

THE
ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST
INCORPORATED



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DEDICATED TO THE VOLUNTARY PRESERVATION
OF THE LAND AND ITS ABUNDANT
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT
OF GENERATIONS TO COME.

GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust
Spring - Summer 2002

TIMBERLAND, STREAMS PROTECTED

TWO NEW EASEMENTS DONATED TO AVLT

Over 125 additional acres of environmentally valuable land have been placed under perpetual protection thanks to the donation of two conservation easements to the Anderson Valley Land Trust. The forty acre Boonville property of Barbara and Robert Goodell, as well as 86 acres off Nash Mill Road in Philo owned by Evelyn Ashton, are the 11th and 12th properties to receive such permanent protection. Combined, these dozen properties account for over 700 acres of ecologically precious forest, riparian, and open land protected by conservation easements.

A conservation easement is an agreement between the Land Trust and landowner that becomes a deed restriction that remains with the property forever. The property remains private and can be sold or transferred as with other property, but certain uses of the property that are detrimental to its ecological integrity or undeveloped character are restricted. The exact restrictions are specifically tailored for the unique characteristics of each property by the landowner and the Land Trust. In addition to protecting our watershed, a donation of a conservation easement often qualifies as a charitable tax deduction and may also have a significant positive effect on a landowner's estate tax liability. Quite frequently, this lessening of the estate tax liability is a determining factor in keeping land in a family for succeeding generations rather than having to sell it off to pay those taxes.

The Goodell property, off of Lambert Lane in Boonville, features redwood forest and oak-madrone hardwood ecosystems. The easement, in addition to protecting this timber, also protects significant watershed values, as the property includes a portion of the headwaters of Mill Creek, which is a tributary to Robinson Creek, which in turn flows into Anderson Creek and eventually to the Navarro River. The watershed values include the contribution of clean, cool water flows into the Navarro Watershed, presently listed as "impaired" under the federal Clean Water Act due to elevated sediment and temperature. Such water flows also contribute to the instream habitat for steelhead and coho salmon, which are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, in the Navarro River Watershed.

The Ashton property is heavily forested with redwoods on its north slope, and its south-facing slope includes redwoods as well as madrones, oaks, and other hardwoods. The parcel features low lying areas at Mill Creek, to hilltops with an elevation of 1000 feet. There are several open meadows, including "Big Tree Meadow" at the top of the property.

Both Evelyn Ashton and the Goodells have been long-time conservationists. Barbara Goodell, commenting on her family's decision to donate the easement said, "We have a strong relationship with (continued on page 7)

AVLT 2001 Financial Statements

The following summary of unaudited financial statements for 2001 was prepared by AVLT Treasurer Karen Altaras and bookkeeper Mary Anne Wilcox.

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2001

Assets	
Cash	\$ 25,298
Stewardship Endowment	67,410
Furniture and equipment	1,925
Timber Rights	<u>430,400</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>525,033</u>
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Total Liabilities	\$ <u>-0-</u>
Net Assets	
At Beginning of Year	526,006
Change in Net Assets	<974>
At End of Year	525,032
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$525.032</u>

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets December 31, 2001

Support and Revenue	
Donations	\$ 20,430
Stewardship Endowment	3,500
Interest and Dividends	3,157
Miscellaneous	<u>25</u>
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$ 27,112
Expenses	
Dues and subscriptions	\$ 530
Insurance	2,348
Licenses and permits	45
Office expense	590
Payroll	14,472
Postage	1,254
Printing & publications	2,917
Professional fees	898
Telephone	309
Special events/meetings	419
Books and Maps	217
Rent	2,241
Utilities	<u>187</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 26,427

Navarro Restoration Update

by Patty Madigan, Navarro Watershed Coordinator
Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

Biological Invasion on the Navarro!

Native to India, fodder for elephants, and prolific in Southern California and Russian River watersheds--*Arundo donax*, or Giant Reed, has established itself in the Navarro. This noxious weed, which looks something like bamboo and grows 35 feet high, is undesirable for several reasons.

First, it crowds out native vegetation and eventually dominates the riparian corridor; in Southern California it went from introduction to invasion in only 7 years. Second, *Arundo* has virtually no value for wildlife or fish and it consumes vast amounts of water. And finally, it is a serious fire hazard. *Arundo* can be controlled but it is very difficult to eradicate completely.

