation of use. Each site was visited in the morning and afternoon to get a handle on the “turnover” rate, to see if people stayed all day or only a portion of the day. The types of equipment visitors took with them to the river were documented. The sites included:

- Hendy Woods State Park: the day use area
- Philo-Greenwood Road Bridge/Philo Beach: the popularly used area both up and downstream from the bridge
- Navarro River Redwoods State Park: Paul M. Dimmick Beach
- Navarro River Redwoods State Park: a popular undeveloped site locally called either the Iron Bridge or Big Hole site located at the 3.675 mile marker along Highway 128
- Navarro River Redwoods State Park: Navarro Beach day use area

The statistical results show how well used the Navarro River truly is. The data also points to how important the Navarro River and the two State Parks along it are to Valley residents, to residents along the Mendocino coast, and to tourism and the local overall economy. (Note that these numbers do not reflect camping.) While the research is still being developed into an official report for the State Department of Boating and Waterways, here are some of the preliminary findings.

TABLE: Total Estimated Summer Visitation (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Location	Highest Number of Visitors on One Day	Total Visitation (preliminary findings/rounded)
Hendy Woods day use area	158	5,300
Philo-Greenwood Road Bridge / Philo beach	232	8,500
Paul M. Dimmick beach	137	3,300
Iron Bridge / Big Hole beach	93	4,000
Navarro Beach	203	6,900
Total Visitation All Use Areas		28,000

One other very important observation highlights the Navarro River’s potential as a water trail. Did you know that you can canoe and kayak from the Iron Bridge/Big Hole site to the Beach all summer long? Most people drive down SR 128 to the coast and just never think of that opportunity.

For more information about the AVLTL, the Navarro River and our programs, go to our website, andersonvalleylandtrust.org. To learn more about the Navarro River Water Trail Study, please visit www.navarroriver.org.

If you are interested in learning more about the *Navarro River Water Trail Assessment*, please contact AVLTL Project Manager and Board Member Patrick Miller at 707-895-2597 or Volunteer Coordinator Alice Bonner at 707-895-2545.

Thank You For Your Continued Support!

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A Special Thank You to our Volunteers – Alice Bonner, Mary Darling, Jerry Karp, Benna Kolinsky and Janet Snyder

WILDFLOWER WALK AT HIGHLAND RANCH

Saturday, April 21, 2012 • 10AM

The fifth annual AVLT spring wildflower walk will take place *on Saturday, April 21, 2012*, at Highland Ranch. This beautiful family-owned ranch is nestled in a hidden valley just over the ridgeline from Hendy Woods State Park. Its stunning meadows, old growth redwoods and ponds will provide the backdrop to this year's outing. The walk will be limited to 40 persons. Please call the AVLT office at 707-895-3150 to sign up for the walk and receive directions to Highland Ranch. We encourage you to carpool. No fee.



Photo by Steve Snyder

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Photo by Linda MacElwee

