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GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust
Spring - Summer 2003

THE NAVARRO WATERSHED WORKING GROUP

by Linda MacElwee

The Navarro Watershed Working Group is presently a small group of 8 folks who have come together because of their interest in seeing or participating directly in the restoration efforts taking place in the Navarro Watershed. The group has been forming over the past year, meeting monthly. They have spent a good part of the year developing their mission statement and guiding principles as well as developing their process for conducting meetings. NWWG uses a format where the facilitation role is shared among all of it's members. The mission of NWWG is to support voluntary stewardship in the watershed through information, education demonstration, and dedication. To achieve this mission the group hopes to work in a variety of different ways. One way is through education *i.e.* organizing workshops, hosting a web site, and supporting a project called Mendocino Natives Nursery.

By holding workshops an average of 4 times a year on a variety of different topics related to the watershed, we hope to learn more about our watershed and how we live in relationship to it. For example, we can learn more about what plants are native to this place, what non-native invasive plants are and why there is concern about some of them. We also can learn more about roads and how they effect our streams and fish habitat and what we can do to minimize the damage they inflict. We can learn too about fish habitat, salmon and steelhead life cycles, what a riparian zone is, and what a

stream profile looks like. We can find out where the boundaries of the Navarro Watershed are and what the five major tributaries are - all important parts of understanding the watershed. Keep an eye out for announcements throughout the year for workshops. **The next community workshop, "Maintaining our Forest and Ranch Roads and How our Roads affect Fish?" will be on May 31.** Call Patty Madigan for more information at 964-0395.

NWWG is developing it's own web site as well as offering an Adult Education Class about putting your Watershed on the Web. The class meets the second Tuesday of every month at AV High School's Library from 5:30 to 7:30pm. This class is designed to educate participants and to encourage them to actively participate in gathering and sharing important information about what we are learning and doing here in the Navarro Watershed to help restore and care for

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this important resource. For more information check out the web site at www.NavarroRiverWatershedProject.org or contact our web master Russ Emal at: russ@hungryhollow.com to receive guidelines on how to submit information to the web site.

NWWG offers it's support to the ongoing project of Mendocino Natives Nursery (MNN). MNN is a student/community program of Anderson Valley School District. The program is overseen by Ken Montgomery and has three basic components to it. There is the nursery itself, which works with paid student interns to custom propagate site-specific native plants for landowners' restoration projects. There is also the ongoing management, care, and development of the Anderson Creek Restoration Site that is located right there behind the High School Domes and finally, there is the in classroom/field teaching that happens with the 10th and 11th grade biology classes on restoration and Watersheds. MNN is a great resource for the community as a whole and is specifically there to help landowners to revegetate their landscape with natives while at the same time benefiting our youth. However, it takes planning ahead and coordinating with your project in advance, so start planning now for next fall and spring's planting. For more information call, Ken at 895-3853.

Here are two other interesting projects that NWWG is involved in:

The Arundo Project is the outcome of a grant awarded to the Navarro from State Coastal Conservancy and CA Dept. of Fish and Game to assist landowner's with *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) identification and removal. Arundo is a terrible problem in many other watersheds including the Russian River System, which is close to us. There are only a limited number of stands of this invasive plant in the Navarro Watershed so we have a chance now to take care of it and keep it out of our stream systems altogether. To learn more about this non-native invasive plant plan to attend the **presentation by Karen Gaffney**. Karen grew up here in the Valley and works with Circuit Rider Productions as a Native Plant and Restoration Specialist of Circuit Rider Productions. She will be speaking **at the Grange on April 15 from 6:30-8:30pm**. Refreshments will be served. For more information call Linda MacElwee at 895-9119.

The Robinson Creek Restoration Project in Downtown Boonville was also awarded a grant that is cosponsored by NWWG and the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. The Grant money is coming from the Department of Water Resources to work with landowners and restoration experts to develop a restoration design to restore the native habitat and clean up sections of Robinson Creek from the fairgrounds to the high school (see the back of this newsletter on how you can join in on the fun!). For more information about this important project call Sandy Bartlett at 895-9033.

There is more exciting work going on than I have room for, but to learn more about us keep an eye out for NWWG's newsletter coming out soon or come to a meeting. **NWWG's next meeting is on Monday April 7th from 4:00-5:15pm at the Firehouse meeting room in Boonville.** For more information or questions call Patty Madigan, the Navarro Watershed Coordinator at 964-0395.

