

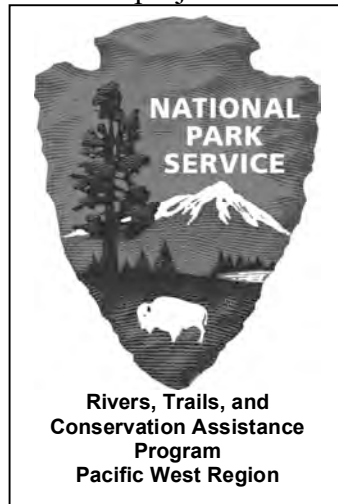
GOOD DIRT

The Newsletter of the Anderson Valley Land Trust, Incorporated
Spring/Summer 2011

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS and 2,240 ACRES PROTECTED

NAVARRO RIVER WATER TRAIL ASSESSMENT

The Anderson Valley Land Trust is pleased to announce that we've been awarded a grant from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). RTCA, the community assistance arm of the National Park Service, supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects.



The purpose of the grant is to evaluate how the Navarro River might best be used as a water trail. This 46-mile waterway, located in Mendocino County, links Anderson Valley to the Pacific coast, and includes the Navarro River and Rancheria Creek. A water trail assessment will be completed looking at ways to expand river-based recreation for visitors, local residents and paddling enthusiasts while promoting enhanced stewardship of watershed lands.

The Navarro River meanders approximately 23.5 miles between its headwaters in Philo's *(continued on page 3)*

Announcing the 2nd Annual Anderson Valley Sustainable Landscape Discoveries Sunday August 7, 2010: 9:30 AM TO 4 PM

It is again time to discover, or perhaps to rediscover, what a dynamic place Anderson Valley is and how in the middle of summer the Valley's picturesque landscape produces sustenance that feeds not only our bodies but our souls. Our one-day Sustainable Landscape Discovery event will demonstrate how soils, water, microclimate, timing, wildlife management, cloning, hybridizing, procurement, recycling, and experimentation all are included

in the Anderson Valley recipe of sustainability. Three special places will serve as the day's laboratory: Brock Farms, a small family farm selling fresh organic produce *(continued on page 3)*



The Apple Farm

(continued on page 3)

President's message:

According to a recent CAL FIRE survey, 70% of forest landowners are at least 60 years old. California FarmLink states that California farmers age 65 and over outnumber farmers under the age of 35 by approximately 8:1. What will happen to Anderson Valley's forests and food-producing lands when the property titles are passed to the next generation? Will this next generation be living here or will their interests lie elsewhere? A conservation easement is a very effective tool in estate planning. It's designed to keep family lands intact, forests permanently healthy, riparian zones vibrant and ranchland available to produce local food and grain. It takes planning to honor the strong ties you have forged with your land and to maintain your legacy after you are gone. If you would like more information on how a conservation easement might enhance the future of your property, please contact us at 895-3150 or avlt@mcn.org.

To celebrate AVLT's twenty years of accomplishments, the River Center and AVLT are developing a demonstration native plant garden in front of our offices at the historic Missouri House in Boonville. We want to thank Joan Burroughs for her encouragement and support for this project. And a huge thank you to all our donors and volunteers who have so generously supported us over these twenty years—and hopefully will continue to do so for another twenty and beyond. - Barbara Goodell

Welcoming Dean Titus to the AVLT Board – *continued from last page*

“There was no reason to leave when I got out of high school, so I went to work in the logging industry and eventually started my own logging and roadwork business.” Later he specialized in roadwork. Dean has the training and experience to use the techniques, described by Danny Hagans and William Weaver in the *Handbook for Forest and Ranch Roads*, which help reduce the sediment in our waterways with methods such as out sloping and rolling dips. He also works on creek restoration projects for private landowners.

In 1975 Dean was a member of the AV High School Jazz Band playing trumpet. With mischief in his eyes he described what happened after the official band practices were over—he and some of his friends would put away their band instruments and pull out their guitars. That group became the core of the very popular Dean Titus and the Coyote Cowboys band. Dean chose the name because at the time the talk of the town was about the sheep ranchers experiencing increasing coyote attacks on their flocks.

