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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, Incorporated
Summer 2013

What Will Happen To Your Land When You Leave It? By Barbara Goodell and Glynnis Jones

Much of the productive farm, ranch, and forest lands in Anderson Valley will change hands over the next few decades. Often the land goes out of production or is subdivided when it is passed on to heirs or sold. But succession planning can help provide a more desirable future for your land, creating a sustainable vision for working lands, fostering a healthy community with local food and timber sources, and supporting the local economy.

Wills and estate plans (including living trusts and other commonly used vehicles) are important steps in the succession planning process. A succession plan, which involves preparing your property and your family for an eventual change in ownership and leadership, can be a more effective means for passing on your legacy than a will or estate plan alone. This is particularly the case where there may be multiple heirs with different levels of interest in staying on the land and working it.

Succession and estate planning are difficult issues for many of us. Uncertainty about the future, busy schedules and unfamiliarity with planning resources often get in the way of making these critical decisions. Helping people overcome these barriers is an important component of the Anderson Valley Land Trust's mission to preserve the Valley's unique landscape and natural resources for future generations.

With help from a Community Enrichment grant from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, AVLTT will be organizing and sponsoring two workshops this fall and early winter. Both workshops are designed to help local landowners learn the "whys" and "hows" of succession planning. One of the workshops (presented in two parts by the UC Cooperative Extension) will address forestland owners' issues. The other workshop (presented in cooperation with California FarmLink) is intended for farm and ranch owners and their families.

These workshops will introduce the tools, strategies, techniques and resources available to plan for the continuation of your vision and the productivity of your land. Workshop topics will include: retirement, succession and estate planning; operations, management and ownership transfer; legal and tax strategies; goal-setting; effective family meetings and inter-generational communication; and tools for conserving/preserving lands and natural resources. A conservation easement can play a valuable role in some succession plans, but the scope of these workshops is much broader than conservation easements alone.

(continued on page 6)

President's message:

Welcome to our summer issue of *Good Dirt*. The Anderson Valley Land Trust will be distributing a reader survey with our fall issue. We want to find out if we are communicating helpful information about the organization so our readers can make informed decisions about considering conservation easements on their property. We also plan to present additional articles about the conservation easement process to make the process more understandable and to encourage landowners to consider this option.

My wife, Janet, and I put a conservation easement on our 160 acres over five years ago. We spent many hours thinking about how we would like to see our property managed, not only during our lifetimes but after we are gone. For example, our easement allows our heirs to conduct limited sustainable logging, which could provide them with needed income, and to enjoy all the recreational aspects that come with property ownership. Our easement has given us the assurance that even if our land does not stay in our family, it will be cared for in a conscientious manner in the future. Conservation easements give property owners and their families peace of mind that their properties will be protected, not only today but in perpetuity.

We hope you'll consider completing our survey. Please know that we're always available to answer your questions. Just call our office at 707-895-3150 or email avlt@mcn.org.

Sincerely,

Steve Snyder, President

Save the Date
The 4th Annual Anderson Valley Sustainable Landscape Discoveries
Sunday September 8, 2013: 9:30 AM TO 4 PM

Join us to discover what a dynamic place Anderson Valley is with its picturesque landscape providing sustenance not only for our bodies but for our souls, as well. Now in its fourth year, Sustainable Discoveries has visited organic farms, herb gardens, wineries, backyard gardens, and apple and chestnut orchards. This year will focus on cheese, olive oil and other delectable tastes produced in the Valley and will include a wonderful organic lunch.

The Discoveries are not simply visits; they are one-day educational experiences. At each site, the owners will explain why and how they conceived their unique environments, the factors they use in management of their properties, and particulars about water use, organic practices, energy efficiency and conservation.

Event Details: Participation is limited to 40 with a contribution of \$100/person to benefit the AVLT. To register, please contact the Anderson Valley Land Trust at 707.895.3150 or e-mail at avlt@mcn.org.



PENNY
ROYAL
FARM

Tastes of the Anderson Valley

at Goldeneye Winery in Philo, California



Goldeneye

A benefit for Anderson Valley Land Trust

Please join us for a memorable dining experience offering food produced here in Anderson Valley paired with Goldeneye wines.