Editor's note: The Land Trust supported and participated in the development of the Navarro Watershed Restoration Plan, from the fall of 1994 through to its completion in the summer of 1998. We are pleased to be able to support Patty Madigan, the Navarro River Watershed Coordinator, and the Navarro Watershed Working Group, an active group of local citizens, who are working together on the implementation of various aspects of this important plan.

THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER, ED SHORT

by Susan Addison

At our annual meeting in December, 2002 we were delighted to welcome new board member Ed Short. We have board member Bill Chambers to thank for introducing us to Ed. Bill and Ed's wife, Ann, grew up together in Montana and have been lifelong friends. Ann often visited Bill here in Anderson Valley and when it came time for Ed to retire after a life of traveling over much of the world, they settled on a piece of land in Holmes Ranch where they built a new home and became permanent residents in 2002.



Ed grew up in Los Angeles where he graduated from USC in economics. He went from there to Hastings Law School. He passed the bar in 1965 and was hired by Chevron to be a part of their tax law staff. During the twenty years that he worked in that department it grew from a small office to a large operation and Ed became familiar with the worldwide operation of Chevron. That made him a logical choice when Chevron was looking for someone to serve as general counsel in London. Ann and Ed's son, Tim, had grown up and moved away so they were happy to take this assignment. They lived in London for five years and took the opportunity to travel all over Europe, often with Bill Chambers as their companion, driver and translator.

When Ed returned from London he, along with several others, was trained in Chevron's Total Quality Management program and then they trained others. Ed did this for two years and then was appointed the general counsel for the maritime function of Chevron. He describes this job as "the most fun he ever had."

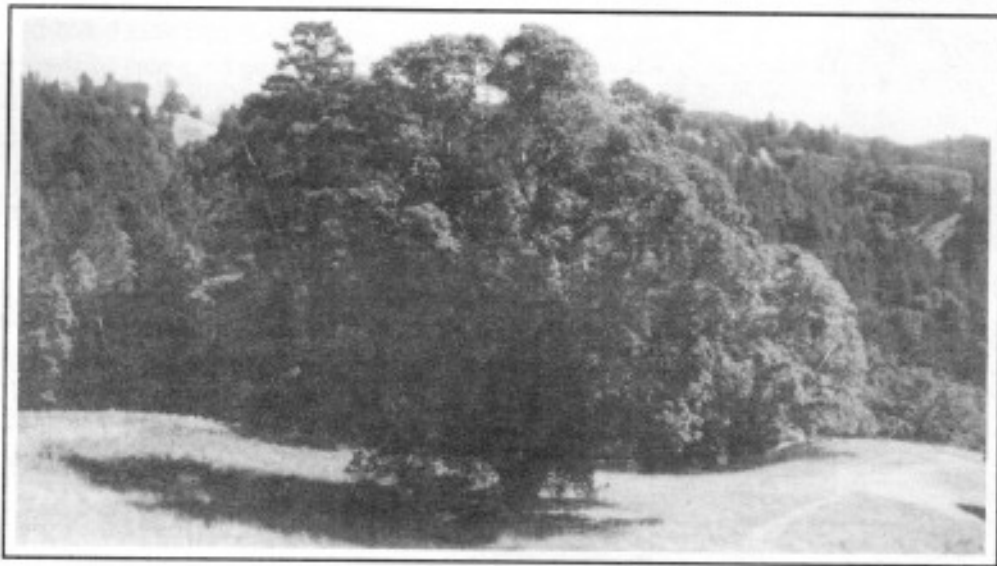
It is this quality of enthusiasm that makes him such a good candidate for the Land Trust Board. He certainly brings managerial and lawyer skills that will be of great value but his enjoyment of life makes him a particularly welcome partner in our efforts to conserve the natural beauty of Anderson Valley. He retired because he wanted time to "do other things" such as read widely, maintain his garden and provide part of the "muscle" in a neighbor's wine making operation. We are very happy to be included on his list of "other things."