Dean would like to see AV remain a working community of ranches and timber. “It is the way of life in Anderson Valley to be neighborly and help each other when it is needed. It has always been that way.” He joined the AVLT board last year, “...to find out what the Land Trust is really involved in.” We feel very fortunate to have Dean's 50+ years of experience to help enrich our work.

First Glimpse

Our new brochure is here and we don't mind saying it's beautiful. It includes information on conservation easements, quotes from easement holder interviews by volunteer Marilyn Davin, a map of currently protected areas, and photography by Steve Snyder and Charlie Hochberg.



Our sincere thanks to Torrey Douglass for her competent guidance and artful layout. Call us if you'd like a copy.

NAVARRO RIVER WATER TRAIL ASSESSMENT – *continued from page 1*

Hendy Woods State Park and its mouth at Navarro Beach within the Navarro River Redwoods State Park. It affords year-round boating opportunities of varied challenge levels, as well as fishing, swimming, and wildlife observation experiences. That distance doubles when Rancheria Creek from the Fish Rock Road bridge is added. This section is sometimes used for floating and kayaking.

The community benefits of studying the Navarro River and identifying river reaches for a water trail will include:

- improved public safety
- enhanced public education about river resources and responsibilities to maximize both resource stewardship and recognition and respect for private property
- increased recreation opportunities for Valley residents and visitors
- community/economic benefits through expanded tourism.

Over the next year, AVLT will be observing and inventorying the river, its recreation and resource characteristics, and its use. We will be conducting observational surveys, river trips in summer and winter, park user surveys, internet surveys, and community meetings. Very importantly, we will be talking with private property owners who front the river. It is a somewhat ambitious undertaking for a volunteer organization, but one that will ultimately benefit the Navarro River, its resources, the people who use it, and the property owners who live near it.

If you are interested in learning more about the *Navarro River Water Trail Assessment*, or wish to volunteer to help document river resources and recreation use, please contact Project Manager and Board Member, Patrick Miller at 895-2597.

We're honored to partner with the National Park Service as we work to better understand the many public uses of the Navarro River and to unlock the riverside's potential as a year-round or seasonal water trail.



We thank the organizations that supported our grant request in this highly competitive program, without whose endorsements our success would not have been possible: The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors; the Anderson Valley Community Services District; the Anderson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association; the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino District; the Navarro-by-the-Sea Center for Riparian and Estuarine Research; and the Mendocino Redwood Company.

Sustainable Landscape Discoveries – *continued from page 1*

throughout Mendocino County; the Wilder Garden, a backyard garden with chickens, bees, vegetables, and herbs; and the Apple Farm, regionally known for its wide variety of organic apples and cooking classes (<http://www.philoapplefarm.com>). And in the midst of our tour will be a wonderful, locally grown, organic lunch at the Apple Farm.

Join us for a one-day adventure visiting three significantly different private landscapes where agriculture, landscape management, and conservation are interwoven elements of the land's yearlong rhythms. This excursion is not simply a visit, but an education and an unforgettable experience as well. At each site, the owners will explain why and how they conceived their environments and the factors they use in the management of their properties. They'll also provide particulars about water use, organic practices and energy efficiency . . . in short, sustainability.

Event Particulars: Participation is limited to 40 with a contribution of \$100/person to benefit AVLT. The Discoveries will start at 9:30 AM and conclude at 4 PM. To register, please contact Anderson Valley Land Trust at 707.895.3150 or e-mail us at avlt@mcn.org.

Dusky-Footed Woodrat
Neotoma fuscipes
 By Patrick and Jane Miller

Here is a little tip for those of you who enjoy fighting back the thousands of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) saplings that begin to take over oak forests. Just stack those that have a diameter of less than, say, roughly four inches into a lengthwise pile. There is a more than likely chance that within six months or so some enterprising and wise woodrat will say to itself, "Hey, they framed out my new house," and you will see a large infill mound of smaller twigs and leaves from 2 to 4 feet high in the middle of that pile.



