

GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF OUR UNIQUE RURAL LANDSCAPE
SUMMER, 2017

Anderson Valley Land Trust Outside: Galbreath Preserve

Galbreath Wildlands Preserve (GWP) is located in southern Mendocino County, a few miles from the small community of Yorkville. The 3670 acre preserve was donated to Sonoma State University (SSU) in 2004 by Fred Galbreath, a local rancher who valued the natural resources of his land and during his lifetime undertook a wide variety of projects to improve and maintain the health of the property. In his gift to SSU, he sought to protect his land in perpetuity as a site for research, education and art. While much of the research at the Galbreath is focused on student projects, there are also collaborative projects with local agencies, such as the collaboration with the Navarro River Research Center (NRRC) for stream and steelhead habitat restoration. The Preserve is not open regularly to the general public, but there are opportunities to participate in programs hosted by SSU and other environmental organizations and for groups or even individuals to visit the Preserve for research, education or art. SSU has some exciting plans in the works, including educational programs, additional research facilities, and trail development and improvements.

Anderson Valley Land Trust (AVLT), in partnership with the Galbreath and NRRC, recently hosted a series of outings, including a “lecture and learn” program at the Boonville Fairgrounds, followed by two field workshops in the preserve. The first in this series featured renowned author and naturalist Kate Marianchild, whose presentation brought to life the fascinating world of oak woodlands pond ecology with a lively talk and slide presentation. A few weeks later we joined Kate for a day exploring the diverse ecosystems of two small ponds in the southern part of the preserve. Our destinations were only a few hundred yards from one another, but each was a world unto itself. In May, we made our way deeper into the preserve with naturalists Linda MacElwee and Jade Paget-Seekins, who shared their knowledge and expertise in identifying over 100 varieties of wildflowers as well as telling us about some of the riparian restoration projects taking place in the preserve. The Preserve is relatively unexplored and knowledge about many species occurrences and distributions on the property is still being compiled.



To learn more about the Galbreath Preserve visit their website at <http://www.sonoma.edu/cei/galbreath/>.

Support for these programs is made possible by a grant from the East Bay Community Foundation, the Pearson Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Mendocino County, and support from Sonoma State University and Navarro River Resource Center.

TIME AND PLACE - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It is my honor to take on the role of President of the Anderson Valley Land Trust. It is particularly heartening to be able to follow in the footsteps of David Hopmann. His service for three years as President has brought to AVLT operations an extremely high level of commitment and rigor both in how we approach the topic of conservation in Anderson Valley and how a Board of Directors works together. Simply stated, I hope to continue that professionalism. Thanks Dave!

I also wish to sincerely thank Dean Titus who is leaving the Board. His quiet demeanor belies the impact he has had on me personally and other Board members when it comes to making sure we approach our work in the spirit of a native to Anderson Valley. As we discuss different easements, existing and potential, Dean seems to always have been there and to know the lay of that land and the land and resources surrounding it. His knowledge is a great resource that has served us well. He is, of course, not resigning from playing guitar and getting all of us to tap our toes or even dance. Thanks Dean!



As a landscape architect, I am often presented with the challenge to create places or bring people to public spaces that have a sense of time and place. Those concepts, of course, already exist in Anderson Valley. And with a wine, agriculture, and tourism-leaning economy on the growth curve, we do not have to work hard to bring people to Anderson Valley. However, it is just those concepts that one could argue are worth conserving. Anderson Valley will never be “stuck in time”, which is a good thing. But how we steward our “place” and conserve the natural and cultural resources that make Anderson Valley unique is up to us.

At a recent Board of Directors Retreat, we asked ourselves how much development and change could Anderson Valley and the Navarro River watershed take before they morph into something with an appearance more akin to rural sprawl; a quilt of development where the open space between structures becomes ever decreasing. We are fortunate that Mendocino County did not change the General Plan designations and related zoning in the watershed the last time the General Plan was updated. We are also fortunate that we have many large remaining ranch and timberlands in single ownerships. But that does not mean these factors will last forever. We must strike a balance between economic growth, development, and conservation if we want to ensure that Anderson Valley and the surrounding Navarro River watershed will retain a sense of time and place. For these reasons and more, we on the AVLT Board take to heart our mission that sees us “dedicated to the preservation and restoration of our unique rural landscape with its abundant natural resources for the benefit of future generations”. We are part of the balanced equation of time and place.

Sincerely,
Patrick Miller
President, AVLT Board of Directors

Thank you, Sandy Mailliard!

