

GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OUR UNIQUE RURAL LANDSCAPE
SPRING-SUMMER, 2016

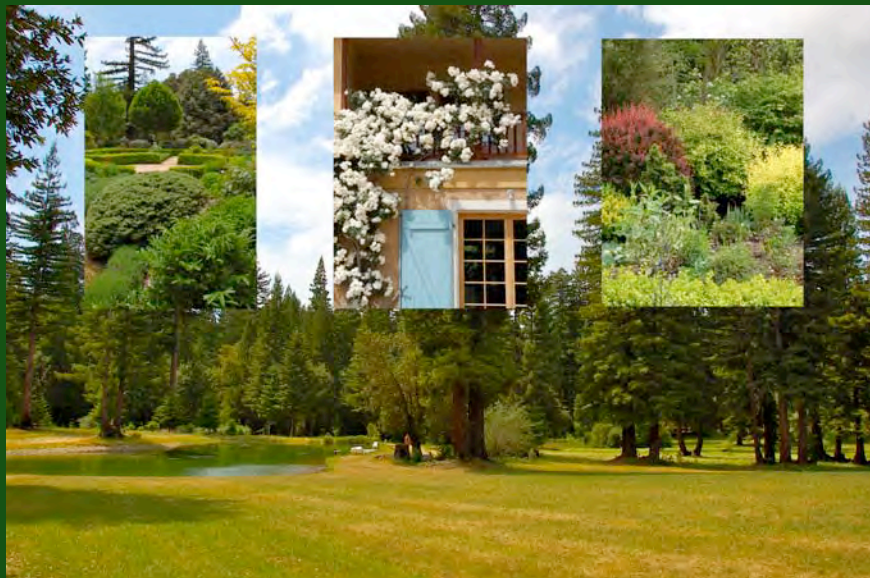
Platanus racemosa - Western sycamore

The Western sycamore, *Platanus racemosa*, is a most handsome California native well worthy of note. A fast-growing tree, Western sycamore can reach heights of seventy feet or more, and may have one main trunk or two or three. Some trunks have been measured at five feet across! The leaves are quite large, up to a foot wide, deeply lobed and similar to a maple leaf in shape. The Western sycamore's foliage appears in the spring as fresh green leaves that unfold like opening hands. In the autumn, the leaves turn a spectrum of attractive colors, from yellow to rusty brown. Spring flowers do not make a showy display and are noticed only close-up. They are tiny and packed tightly into small globes that are blushed with a touch of red. The seed capsules are more noticeable, taking the form of slightly larger globes, up to nearly an inch in size, that hang on thread-like stems with one, two, three or sometimes more spaced at intervals along each thread. The Western sycamore's habit of reaching skyward with its angling trunk covered in beautiful whitish mottled bark that exfoliates with age, combined with the display of ball-like seed capsules hanging down, conspicuous when the tree is out of leaf, gives Western sycamore a most striking winter silhouette.



Continued reading on page 3

ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FETE
A LATE AFTERNOON CELEBRATION IN JOHN SCHARFFENBERGER'S PHILO GARDENS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016



[Information and Tickets](#)

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

My colleague Barbara Goodell is the only current Board member who helped found the Land Trust 25 years ago. When I asked her about the most important issue that led to its founding, she didn’t hesitate. It was dangers to Navarro River from erosion and compromise of riparian zones that got the founders’ attention. Their goal was to encourage conservation of relatively undeveloped properties, with special focus on provisions in easements that would limit erosion and protect riparian zones. Many of our easements have language directly addressing this issue. For example, the Scharffenberger Cellars easement contains multiple provisions that protect Indian Creek and its banks.

AVLT’s core mission has always been to form, monitor, and enforce conservation easements, but in the mid-1990s AVLT broadened its scope for a few years by developing the 544-page Navarro River Watershed Plan (copy on our website), funded by grants from the CA Coastal Conservancy, the CA Water Board, and other donors. In 2005 the [Navarro River Resource Center](#) was established under the umbrella of the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to implement restoration projects using the Navarro River Watershed Plan as a guide. We share office space with the Navarro Resource Center in the Missouri House in Boonville.



We stand on the shoulders of the visionary founders: Connie Best, Bill Chambers, Joel Clark, Norman Clow, Micki Colfax, Barbara Goodell, and John Scharffenberger. Thanks to all of them.

Another valentine goes out to Patti Jeffery, who served on the Board for five years before resigning at the end of last year as part of a relocation. Patti’s skills and experience as an urban planner were valuable to us. She was organized, chipper, and hard working. She had great judgment, and had a good feel for group process and getting things done. We will miss her.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you at our 25th anniversary celebration on August 6.