PACIFIC MADRONE - THE "REFRIGERATOR TREE"

by Karen Altaras

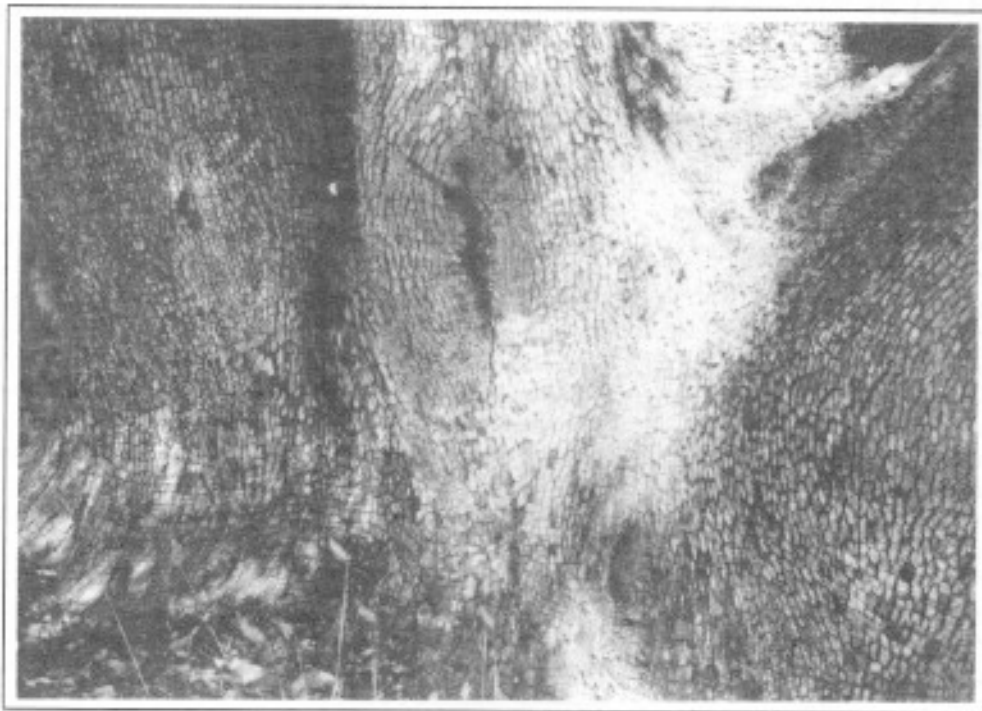
The Pacific Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) is considered by many to be as characteristic of the north Coast Ranges of California as the Coast Redwood and the most beautiful of California's broadleaf trees. It is probably best characterized by its sinuous trunk and exfoliating cinnamon red bark, with its dark green leathery leaves providing a wonderful contrast. When mature this broadleaf evergreen produces clusters of sweet smelling white to pink urn-shaped flowers in the spring turning to bright orange-red berries in autumn.

The Madrone was named by Fr. Juan Crespi, chronicler of the 1769 Portola expedition, in reference to a sister species in the Mediterranean. A British botanist, Archibald Menzies (1754-1842), formally named the species "Arbutus" after the Latin word for the strawberry tree. Arbutus is in the large Heath Family and includes plants such as: rhododendron, heather, blueberry, and wintergreen. The pacific madrone is found in forests, woodlands, and chaparral communities from southern California to British Columbia, and while the madrone's high tolerance to drought, temperature extremes, shade and elevation enable it to thrive in these differing habitats, it is far more abundant in the north Coast Ranges.



It is on dry sites at low to moderate elevations along the east slope of the Coast Ranges that the Pacific madrone reaches its greatest height of 140 feet. These colorful trees are slow growing and live for hundreds of years. Unlike many evergreen hardwoods, Pacific madrone is a regular seeder and is capable of vigorous sprouting following disturbances, but despite high rates of germination and emergence, seedling survival is poor on most sites. While madrone adapts well in the wild it has a harder time in home gardens. They need to be watered carefully until established and then leave them alone in an area away from regular watering.

Arbutus menziesii is susceptible to infestation by *Phytophthora ramorum* the pathogen responsible for Sudden Oak Death. As mentioned in previous Good Dirt's, the madrone is a foliar host and its leaves may contain large amounts of spores which may be dispersed through the air. It is very difficult to recognize *Phytophthora* in madrones as there are many other pathogens that have similar symptoms and it is best to contact the Mendocino Agriculture Department when *Phytophthora ramorum* is suspected. While admiring these picturesque trees be sure not to transport these spores.