When we were planning our series of events on Pond Ecology, the perfect location for the first program was the dining hall at the Mendocino County Fair in Boonville. It was a good location, with parking and seating for a big group, although hard to darken enough for a slide presentation. Realizing that other groups using the hall might face a similar dilemma, we began discussing the possibility of raising money to purchase blinds for the hall as a gift to the Fairgrounds. Fundraising had not even begun when Sandy Mailliard learned about our plans and stepped up with a donation to fund the entire project. Within a few weeks, the 22 windows were measured, and the blinds were ordered, delivered and installed. We hope this addition to the dining hall will add to its versatility for many years to come. On behalf of all of us at AVLT and the other organizations in our community: Thank you, Sandy, for your generosity and support!

Rubus parviflorus: Thimbleberry

When you come across a thimbleberry stand, you can be assured there is water available below. *Rubus parviflorus* inhabits our Anderson Valley forests, seeking out moisture and patches of dappled sunlight. Spreading by underground stems, called rhizomes, it can be found as dense expanses of lush, medium green foliage topping many upright woody stems up to as much as six feet tall, or in rare instances even more. Once new foliage expands in the spring, the lobed, maple-like leaves are rather large and their fuzzy coating lends them a soft and pleasant feel. They have even been known to act as substitute tissues for campers in a pinch!



The genus name, *Rubus*, is sensible as it is derived from Latin meaning “bramble”, and this is indeed the same genus that includes blackberries and raspberries. But the choice of the specific name, *parviflorus*, is most curious, as it means “small-flowered” while the blooms are up to two inches across, larger than most other *Rubus* species. The flowers are quite pretty, albeit scattered amongst the leaves. Appearing in April-May and extending into the summer, they sport delicate white petals that appear, as in the elegant prose of Peter Stearns in his wildflower book, *A Journey in Time*, “crinkled at the edges, like oldlace”. If that weren’t enough to commend this handsome shrub, *Rubus parviflorus* bears fruit that resembles a flatter version of a raspberry, turning red at maturity (usually mid to late summer) and quite delicious when fully ripe, at least to some palates. And to some minds, the look of the fruit is reminiscent of a thimble, thus the common name.

Thimbleberry has historically had many medicinal uses, among them treating scurvy due to the high vitamin C content of the fruit, making a poultice from the dried leaves, and brewing a tea from its leaves or roots. The fruits are an important seasonal food source for several birds and animals, including bears.

So on your summer hikes, keep an eye out for this tasty surprise snack!

Article by: Jane Miller

AVLT 2016 Financial Statement			
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds*
Assets – December			
Operating Accounts		37,173.00	
Pioneer Stewardship			27,598.00
Stewardship			306,074.00
Other Current	1,985.00		
Total		39,158.00	333,672.00
Total Assets			
At Beginning of Year		345,723.00	
Change in Net		20,414.00	
At End of Year		366,137.00	
Total Liabilities &		366,137.00	
Statement of Activity as of December 31, 2016			
Support & Revenue	Donations & Grants	25,465.00	
	Special Events	11,193.00	
	Misc	37.00	
Total Support & Revenue		36,695.00	
Expenses			
	Easement Expense/defense	1,053.00	7,617.00
	Office and Administrative	31,212.00	
	Insurance	1,689.00	
	Payroll	15,878.00	
	Payroll taxes	3,910.00	
	Postage & mailings	1,110.00	
	Printing	1,941.00	
	Rent	5,650.00	
	Rent share (River Center)	(2,160.00)	
	Utilities	1,258.00	
	Professional Fees	360.00	
	Dues and subscriptions	600.00	
	Taxes, license, fees	504.00	
	Other office	472.00	
	Special Events & Workshops	7,457.00	
Total Expenses		39,722.00	7,617.00
* restricted funds for the continuing protection of our easements.			

Thank you to the AVLT Volunteers at the 21st Annual Legendary Boonville Beer Festival

Ariel Duffy Barbara Goodell
 Rob Goodell Glynnis Jones
 Patrick Miller Bridgett Shank
 Julia Sheng Andrea Schuitema

And for the generous community support from Anderson Valley Brewing Company





The visits to Galbreath Preserve, like our trip to the site of the Floodgate landslide or the native bee workshops, are unique opportunities to see and learn about the natural ecology and geology of special places in Anderson Valley. Thank you to all of you that joined us, the naturalists and scientists who shared their knowledge with us, and the volunteers and staff that organized these excursions. Look for more of these events soon, including the return of the *Sustainable Discoveries* series!



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INSIDE DIRT

GALBREATH PRESERVE

TIME AND PLACE

THIMBLEBERRY

THANK YOU, SANDY!



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