Karen Gaffney, a plant ecologist with Circuit Rider Productions in Windsor, is an *Arundo* expert. Karen, a Boonville native, recently gave a workshop on invasive plants in Anderson Valley. Karen has been conducting research on controlling *Arundo donax* and has had a good measure of success without using herbicides. To get rid of *Arundo*, according to Karen, you need to be extremely careful you don't unintentionally spread it further. It propagates from short sections of the stalk--it only needs two or three nodes--so even a few inches of plant material can generate another infestation. Burning it in place is absolutely not recommended.

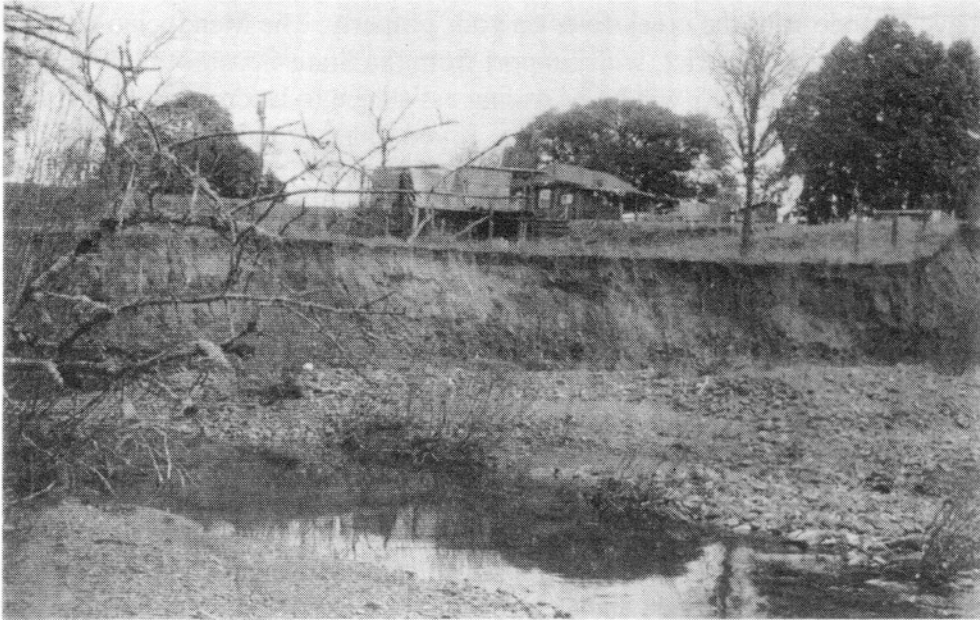
The Navarro Watershed Restoration Program is developing an *Arundo* "hotline". If you have *Arundo* near the creek/river on your property, The Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, with support from the State Coastal Conservancy and Department of Fish & Game, will be providing assistance to landowners by helping to identify, remove, and monitor *Arundo donax*. If you think *Arundo* has paid a visit to your property, please call Navarro Watershed Coordinator, Patty Madigan at: 707-964-0395. This is the perfect time to get started with removal efforts, with sunny months ahead--and before we have to bring in the elephants!

Robinson Creek Restoration Grant

Navarro Watershed Coordinator, Patty Madigan, recently submitted a Grant to the Department of Water Resource's Urban Streams Restoration Program to help restore Robinson Creek where it flows through Downtown Boonville. This restoration work may include: 1) Removing garbage and old rusty metal from the creek; 2) Removing invasive, non-native vegetation and replanting with custom propagated native plants; and 3) Restoring several sections of streambank failures. Approximately 22 landowners were contacted to survey their interest and support for the project. Letters of support were also received from the Anderson Valley Grange and the Anderson Valley Land Trust.
(continued on page 4)



On a reconnaissance walk-through, from the Fairgrounds to Anderson Valley High School, digital photographs recorded some interesting stream deposits: three antique washing machines; two early model cars; and riparian vegetation strewn with variegated strips of clothing. Notification regarding the project funding status is expected this Spring. Landowners will be contacted before any work begins, and consulted throughout the project.