Why on earth would you want to do that, you ask? Well, woodrats are a favorite food of owls, and spotted owls in particular. If you like the idea of a visit from these beautiful nocturnal birds you might want to encourage the woodrats.

Woodrats range from Washington State south to northern Baja California. They favor forests for habitation, especially oak woodlands, but are also found in Douglas fir/tanoak associations, and in dense chaparral and streamside thickets. They are nocturnal and furtive creatures. With the

Photo by Patrick Miller

exception of mating season, Dusky-Footed woodrats are decidedly solitary and are territorial about their dens, also known as "stick houses". Interestingly, however, the dens are often found in clusters of up to several dozen – an informal sort of community. Within these houses, they build a nest (think of this as the bedroom) and several adjacent chambers that serve as "pantries" to store food for the future. Seeds, nuts, acorns, fruits, green vegetation, and fungi are their foods of choice. A curious tidbit about them is they have been known to surround their nests with California bay (*Umbellularia californica*) leaves to ward off pesky insects such as fleas. Clever!

So the next time you are taking a walk in the woods, look for these telltale stick piles, and know that they are inhabited by some interesting little critters important to our overall Anderson Valley ecology.

Thank you, Tom Bickell!

For the first time ever, our office now has a permanent sign. And what a sign it is! Visible whether you're walking or driving by, it was created by Tom Bickell who volunteered his time, the materials (lumber milled at his local ranch) and his exceptional craftsmanship. Thanks again, Tom.



Galbreath Preserve Wildflower Adventure

By Patrick Miller

Between the rains on a brisk, almost sunny April day, 40 enthusiastic people gathered for the fourth annual AVLT spring wildflower walk. Well, it was not simply a walk. To get where we were going on the Galbreath Preserve, it was also a 40-minute four-wheel drive adventure up and over some pretty steep mountain hillsides. But the treasure at the end of the drive was well worth it.

The 3,670-acre Galbreath Wildlands Preserve was established in 2004 by the Galbreath family in honor of Fred Burckhalter Galbreath, who sought to protect his land as a site for higher education. It is now owned and managed by Sonoma State University. The Preserve lies along Rancheria Creek in the upper Navarro River watershed, approximately 17 miles inland (as the crow flies) from the Pacific Ocean. Its topographically diverse landscape ranges from 900 to 2,200 feet in elevation and includes coniferous forests (Douglas fir and redwood), mixed hardwood-conifer forests (Douglas fir, tanoak, madrone), oak woodlands (mostly black and Oregon white oaks), and annual grasslands and riparian woodland.



The Waterfall on Livingston Creek. (Patrick Miller)

Jane Miller, horticulturist and instructor of plant identification at U.C. Berkeley Extension and Merritt College, and Alan Porter, a former AVLT Board member who used to manage volunteer plant propagation at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, guided two groups in a casual walk along Livingston Creek, a tributary to Rancheria Creek, up an overgrown logging road to a beautiful waterfall and pools. But the real purpose of the trip, of course, was wildflowers. And the one that stole the show was the understated but spectacular fawn lily

What is special to AVLT about the Galbreath Wildlands Preserve is that it is located adjacent to a 695-acre conservation easement held by AVLT. Combined with other contiguous private lands with conservation easements, the preserve represents an over 5,000-acre area along the headwaters of Rancheria Creek that is conserved in perpetuity. The Galbreath Preserve, also includes outstanding springtime wildflowers.



Jane Miller leads a group exploring spring wildflowers. (Patrick Miller)



Alan Porter provides an overview of the history behind the Galbreath Preserve. (Steve Snyder)

(*Erythronium californicum*) massed on rocky patches of the creek's banks. Also in abundance were buttercup (*Ranunculus occidentalis*), wild iris (*Iris macrosiphon*), popcorn flower, (*Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), blue dicks (*Dicholostemma capitatum*), California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), and an unusual white form of baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*). The group took a little extra trek to see the one or two remaining hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum*

(Continued on page 7)

With Much Gratitude We Thank Our Donors!

