

THE  
ANDERSON  
VALLEY  
LAND  
TRUST  
INCORPORATED



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DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND  
RESTORATION OF OUR UNIQUE RURAL  
LANDSCAPE WITH ITS ABUNDANT  
NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE  
BENEFIT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

# GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust  
Spring – Summer 2007

## NEW EASEMENTS PROTECT ANDERSON VALLEY VIEWSHED AND WILDLIFE HABITAT



**View from Highway 128**

Thanks to the generosity of landowners here in Anderson Valley the Land Trust now has two more conservation easements in place. These easements protect the water resources, timber and wildlife habitat on each property, but in addition they protect the open views of the Valley hillsides by limiting the development and timber harvest allowed on each property.

Steve Curtiss owns a 10-acre parcel that is visible from Highway 128 just outside of Boonville. His easement protects this open hillside from development of any kind, residential or agricultural, thus preserving it as open space. The open meadow and the groves of oaks and bays will remain as part of the scenic corridor along the northeast side of the Valley. There is also a seasonal creek that runs through the property during the rainy season. This drains into Anderson Creek and then into the Navarro River. Eliminating development on this land protects the riparian trees and other plants along the stream, which provides important wildlife habitat for the birds and animals that live in the vicinity.

This easement adds one more link in the chain of the protection of the Navarro Watershed that the Land Trust is committed to preserve for future generations living in Anderson Valley.

**INSIDE DIRT**

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Maureen and Michael Bowman have donated the second easement that the Land Trust received in 2006. They own a 40-acre property on Clow Ridge that has beautiful views of the Valley, but it is also part of the view corridor along Highway 128 northwest of Philo. The Bowmans wish to preserve this view by protecting the existing forest and grasslands from further development. The extensive forest on the land consists of healthy second growth redwoods, Doug firs and various hardwoods. Harvest of timber will be limited to trees that may be milled and used on the property or for personal firewood. Runoff from this property drains into Red Hill Gulch, which then drains into various tributaries that are part of the Navarro Watershed. The Bowmans will continue to enjoy the use of their land for residential and recreational purposes but there will be no commercial timber harvest or agricultural activities. By placing this easement on their property the Bowmans have joined with several other local landowners in efforts to keep the local ecosystems intact.



**Anderson Valley as seen from Clow Ridge**

With these two new conservation easements the Land Trust now protects 1000 acres here in Anderson Valley. Each new easement provides further protection for our precious water resources, wildlife habitat and important forests and grasslands. We salute all of our easement donors for their foresight and their willingness to participate in the protection of our unique rural landscape. These contributions to the healthy natural environment of our community are cause for celebration.

## AVLT 2006 Financial Statements

The following summary of unaudited financial statements for 2006 was prepared by the AVLT Treasurer, Lee Serrie, and bookkeeper, Amy Soderman.

### Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2006

<b>Assets</b>	
Operating Accounts	41,480
Pioneer Stewardship Fund	16,551
Stewardship Endowment	102,645
Furniture/Equipment	2,332
Timber Rights*	<u>430,400</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>593,408</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
	<b>-0-</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
At Beginning of Year	554,906
Change in New Assets	38,502
At End of Year	<u>593,408</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$593,408</b>

### Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets December 31, 2006

<b>Support &amp; Revenue</b>	
Donations	25,948
Stewardship Endowment	22,000
Interest & Dividends	4,881
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$52,829</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Dues, Maps & Subscriptions	380
Insurance	3,861
Miscellaneous	139
Office	239
Payroll	3,750
Postage & Delivery	1,655
Printing & Reproduction	2,246
Professional Fees	2,486
Rent	3,620
Special Events	2,112
Utilities	<u>853</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$21,341</b>

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

## WE SEND HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We were able to continue our conservation work here in Anderson Valley in 2006 thanks to generous donations from the following wonderful people:

Susan & Michael Addison	Ron & Gail Gester	Lanny & Sandy Parker
Barbara Alhadeff	Barbara & Rob Goodell	Jed Pogran & Gary McGregor
Karen Altaras	Jean Haber Green	Alan Porter & Paul Hoge
Mary Stuart Alvord	Theodore & Martha Griffinger	Carole & Carroll Pratt
Eric Anderson	Henry & Heidi Gundling	Sandra Rennie
Anderson Creek Vineyards	Wendy Patterson- Hallomas, Inc.	Martin R. Riskin
Deanna & Mark Apfel	Richard & Gene Herr	Kent & Anne Rogers
Evelyn Ashton	Morris & Charity Hirsch	Roger & Ann Romani
Rene & Judith Auberjonois	Charles Hochberg	Peter & Collette Rothschild
Kathy Bailey & Eric Labowitz	Walter & Susan Hopkins	Nona & Thomas Russell
Stephen Barlow	David Hopmann & James Taul	Charles & Charlotte Saunders
James Barstow & Susan Ensign	Martha Hyde	The Santana Family
Connie Best & Laurie Wayburn	Holiday & Christopher Johnson	John Scharffenberger
Maureen & Michael Bowman	Al Korpela	Barbara Scott
Robert & Marion Blumberg	Katherine & George Lee	Lee Serrie & Rob Giuliani
Dick & Louise Browning	George & Christina Lech	Michael Shapiro
Briana Burns	Ted & Heidi Lemon	Ed & Ann Short
Ray Carlson & Assoc. Inc.	Larry & Shirlee Londer	Phillip D. Smith
Wendell & Stephanie Carlson	Helen Longino	Rae & Daniel Sokolow
Cakebread Cellars	Robert Mandel	Stella Cadente Olive Oil
Lyman & Carol Casey	Martina & Christopher Mann	William Sterling & Yvonne Rand
William Chambers	Francis & Fred Martin	David K. Stuart
Lisa Chen & Robert Finkelstein	Cathy Merschel	Terry Surles
Joel Clark	John Merz & Carol Ross	Michael Teitz & Mary Camerio
Wallace Conroe	Mac Marshall & Margery Wolf	Ama Torrance & David Davies
Corby Vineyards	Julian G. Miellette	Raymond & Susan Triplett
Dr. & Mrs. Mark Crozier	Jane & Patrick Miller	Walt & Ginger Valen
Brian & Janet Davis	Dennis Mills & Neva Dyer	Gaile Wakeman
Jose Diaz & Martha Valencia	Ken Montgomery & Susan Bridge-Mount	Leona Walden
Rafael M. Diaz	Cynthia Morris	J. Russell Wherritt
Elizabeth Dusenberry	Daniel & Jill Myers	Cindy & Kirk Wilder
Todd & Marge Evans	Marshall Newman	Peter Wiley & Valerie Barth
Thom Elkjer	Michael & Bonnie O'Halloran	Wiley & Sons
Jay & Barbara Fehr	Richard Ortner	Jody & Steve Williams
Steve & Margaret Fish	Dave & Helen Papke	Tom Wodetzki
Frogwood Lodge Retreat Center		Deborah & Steven Wolfe

**We want to thank the following landowners who generously opened their gardens last May for a very successful garden tour: Jim & Nancy Chadwick, Peter & Collette Rothschild, Sandra Rennie & Nick Yost, Wellspring Renewal Center, Sandhya Abee & Bob Tierney. Special thanks to Ginger Valen and the Hort Forum for organizing the event and to all of the volunteers who made it possible.**

## *A letter from the President:*

Dear Friends,

Spring for the AVLТ is always a busy time, as we look at all the conservation easements we plan to complete by the end of the year. This year the easements we are working on extend from the ridge tops of the Valley to the Navarro River basin, and along Rancheria Creek. While we develop these easements, we continue to monitor all of the 1000 plus acres we have under easement, working with landowners to protect and preserve the conservation values of their land. Once the documents are filed with the county we have the responsibility, in perpetuity, to ensure the terms of the easement are honored as agreed by the landowners and the Land Trust.

Our all-volunteer board visits each property every year and while this is a time commitment for the board members, it does not deter them from being pro-active in looking for new easements. The AVLТ has a Power Point presentation that was developed by Patrick Miller and can be adapted for any property by Thom Elkjer. If you are thinking about conserving your land this may be of interest to you. We also have an informational packet we would be happy to mail to you. We know many landowners are conscientious about stewardship of their land, but when the property changes ownership there are no guarantees regarding how the land will be used in the future. This is when a conservation easement can be a real asset to the property.

At the beginning of the year the AVLТ was fortunate to have Linda MacElwee agree to be our office manager. Many of you know Linda from the Navarro Watershed Working Group, or have heard her on KZYX, as she is one of the hosts of the Farm and Garden show. She has a wealth of experience in land issues and it has been a pleasure to have her experience and energy in the office one day a week. Having Linda in the office has enabled Susan Addison to spend more time writing easements. In addition to Susan, Alan Porter will also be working on developing new easements.