SUDDEN OAK DEATH FOUND IN ANDERSON VALLEY

by Karen Altaras

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is a water mold fungus that has destroyed more than 100,000 tan oak, coast live oak, black oak, and Shreve oak. SOD was discovered in 1995 in Mill Valley and has since spread to ten counties, including Mendocino. In June 2000 this fungus-like organism was finally identified as *Phytophthora* ("Phy-TOFF-thoruh") *ramorum*, and connected to a previously identified *Phytophthora* isolated in ornamental rhododendrons in Germany and the Netherlands. Relatives of this "fungus" caused the Irish potato famine.

There are two categories of hosts for *Phytophthora ramorum*: bark canker hosts and foliar hosts. The bark canker hosts are tanoaks and oaks that become infected on their trunks. Foliar hosts become infected on their leaves and small branches and include bays, rhododendrons, bigleaf maple, toyon, manzanita, madrone, California buckeye, honeysuckle, and huckleberry. While the bark cankers usually lead to mortality in tanoaks and oaks, foliar hosts usually do not die from the *P. ramorum* infection. The bark cankers' earliest symptom is a thick burgundy-red to tar black sap, which oozes on the bark surface. Other *Phytophthora* can produce identical symptoms in oak trees and suspected infection needs to be diagnosed by lab testing. This fungus-like pathogen has recently been identified in coast redwoods. Currently, it is strongly suspected that the



microbe might affect redwood regeneration, but is not capable of killing an adult tree of that species. There is very little known about this pathogen, but this is the first time a forest pathogen has been studied using DNA technology and this testing has helped identify host species.

Sudden Oak Death has recently been identified in Mendocino County, although, currently, only in Anderson Valley. SOD has been identified on Highway 128 along
(continued on page 7)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We would like to thank our generous members for their continued support of the work of the Anderson Valley Land Trust. In 2001 we received donations from individuals and businesses totaling more than \$20,000. These gifts allow us to continue the work of ensuring a sound environmental future for Anderson Valley and the Navarro River Watershed. You can make a big difference by joining the AVLT and making a tax-deductible donation. Please use the convenient form found at the back of this newsletter.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the following friends and neighbors who made a financial commitment to AVLT's efforts in 2001.

Susan and Michael Addison	Jean Haber Green	Carroll and Carrie Pratt
Adobe Systems, Inc.	Barbara and Gregory Hill	Greg Rocca
Karen Altaras	Charity and Morris Hirsch	Lynn and Al Roman
Mary Stuart Alvord	Martha Hyde	William Roth
Mark and Deanna Apfel	Eric Labowitz and Kathy	Peter and Collette Rothschild
Rene and Judith Auberjonois	Bailey	Nona and Thomas Russell
Pete and Flo Bates	Bud and Pauline Ledbetter	Charlotte and Charles
Connie Best	Shirlee and Larry Londer	Saunders
Konrad Bieber	Helen Longino	Tex and Lynn Sawyer
Francis Biedler	Bruce Longstreet	Clarissa Schaeffer and
Robert and Marion Blumberg	MacAllum Trust	Gregory Sims
The Boonville Hotel	Robert Mandell	John Scharffenberger
Briana Burns	Martina Mann	Wayne Schoenahl
Cakebread Cellars	Keith Marshall and Margory	Roger Scommegna
Mark Carpenter	Wolf	Roger Selsback and Rey Friel
Lyman and Carol Casey	Frances and Frederic Martin	Lee Serrie
Cheryl Cathey	Len and Liz Mayrisch	Michael Shapiro
Patricia Caughey	Catherine Merschel	Ed and Ann Short
William Chambers	Suzy Miller and Jimmy	Thomas Sloan
Coulter Claeys	Humble	Dan and Raychelle Sokolow
Joel Clark	Patrick and Jane Miller	Robert Tierney & Sandhya
David and Micki Colfax	Dennis Mills and Neva Dyer	Abee
David Collin	Cynthia Morris	Ama Torrance and David
Wallace Conroe	Daniel and Jill Myers	Davies
Kevin Coughlin	Marsha O' Bannon	Ray and Susan Triplett
Claeys Coulter	Mary Zona Squibb O'Neal	Jay and Nikki Tureen
Brian and Janet Davis	Richard Ortner	V. Sattui Winery, Inc.
Dan Dodt	Judy Palmer	Laurie Wayburn
Thom Elkjer	Sandra and Leonard Parker	Eula West
Jay and Barbara Fehr	Wendy Patterson	Clare Rolph Wheeler
Janet Foote	Jed Pogran and Gary	Bryant and Penny Whittaker
Ron and Gail Gester	McGregor	Deborah and Steven Wolfe
Barbara and Rob Goodell	F. Kathryn Porter	