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And A Big Thanks to Our Volunteers!

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Tom Bickell	Steven Krieg	Pete Otten
Chris Bing	Eric Labowitz	Tricy Otten
Alice Bonner	Keevan Labowitz	Alan Porter
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Marilyn Davin	Brent Levin	Ed Short
Thom Elkjer	Danny Mandelbaum	Janet Snyder
Sue Ellery	Jane Miller	Joshua Townsend

To volunteer call or email Alice Bonner at 895-2545 or arbonners@directv.net

Past Board Members

Founding Board in March of 1991:

Connie Best, Bill Chambers, Joel Clark, Norm Clow, Micki Colfax,
Barbara Goodell, and John Scharffenberger

Susan Addison	Scott Kivel	Lee Serrie
Pete Bates	Alan Porter	Ed Short
Thom Elkjer	Anne Rogers	Laurie Wayburn

Galbreath Preserve – *continued from page 5*

grande), and later had the special treat of finding a late shooting star (*Dodocatheon hendersonii*) still in bloom. We finished up the walk with a tasty snack of tangerines and home-baked cookies courtesy of Barbara Goodell and Patti Jeffery.

Thanks to Alan and Jane for gamely leading the groups...to the brave individuals who shuttled us in their 4WDs... and especially to the Sonoma State staff responsible for managing the Galbreath Preserve who worked with the Land Trust to obtain our permit for enjoying this landscape which is not generally open to the public. We hope to see you next year.

AVLT 2010 Financial Statements

Assets – December 2009	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Operating Accounts	\$ 33,416.	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		\$ 17,745.
Stewardship Endowment*		190,871.
Furniture/Equipment	1,960.	
Total Assets	\$ 35,376.	208,616.*
Total Liabilities	0.	
Net Assets		
At Beginning of Year	\$ 211,950.	
Change in Net Assets	+32,042.	
At End of Year	243,992.	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 243,992.	

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2010

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Donations & Grants	\$ 28,551.	
Rent	1,650.	
Stewardship Endowment *		10,733*
Interest & Dividends	3,953.	
Total Support & Revenue	34,154.	10,733.*
Expenses		
Insurance	2,758.	
Easement Expense	912.	
Office	1,712.	
Payroll	7,982.	
Postage	1,534.	
Printing	1,775.	
Rent & Utilities	8,862.	
Professional Fees	2,262.	
Total Expenses	\$ 27,797.	

* restricted funds for the protection of our easements

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Welcome Dean!

Dean Titus has spent nearly his whole life in Anderson Valley. He was born in Napa, and when he was two years old his family moved to Anderson Valley Way. His grandfather homesteaded a ranch on Mountain View Road (coast side) in the early 1900's, and Dean's dad was born there in 1922. Dean relates, "I was raised at the home where my parents still live on AV Way. The three moves I have made have been within a one mile stretch of AV Way." AV Way was the highway before the 'expressway' was constructed, so the kids were not allowed to ride their bicycles there. With a smile Dean says that he "...grew up in Anderson Creek in our backyard." He remembers back "...when the local phone book listed your number as TW5-3xxx. It was the later years when they started using 895-2xxx and then 895-9xxx. The museum may have one of those old phone books."

While in high school, Dean worked for local ranchers like Floyd Johnson, Marvin Herreid, and Bud Johnson.

(continued on page 2)



****SAVE THE DATE - Thursday evening - July 21, 2011****

We invite you to hike with us at the Toll House/Bell Valley Farms, learn about the area's history, and enjoy some refreshments while watching the sun set over the spectacular 360 degree views from the hills surrounding Bell Valley. Please contact the AVLT office (707-897-3150 or avlt@mcn.org) to register and receive more information. Participation will be limited to 40 people, so don't hesitate!