Sincerely,
David Hopmann
President, AVLT Board of Directors

BACKYARD BUZZ A SUCCESS

AVLT hosted a two part series on native bees in February and April, with special guest Sara Leon Guerrero, a native of Anderson Valley, and a scientist at the [Urban Bee Lab](#) at UC Berkeley. Sara’s enthusiasm and knowledge of native bees energized us all on the subject of these important and often overlooked pollinators. We would also like to thank Laurie Adams and River’s Bend Retreat, Sarah Larkin and Goodness Grows Nursery, Chris Bing and Linda MacElwee, for their contribution to making these events a success.



AVLT 2015 Financial Statement

Assets – December 2015	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds
Operating Accounts	34,854.00	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		28,942.00
Stewardship Endowment*		286,939.00
Total Assets	34,854.00	315,881.00
Total Liabilities	-	
Net Assets		
At Beginning of Year	330,077.00	
Change in Net Assets	20,658.00	
At End of Year	350,735.00	
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	350,735.00	

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2015

Support & Revenue	Unrestricted Funds
Donations & Grants	26,490.00
Special Events	15,203.00
Rent	2,160.00
Interest & Refunds	27.00
Total Support & Revenue	43,880.00
Expenses	
Insurance	2,616.00
Easement Expense	415.00
Office	1,128.00
Payroll	19,022.00
Postage	1,201.00
Printing	3,050.00
Rent & Utilities	6,876.00
Professional Fees	1,245.00
Special Events & Worksh	5,092.00
Total Expenses	40,645.00

* restricted funds for the protection of our easements.

AVLT 25TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER FETE
A BENEFIT FOR ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
AT THE PHILO HOME OF JOHN SCHARFFENBERGER
SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016 FROM 4:00 TO 7:00 PM

We hope you will join us for an afternoon of food, wine and music, special guests and a silent auction with a variety of art, activities and cellar selections.

TICKETS: \$100 PER PERSON
(INCLUDES FOOD AND WINE)
PURCHASE TICKETS ON OUR WEBSITE EVENTS PAGE
[HTTP://WWW.ANDERSONVALLEYLANDTRUST.ORG/EVENTS](http://www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org/events)
CONTACT US AT AVLT@MCN.ORG OR 707-895-3150

John Sharffenberger is one of the founding board members of Anderson Valley Land Trust, and the first landowner to create a conservation easement with AVLT, protecting the riparian floodplain on Indian Creek at Scharffenberger Cellars (Good Dirt, Fall 1992). John has been in Anderson Valley since the early eighties, and has lived in the home he built in Philo for 20 years. He made his first vintage of sparkling wine from Anderson Valley grapes in 1981, at a time when American "champagne" could not compare to those made by the French producers. He went on to create Scharffenberger Cellars and had a very successful few years before selling his interest in the winery. Later, he and a partner created Scharffen Berger chocolate and basically re-wrote the book on American chocolate. Since then John has continued with numerous other successful interests in business, and offered advice and assistance to entrepreneurial types far and wide. Today he owns several hundred acres of forest in Anderson Valley, and spends much of his time on restoration, something he calls the re-vegetation of redwoods, along with other forest habitat. With this, John's lifelong interest in trees and growing things continues, along with the satisfaction of having a shady place to rest.

AVLT is grateful to John for opening up his home on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary to celebrate his and 25 other landowners' spirit of protecting and restoring the beautiful landscape of Anderson Valley.

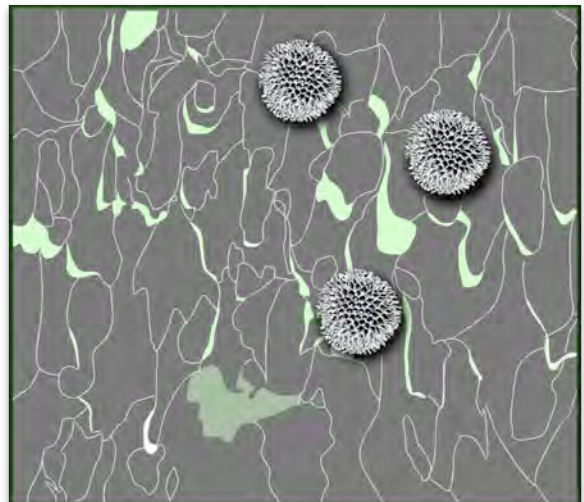
Western sycamore - continued

Platanus racemosa lives wherever it finds abundant moisture for its roots, most often on alluvial benches or along rivers and stream bottoms. Stands of Western sycamore following the sinuous line of a river or stream can be a stunning sight indeed. *Platanus racemosa* is most commonly found in California's Southern Coast Ranges, although they occasionally appear in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Central Valley, as well.