WELCOME, NEW VOLUNTEERS

One of the most important and time consuming tasks we perform at the Anderson Valley Land Trust is conducting annual monitorings of our conservation easements. With twelve easements in our portfolio, and more on the way, the need for volunteer help becomes more and more evident. Recently, we have been favored with the services of Lee Serrie of Philo, and Ed Short, also of Philo, on our site visits, and we are grateful for their commitment to the land and for their invaluable help. If you would like to volunteer your services as a volunteer to the Anderson Valley Land Trust, contact our office at 895-3150.

New Easements (continued from page 1)

and respect for our land. We wanted to leave the options open for our kids and future generations to be able to live close to the land in a relatively natural setting.” A founding AVLTL board member and currently its vice-president, Goodell expressed her passion for land conservation. “We felt like homesteaders when we moved into twenty logged-over acres with two kids, ages 3 and 1, in 1978. We have forged a good portion of our family history here and we want to allow the redwoods to attain the stature of an old growth forest and protect the oak woodlands. When Rob and I go walking in the woods, it gives us a great feeling to know that these old growth trees, hardwoods, and this watershed in general are being protected in perpetuity.” Evelyn Ashton is no less passionate about land conservation. She was active in land conservation issues when she lived in southern California long before she purchased her land in Philo in '89 and moved here permanently ten years later. “As a third generation Californian, I have seen so much of the beauty and natural characteristics of our surroundings disappear. It's of paramount importance to protect what we have left.” Evelyn became interested in the work of the Anderson Valley Land Trust when she attended a dedication ceremony for the conservation easement donated by her Nash Mill Road neighbors Pete and Flo Bates in the year 2000. A similar dedication for the Ashton easement will take place on Saturday, June 8th at 2PM on the property in Philo, and all members of the community are invited to attend, especially landowners with an interest in conserving their land and resources for the enjoyment of future generations. For more information and directions, please contact the AVLTL office. For information on how you can donate a conservation easement or to explore the appropriateness of an easement on your property, call the Anderson Valley Land Trust at (707) 895-3150, write to us at PO Box 141, Boonville, CA 95415, or email us at avlt@mcn.org.

SUDDEN OAK DEATH (continued from page 5)

Dry Creek northwest of Ingram Creek and on 128 along Rancheria between Ornbaun and Shearing Creeks. Currently, lab tests are being performed on a tanoak near the Mailliard Redwoods State Reserve. SOD is not an insect-borne disease and seems to spread by airborne movement of infectious spores. All of the previously infected species grow in Mendocino county and it is not always evident that a foliar host is infected. The leaves of foliar hosts, such as bays, madrones, and rhododendrons contain large amounts of spores, which may be dispersed through the air under moist and windy conditions. This pathogen has been found in soil, rainwater, and downed wood and the host range is expected to increase. You may view photos of SOD infections and find information about SOD on the California Oak Mortality Task Force web site at www.suddenoakdeath.org. If you feel you may have an outbreak contact Tony Linegar of the Mendocino Agriculture Department in Ukiah at 463-4208.

The mature native oak is an invaluable part of our environment and we know little about the infection of the coast redwood. “This pathogen has some features that make it quite unusual,” said Matteo Garbelotto, a forest pathologist at the University of California at Berkeley. “And because we know so little about it, we can't make a lot of predictions.” There is no completely effective treatment of SOD. Preventing the movement of infected leaves, wood, and soil will be critical to slowing the spread of this fungus. Promoting tree health is the best defense against a range of plant pathogens and insect pests. Information on oak trees may be found at www.californiaoaks.org.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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BOONVILLE, CA 95415

Join the Anderson Valley Land Trust

"Dedicated to the Voluntary Preservation of the Land
and its Abundant Natural Resources for the Benefit of Generations to Come"

___ **Yes!** I want to contribute to the preservation of the natural heritage of our valley
by supporting the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

___ **I want to learn more** about the Anderson Valley Land Trust and private land
conservation. Please send me additional information.

___ **I want to volunteer** my time to work with the Anderson Valley Land Trust.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I wish to support the AVL T at the following level:

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> | \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Thank you!

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to:
The Anderson Valley Land Trust, Inc., P.O. Box 141, Boonville, CA 95494