Date: Saturday, July 13, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Place: Goldeneye Winery, 9200 Highway 128, Philo, CA

Cost: \$100 per person (includes food and wines)

Local artisan products including art, food, wine and services will be available for your bidding during our silent auctions.

Seating is limited, so please reserve early by calling 707-895-3150 or emailing avlt@mcn.org.

All proceeds from this event will go to the Anderson Valley Land Trust to help us continue our work protecting the beauty and natural resources of Anderson Valley.

Please make your check payable to "Anderson Valley Land Trust" and indicate it is for the *Tastes of the Anderson Valley* event. Mail your check to: Anderson Valley Land Trust, P.O. Box 141, Boonville, CA 95415. With receipt of your check, we will add your name and that of your guests to our guest list. A map and directions will be sent to you. Please indicate how you would prefer receiving this information, mail and email.



6th Annual Spring Wildflower Walk

By Patrick Miller

On a picture-perfect warm and sunny April Sunday, nearly fifty enthusiastic people gathered for the sixth annual spring wildflower walk. Our stroll started near the top of Philo's Whipple Ridge.

Clare Wheeler, native plant expert and author of *A Flora of the Vascular Plants of Mendocino County*, and Jane Miller, instructor of plant identification at U.C. Berkeley Extension and Merritt College, guided (or at least made the attempt!) the group on a casual walk to view, smell, touch, examine and, of course, photograph many different species of wildflowers. California poppies, hound's tongue, buttercups, blue-eyed grass, sanicle, flax, woodland star, sticky monkey flower, and blue blossom were just some of the blooms we encountered. We also discussed the mostly overlooked flowers of big-leaf maple and poison oak (yes!). A special treat near the end of our hike was a graceful and delicately beautiful stand of still-blooming fawn lilies.



Englert

Each traveling at our own speed, we walked along the road, catching up with guides to hear plant descriptions and spreading out again to enjoy the relaxing pace of the day. We ended the morning with light refreshments and interesting chats.

Jane Miller addressing the group. Photo by Shelly

Englert

Our sincere thanks to both Craig Lewis, for granting us permission to walk the property, and Ken Wood, representing the Lake Mendocino Club of the Shriners, for letting us park vehicles on club land. Clare and Jane have our profound thanks for pointing out the highlights and answering the myriad of wildflower questions asked along the way.



Photo By Patrick Miller

If you would like to be notified of upcoming walks and events, please email the AVLT office at avlt@mcn.org.

Ranunculus occidentalis

By Jane Miller

Widely distributed throughout grassy meadows and open woodlands in Anderson Valley as well as many other parts of the west, the Western Buttercup is a festive sight indeed with its brilliant yellow flowers glistening in the sunlight. Though each flower is small, only about a half-inch across at most, blossoms are so abundant and bright that they make for a showy display. Flowers typically consist of five glossy petals anchored in the center by noticeable stamens that are also clear yellow. The *Ranunculaceae* family is an extensive one; several species of this genus keep company with the likes of *Clematis*, *Aquilegia*, *Delphinium* and *Anemone*.

The herbaceous foliage is borne mostly at ground level, comprising a basal cluster of lobed leaves, but flowering stems sport some small leaves as well. Flowers are held singly at the tops of these stems and the overall height of the plant when in bloom rarely exceeds two feet. The plant is noted in the *Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California* as being able to grow in a garden setting in several *Sunset Western Garden Book* zones if proper attention is paid to exposure and watering. Keep in mind that the name *Ranunculus* derives from the Latin for “little frog” because members of this genus often grow in conditions that frogs favor. While our local species generally has adapted to thriving on natural rainfall alone and does best if not given supplemental water during the dry season, some sources say that it will also flourish with moderate summer irrigation.



Legends regarding buttercups abound. Of their origin, one tale has a miser lugging around a pot of gold, refusing to give some to the fairies he encounters, and they in turn putting green stems on each piece of gold, transforming them into buttercups on the theory that the flowers are of more use to the world than gold. They are said to enhance the taste of milk, in that cows who eat buttercups produce the best milk, when in reality the plants contain toxins that deter cows from ingesting them. And they are said to indicate one's fondness for butter. If the flower is held near or rubbed on one's chin, and the chin looks yellow...Voila! The owner of the chin must love butter!