Western Sycamore is often confused with the much more commonly planted London Plane, *Platanus x acerifolia*. If you notice a tree that resembles *Platanus racemosa* with similar light-colored bark, large lobed leaves, and distinctive hanging seed "balls" in a planted or urban setting, especially as a street tree, it is likely to be the London Plane.

If you happen to see some Western sycamores while you're out and about, take a moment to enjoy the special beauty and marvel at the incredible trunks of these truly remarkable trees!

Article by Jane Miller



MAILLIARD RANCH

In December 2015, the Anderson Valley Land Trust was pleased to learn that Larry Mailliard and the Mailliard family, in cooperation with Save the Redwoods League, would protect Mailliard Ranch, approximately 25 square miles in the hills between Yorkville and Boonville. This is great news for all of us who live in the Anderson Valley, because another beautiful part of this land we all appreciate and enjoy will be preserved in perpetuity.

This conservation easement is especially valuable because the Mailliard Ranch is the largest expanse of Coast Range forest still in private family ownership. The ranch features rugged terrain that provides shelter and sustenance for a wide range of rare plants and wildlife. It includes nearly 1,000 acres of old-growth redwood forest and mixed conifer groves, and 28 miles of Class 1 fish-bearing streams that span from the headwaters of the Garcia River to important tributaries of the Navarro River. These will all now be preserved. As part of their agreement with Save the Redwoods League, the Mailliard family will retain ownership of the land and continue to steward and manage it. The conservation easement will eliminate the threat of subdivision of the entire property by reducing the number of parcels from 72 to three. The ranch connects the neighboring Mailliard Redwoods State Natural Reserve, which was donated by the family in 1954 and is part of the California State Parks system, to the Garcia River



Forest. This will result in more than 82,000 acres of contiguous protected lands reaching from the headwaters of the Garcia River to the coast.

Save the Redwoods League has formed the Mailliard Ranch Conservation Fund to raise the \$7 million needed for completion of this worthwhile project. To learn more about contributing your support to this valuable project, visit "Going Big for Mailliard Ranch" on the Save the Redwoods League website at <http://www.savetheredwoods.org>,



or call 415-362-2352. You can also find information on the AVLTL website at www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org.

We are pleased to support the Save the Redwoods League and the Mailliard family and wish them every success in saving this magnificent corner of our valley.

AVLTL INTERPRETIVE HIKE – SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2016

During the morning of March 24, 1995, two State Park employees canoeing and kayaking the main fork of the Navarro River noticed a dramatic drop in flow and a widening of the river. They continued paddling downstream until they reached a landslide that had dammed the river. They could hear trees breaking as they portaged across the wall of debris along the east side of the channel. The dam had recently breached, and the channel of the swollen river was a third its normal width. This made the water so turbulent at the downstream end of the dam, that upon re-entering, the experienced boaters struggled nearly 20 minutes to successfully escape.

This landslide was named the Floodgate, for the confluence of Floodgate Creek and the Navarro River. The landslide occurred following the heavy rains of January and March 1995. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration precipitation station 3.5 miles north of the landslide is near Camp Navarro along the Masonite (now MRC) logging road. It recorded 17.7 inches of rain in January, none in February, and 18.7 inches during the 23 days before the failure, including more than 6 inches the week before the event.

Save the date for a walk with geologist Julie Bawcom along the Floodgate section of the Navarro River to learn about the geology of our watershed, and view photos of the Floodgate slide then and now.

There is no fee for this event, but RSVP's are requested, as space is limited.

Please contact us at avlt@mcn.org or 707-895-3150.