The madrone was well known to the Native Americans. The large, thin scales of bark were made into a tea to remedy stomachaches and the Pomo-Kashaya women used a decoction of bark as an astringent to close pores and soften skin. Madrone berries, consisting of a mealy pulp and numerous, bony seeds, were eaten fresh or dried, but if you decide to taste a berry choose a dark red one, which can be sweet. The yellow-orange ones will have you puckering. The Yuki and the Concow ate the leaves to induce vomiting, and conversely the Miwok brewed a cider to stimulate appetite, and chewed the leaves for stomachache and cramps. A tea from the roots, bark and leaves was used for colds and the large old specimens were known as council tree, the meeting place of tribes.

The fall berries are enjoyed by many birds, including Robins and Cedar Waxwings, and are especially popular with Band-Tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Deer, rodents and gray fox also eat these berries and the sweet scented flowers are a favorite of bees. If you are out for a walk on a hot summer day in Anderson Valley and enjoying these trees be sure to walk up to one of the big guys and give it a hug. The "refrigerator tree" always feels cool even on the hottest of days.

***SAVE THE DATE! MAY 18TH FOR THE ROBINSON CREEK
RESTORATION WORKSHOP. SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS***

BECAUSE OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

We have been able to continue our efforts to conserve the natural beauty of the Anderson Valley. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following friends and neighbors who made a financial commitment to AVL T's efforts in 2002.

Susan & Michael Addison
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 Bryant & Penny Whittaker
 Jody Williams
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 Margery Wolf & Keith Marshall
 Deborah & Steven Wolfe
 Rex Raymond Wood

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THESE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AS another generous supporter of the Land Trust's efforts to preserve and restore the land and its abundant natural resources for future generations by making your tax deductible contribution. We have enclosed an envelope with this newsletter for your convenience.

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, 2002

Assets	
Operating Accounts	11,944
Stewardship Endowment	70,760
Furniture/Equipment	1,294
Timber Rights*	<u>430,400</u>
Total Assets	\$514,398
Total Liabilities	-0-
Net Assets	
At Beginning of Year	525,032
Change in New Assets	<10,634>
At End of Year	<u>514,398</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$514,398

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets December 31, 2002

Support & Revenue	
Donations	15,640
Stewardship Endowment	10,278
Interest & Dividends	<u>1,869</u>
Total Support and Revenue	\$27,787
Expenses	
Dues, Maps & Subscriptions	656
Insurance	2,371
Miscellaneous	173
Office Supplies	598
Payroll*	17,074
Postage & Delivery	1,429
Printing & Reproduction	1,960
Professional Fees	946
Rent	2,539
Special Events	284
Utilities	<u>901</u>
Total Expense	\$28,930

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

Payroll: This expense will be greatly reduced in 2003. We have enlarged our all volunteer board and no longer have a regular part-time employee.

THE
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Robinson Creek Clean-up Planned for May 18th



On Friday, January 31, as a part of the high school sponsored Community Action Day, eight students and project supervisor Sandy Bartlett worked with Patty Madigan, the Navarro River Watershed coordinator for Mendocino County, and Greg Bartlett from State Parks to clean up Robinson Creek from the bridge at Mountain View Road to the confluence with Anderson Creek. In one and a half hours this team collected 1,314 pounds of trash. That translates to an average of a little over 130 pounds of garbage per person! It was a huge job, but they shared lots of laughs in the process.

What they accomplished didn't go unnoticed. The Anderson Valley Land Trust, as part of our contribution to the work of protecting the environment, is co-sponsoring the next Robinson Creek clean-up day on May 18th, the Sunday after Mother's Day, from 11 am to 3 pm. Volunteers will need to wear appropriate clothing for working in the creek and be sure to bring sun protection. They will also need to provide their own sack lunch and bring gloves if they have them. The clean-up coordinators, Patty Madigan and Sandy Bartlett, will provide water, some gloves and tools, and garbage bags. If you would like to help with this effort please call Sandy Bartlett at 895- 9033 and leave your name and number on the machine. We will call you if there are any changes, but if you don't hear from us please meet at the high school parking lot at 11 am and we will get to work to do our part in restoring Robinson Creek.