Although this year's display of *Ranunculus occidentalis* may be finished by the time you read this, you might be lucky enough to still find a few blossoms, as they sometimes flower into the early summer. The most profuse show usually occurs in the valley during March and April. If you've missed them this season, be on the lookout for their cheery appearance next year.

What Will Happen To Your Land When You Leave It? – *continued from page 1***Succession Planning for Forestland Owners:****Ties to the Land with Gregory Giusti, UC Cooperative Extension****Thursday, October 24, 2013 and Thursday, January 30, 2014 (evening workshops) in Boonville**

Forest landowners and their families are invited to a two-part workshop designed to help guide them through a smooth succession process. Tools and resources will be provided to help families make the decisions necessary to pass their land and legacy to succeeding generations. This workshop will focus on family communication, financial and legal aspects (trusts, limited liability companies, easements, *etc.*), and specific resource management planning approaches. You can:

- Learn the steps to succession planning
- Clarify your values and goals for your family forest
- Take home tools to determine your heir's interests
- Learn about legal and other business considerations
- Understand the financial impacts of ownership transfers across generations

Multiple members of the family are encouraged to attend both parts of the workshop. A helpful take-home workbook, including a companion DVD, will be available.

Farm and Ranch Succession Planning**California FarmLink****Friday, November 15, 2013, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in Boonville**

State and local professionals will provide sound legal and financial planning advice to familiarize farmers, ranchers and their families with key succession-planning resources. The workshop will offer practical tools to help families plan for their land's continued production in the future. We will address questions such as:

- Who will run my farm/ranch when I retire or am no longer capable of running it?
- What can I do to help make sure they are successful while protecting my interests?
- When is the best time to start addressing these difficult questions?

This workshop is especially useful for farm and ranch families thinking of transferring their working lands to the next generation -- it is never too soon to start. Topics in this day-long workshop on transitioning agricultural lands and businesses to the next generation will include:

- estate & tax planning
- financial management
- business transfers
- family communication

Presenters will include an estate planning attorney, a farm business accountant or financial planner, a communication/mediation specialist and a farmer/rancher who has successfully planned for the succession of a family land and business.

To find out more about these workshops, please contact Shelly at the AVLT office at 895-3150 or visit our website for information, updates and registration information.

Thank You To All Of Our Generous Donors

Anonymous (3)
 Mark and Deanna Apfel
 Stephen and Zoya Barlow
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 Gene Zanoni

AVLT 2012 Financial Statements

Assets – December 2012	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Operating Accounts	\$ 35,299.	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		\$ 17,755.
Stewardship Endowment*		207,309.
Furniture/Equipment	1,153.	
Total Assets	\$ 36,452.	225,064*
Total Liabilities	0.	
Net Assets		
At Beginning of Year	\$ 253,200.	
Change in Net Assets	+8,316.	
At End of Year	261,516.	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 261,516.	

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2012

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted Funds
Donations & Grants	\$ 40,700.
Rent	2,186.
Interest & Dividends	5,232.
Total Support & Revenue	48,118.
Expenses	
Insurance	2,678.
Easement Expense	448.
Office	2,192.
Payroll	14,517.
Postage	1,508.
Printing	1,983.
Rent & Utilities	6,646.
Professional Fees	2,203.
Total Expenses	\$ 32,175.

* restricted funds for the protection of our easements

**Thank you to the
 following
 volunteers for
 helping out at the
 17th Annual
 Anderson Valley
 Brewing Company
 Beer Fest.**

Mitch Bosma
 Shelly Englert
 Barbara Goodell
 Rob Goodell
 Julie Honegger
 Dave Hopmann
 Doug Labat
 Andrew Lemann
 Jay Newcomer
 Jane Miller
 Patrick Miller
 Marcus Riedl
 Steve Snyder
 Michael Sheridan

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**PENNY
ROYAL
FARM**

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**AVLT Fundraiser at
Goldeneye Winery**



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Thank you Anne, John and Terry

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