Reference "California Geology, September/October 1996.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

<p>Karen Altaras Anonymous (3) Mark Apfel Troy L. Armstrong Evelyn Ashton Kathy Bailey & Eric Labowitz Stephen Barlow Swift Barnes Lisa Bauer Constance Best & Laurie Wayburn Tom Bickell Dan Dodt & Linda Blacketer Ronald Blum Marion & Robert Blumberg Ric & Alice Bonner Maureen Bowman Linda & Hayes Brennan Richard Browning Briana Burns Patrick Burns Cakebread Cellars Lyman and Carol Casey Cheryl Cathey & Peter Gillespie William H. Chambers Susan Clark Lynne Clenfield William Cole The Pearson Fund - Community Foundation of Mendocino County P. P. Coukoulis Mark Allen Crozier Francie & Steve Curtiss Dan Dodt Kathy Down & Greg Kelly Arthur P. Duffy Edward & Marcia Dupere Elizabeth Dusenberry Neva Dyer & Kent Rogers T. Raymond Evans Kurt Feichmeir & Gerald Reis Robert Finkelstein Curtis Frost Debby Mefford & John Gaudette Gail & Ron Gester Lissy Gold Barbara & Rob Goodell Martha & Theodore Griffinger Terry Gross Allen Gummer Heidi & Henry Gundling Hallomas Lynn Halpern Dennis Hamlett Valerie Hanelt & Hans Hickenlooper Laurel Headley Richard & Eugenia Herr Charity & Morris Hirsch Susan & Walter Hopkins David Hopmann & James Taul Nancy & John Hornor Rebecca Husband & Thomas Meyer Martha Hyde Kay Jablonski Patricia Jeffery & Greg Chiodo</p>	<p>Ashley Jones Glynnis Jones & Richard Ferguson Kathie Kinzie Donna Krupp Mary Kunkel Charles & El Vira La Vell David Lakes Christina Lech Kit & George Lee Edward Lemon A. C. Limbach Helen Longino & Valerie Miner Nicole Antonia Lopez Kathy MacDonald Robert Mandel Keith Marshall Fred Martin James Martin Nest Environmental Lenard Mayrisch Kim McGovern & Frank Scherkenbach Kathleen McKenna Julien Miclette Jane & Patrick Miller Kenneth Montgomery Michael J. Morser Oliver Mullarney Juanita Neilands James & Barbara Nelson Marshall Newman Susan J. Newstead Robert Nimmons Michael W. Nissenberg & Kathy MacDonald Steve Noack Mary O'Brien Michael O'Halloran Pearl Ong Gilman Ordway Karen Ottoboni J. L. Palmer Leonard & Sandra Parker Thomas & Nancy Patten Petit Teton Foundation Jed Pogran Margo Rawlins Dan Reed Mark Reed Rhys Vineyards Ronald Rice Dennis Richards Peggy Ridley Michael Rielly Roger & Ann Romani Peter & Collette Rothschild C. T. Rowe Jonathan & Karin Rubenstein Brent and Donna Rudin Norman G. Rudman Debra & Brent Salmi Charles & Charlotte Saunders John Scharffenberger Timothy Scully Lee Serrie</p>	<p>Daniel Sicular Barry Allen Smith, MD Phillip D Smith, MD Janet & Steve Snyder Jane Staw William W. Sterling Robert & Constance Stoops Michael Teitz Philip Thomas Dean Titus Raymond & Susan Triplett Ginger & Walt Valen Steve Van Landingham & Matt O'Grady Leona Walden Gary Wandrey Warren & Janis Watkins Clare Wheeler Trey White & Wee Boont Bradford Wiley Peter Wiley & Valerie Barth Nancy & Steven Wood Lily & John Mofly Wu Gene Zanoni <i>In-kind Donors</i> Acorn Ranch Alan Porter Albion River Inn Anderson Valley Brewing Co. Balo Vineyards Bink Wines Canvas Ranch Drew Family Cellars Ed & Ann Short Farmhouse Mercantile Goldeneye Winery Goodness Grows Nursery Greenwood Ridge Vineyards Handley Cellars Husch Vineyards Kirk Wilder Lauren's Restaurant Lula Cellars Malcolm West Art & Margaret Pickens Mendocino Botanical Gardens Old Chatham Ranch Pennyroyal Farm Ravenridge Cottages River's Bend Retreat Roederer Estate Rookie-To Gallery Singular Editions Fine Prints Skunk Train Stoney Bottom Gardens The Madrones The Toll House at Bell Valley</p>
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Thank you to the AVLTL Volunteers for the 20th annual
Boonville Beer Festival and the generous community
support from Anderson Valley Brewing Company

Karen Altaras	Ashley Moody
Janet Boonyagarn	Alice O'Brien
Barbara Goodell	Bob O'Brien
Rob Goodell	Michael O'Brien
Glynnis Jones	Lea Piepszowski

ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST
INCORPORATED



Native bee nesting box

INSIDE DIRT

AVLT 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MAILLIARD RANCH
JOHN SCHARFFENBERGER
WESTERN SYCAMORE
FLOODGATE GEOLOGY WALK