As the AVLТ works to preserve the land and resources of Anderson Valley we realize we need to expand and so we have begun the process to acquire a developmental grant. Thom Elkjer has generously donated funds to search for such a grant and this will allow the AVLТ to continue to use your donations to create new easements in the Navarro River watershed.

Please use the enclosed envelope to renew your support or to become a new donor.

Thank you,

Karen Altaras, President

## Creating Stream Canopy—AVLT Fall Workshop



Willows planted in gabions in Anderson Creek

Picture thriving apple and olive orchards along the southeast side of Anderson Valley Way. Enter Filigreen Farm and walk past the barns to the 100-year floodplain of Anderson Creek and then look beyond to more acres of biodynamic orchards yielding to a forested canopy sheltering the banks of Anderson Creek. Fifteen years ago the view beyond the orchard would have been of a mostly arid, aggraded gravel bed about 350 feet wide with a shallow creek sporting very little foliage or shade canopy.

Chris Tebbutt, assisted by his son, Theo, guided the 30+ river restoration workshop participants to points within the restored area, showing enlarged 'before' photos and describing the work he and Stephanie have done. The radical difference in terrain and ambiance was palpable and exciting. Their work is the largest successful restoration project in the Navarro River Basin. They have placed gabions, planted trees, and created barriers to corral the creek sediment to make soil--adding twelve acres of stable bottomland to a half-mile of creek frontage, protecting the orchards, narrowing the gravel bed to 80 feet, deepening the water channel, and cooling the water temperature for fish habitat. Chris says that now he worries much less about a major flooding event on this stretch of Anderson Creek because the trees, many now well over a foot in girth, hold the banks.

Filigreen Farm has a conservation easement forever protecting the farm's 87 acres of riverine habitat, organic agriculture, forest, and timber.



Anderson Creek now at 80' in width with mature willows along banks

## Native Iris of Mendocino County



*Iris douglassiana* \*

With the approach of spring here in Mendocino County the sharp-eyed among us will spy the lovely native iris in bloom along our highways, byways and foot trails. The most common and widespread of the native iris is *Iris douglasiana*. It ranges in color from creamy white to deep purple and can be found from sea level to the high foothills in open fields or along the edges of woodlands. If you should be in the town of Mendocino, plan to take a walk along the headlands to see the great swathes of Douglas iris flowering there among the grasses. The one to two foot tall by one-half to three-quarter inch wide leaves are shiny green above but dull green on the reverse. The flowering stems are as tall as the leaves. Douglas iris cross readily with other native iris and often the plants found further inland have crossed with other local iris species that are more shade tolerant. This iris species is also commonly hybridized and several lovely varieties are for sale in the nursery trade. Here in Boonville you might visit Anderson Valley Nursery on Mountain View Road to purchase these iris for your home garden.

Further inland on the coastal foothills you are likely to find large clumps of *Iris macrosiphon* growing on the sunny to partly shaded slopes. This iris ranges in color from lavender to lilac to deep purple with a white spot on each of the three long petals of the flower. It is known both as ground iris or bowl tube iris. The later name is derived from the swelling that forms just below the petals where the long flower tube begins. The leaves are taller than the flower stems, a feature that helps to distinguish it from Douglas iris.

The leaves of both of these iris species were reputedly used by the local Indian tribes to twist into strong rope. However, Mendocino County residents, Steven Edholm and Tamara Wilder, who are familiar with these rope-making techniques, suggest that the leaves from the ground iris are better suited to this use. The Indians used a sharp tool, often made of abalone or mussel shell and fastened to the user's thumb, to strip the fiber along the edge of the leaf. The fiber was then twisted into a strong rope, a process that is painstaking and time consuming taking almost six weeks to make a twelve-foot length of rope. For more information visit <http://www.paleotechnics.com>.

One other species of iris is frequently found growing here in the County, *Iris purdyi*. Its preferred habitat is the loose duff under the light shade of Douglas fir, madrone and other mixed evergreen trees. The flowers are large, flat star like blossoms in white, cream or pale yellow with reddish or purple veined petals if the stands have not crossed with Douglas or ground iris. If there are these other species nearby the flowers are more like to show hints of purple or lavender with purple veins. The plants grow individually or in small clumps rather than the larger colonies of the other two irises. You can see these plants in bloom in Faulkner Park on Mountain View Road just outside of Boonville or if you are a passenger in a car you might sight them on the right hand side of 128 shortly before you reach Cloverdale.

This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy many different native wildflowers here in Mendocino County so do plan a visit soon.

\*Plate from W.R. Dykes' *Genus Iris*