

GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
Spring, 2022

Conserving Anderson Valley and its Agricultural Lands



“Foremost in my mind is preserving the bucolic, unspoiled beauty of the area.” Dario Sattui

Our most recent donation of a conservation easement from Dario Sattui covers four properties totaling 77.5 acres located in the heart of Anderson Valley. This easement is primarily an agricultural easement restricting most other land uses including a winery and tasting room. A key feature of the easement is that the four properties may not be sold separately thus keeping a scale and integrity that will support agriculture over time. Anyone in farming knows it is all about the soil and this property has been designated by the State as containing prime and unique farmland soils that support high-value crops. Dario will use Best Management Practices as recommended by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service to keep the soil healthy and prevent erosion and maximize its biodiversity.

There are other significant conservation values important to Anderson Valley that are retained. Development rights where up to three more residences could have been built have been extinguished. The exception to this is the development of farm employee housing, certainly needed for agriculture and certainly a much-needed commodity in Anderson Valley. The easement also protects the riparian zones and habitat corridors around Witherell Creek and branches of Graveyard Creek that cross the property. Included along Witherell Creek is an approximately ½-acre shaded pond and wetland that is somewhat rare in Anderson Valley. With wetlands disappearing worldwide at a rate three times that of forested areas, protecting our few wetland habitats is critical. With its open water, tule-graced shoreline, and canopy of alders and oaks, it has suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), that is a threatened species. Lastly, and importantly, the easement includes a visual protection zone as seen from Highway 128 where no structures can ever be placed.

We are grateful to Dario for his generous donation, with the total of conserved lands managed throughout the Navarro River Watershed by the Anderson Valley Land Trust now totaling nearly 2,700 acres.



President's Message

Thankful for Anderson Valley Resilient Lands

Anderson Valley is facing a generational challenges. We are already seeing the effects of climate change here with drought, wildfires, and overall wilder extremes we have started to refer to as “weather whiplash.” Anyone who owns land here, who lives, works, and raises a family here is being forced to think about changes.

First, we must be thankful for the beautiful and resilient Valley and Watershed we have today. Our Valley has seen many generations from Native Americans to tanners, loggers, ranchers, and farmers to today's mix of vineyards, forests, a few ranchers and small communities of people of many backgrounds. While the human



*Fog lifting
redwoods rising
Sheep grazing
coho flowing
Navarro alive*

Rising Fog in Anderson Valley

(Yoriko Kishimoto)

faces have changed over the years, a constant has been the Navarro River, with its various tributaries winding from their headwaters near the ridges to the magnificent Pacific Ocean at its mouth. While facing many challenges, the Navarro remains a stronghold for coho salmon and steelhead. We are still blessed to have the cooling breezes at night with warmer days, a paradise for people as well as the wildlife and our Valley's landscape with vineyards, and other working ranches and farms.

I am grateful to serve on the Board of the Land Trust this year. It's impressive to see the fruit of 30 years of work by a small but outstanding Board. As President, I am excited to invite you to join us at Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium planned for Saturday, October 15, 2022. The goal is to take a day to review where we come from, where we are today, and what we must do differently now to adapt and keep our beautiful Anderson Valley resilient for us and future generations. We are excited to bring together top local and regional experts and the hands-on practitioners who face the daunting and imperative task of translating these new realities to their work on the land.

We will only be successful with you. We need the full input and participation from the community of people who live and work here and who love Anderson Valley. You are needed and we sincerely hope you will join us on October 15th!

Yoriko Kishimoto, President, Anderson Valley Land Trust Board of Directors

Wildflower Walk at The Land!

We were worried that without rain there would be few, if any, wildflowers in bloom. Our worries were unfounded as three inches of rain in April brought an abundance of flowers! Nothing better than fields of lupines, owl's clover, filaree, blue-eyed grass, poppies, and buttercups. . . and more, like friendly goats and miniature cows helping restore native grasses. We relished the weather, beautiful



views, and a reward of seeing the headwaters of the Navarro River at Indian Creek. A good time was had by all, at least based on the number of photos taken!

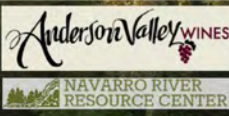
We want to particularly thank Bob Wilms for opening the conserved property for us to roam, enjoy, and experience how their conscientious stewardship continues the Haller family's vision for the property when they worked with the Anderson Valley Land Trust to conserve it back in 2000.



Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium

Think Like a Watershed!

Saturday, October 15, 2022



Anderson Valley faces generational challenges including historic droughts, wildfires and changing temperatures of climate change as well as ongoing concerns about growth and market pressures and how they might affect the balance of agriculture, productive forests and rangelands, and community housing. The Symposium is for farmland and vineyard owners and managers, natural resource managers, other public and private land owners, and anyone who has a stake in the future of Anderson Valley. The Symposium is organized by the Anderson Valley Land Trust and co-sponsored by the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association and the Navarro River Resource Center with support from other community organizations.

Sunday, October 16, 2022 • A Tour of Filigreen Farm

It's About: Working Lands; Sustainable Forests; Clean Water; Thriving Biodiversity; Rural Character; Open Space; Community

As a Northern California coastal inland valley, Anderson Valley and the Navarro River Watershed are an ecological microcosm endowed with resplendent redwood forests and rolling hills, all situated within the largest watershed in Mendocino County. And we are fortunate to have an active, engaged community. Last year in the midst of the uncertainty of the pandemic the Anderson Valley Land Trust celebrated 30 years, the protection of 2,700 acres in 29 conservation easements, and continuing to work to expand its conservation efforts by Zoom and by golly!

Discussing our AVLT 30-year anniversary, and thinking about conservation goals for the next 30, the idea emerged of gathering Anderson Valley landowners, residents, businesses, and non-profits together to explore how Anderson Valley is coping with the growing needs to bolster the resiliency of the land to meet the challenges! These include serious drought, wildfire susceptibility, food security, and enduring the climate change.

Members of the Board thought “How can land and resource conservation in Anderson Valley expand to address those challenges while still providing for other community needs, including housing and job opportunities?” AVLT Board president, Yoriko Kishimoto, asked. “How is Anderson Valley doing with its basic elements of earth, air, water, and fire?”

Asking these questions propelled the AVLT Board to take the step of convening a community Symposium to inspire and encourage identification of needs and the successful implementation of overarching practices concerning us all. The backdrop to the Symposium will be issues such as regenerative agriculture, sustainable logging, local food production, fish friendly farming, dry farming, a thriving watershed, a healthy fishery, winter water storage, and California’s “30 x 30” initiatives to protect 30% of our conserved lands by 2030.

What does getting “our boots on the ground” at the Symposium look like? AVLT, with co-sponsors including the Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association environmental committee, the Navarro River Resource Center / Mendocino County

Continued on Page 6

IN MEMORIAM



We say a very sad farewell to Glynnis Jones who passed away on April 20, 2022. Glynnis joined the AVLTL Board in 2012 and for most of that time was our dedicated Board Secretary. And she was so much more than that. Glynnis brought to the AVLTL a history of experience and perspective that no one else had: a broad background in administration, public policy and planning. Her skill in grant-writing helped fund the conservation work of the AVLTL. In her professional career she worked for rural county and regional agencies on jobs/employment, economic development and community development issues. As the Principal Planner for the Governor's Rural Development Council in St. Paul, Minnesota, Glynnis managed agricultural and natural resource programs with a special focus on preserving family farms and easing the intergenerational transfer of farms.

Glynnis always said it was intriguing to have left a small, rural community in upstate New York where she grew up, never intending to go back to a small town, and then winding up in and very much enjoying over the past 20 years an even smaller community in Anderson Valley! Glynnis realized that being on a board does not just mean having opinions at meetings—it means putting in a lot of work. And she definitely did. We miss her smile, humor, and dedication.

Managing Woodlands for Wildfire

Participating community members enjoyed an informative field trip to the 3,670-acre Galbreath Wildlands Preserve in Yorkville on March 26 for a day-long program of Sonoma State University's Center for Environmental Inquiry in cooperation with the Anderson Valley Land Trust. This program, for large and small landowners, showed some necessary steps to mitigate the severity and duration of a wildfire and to manage for other goals, such as encouraging oak woodlands. Participants spent time in different types of woodland settings and heard about tools and techniques from a diverse group of forestry experts all there to share their knowledge and expertise. Some takeaways from the day:

- Managing for wildfire is an ongoing project and there are many ways to approach wildfire hazard reduction from clearing and mastication to prescribed fire.
- Managing for wildfire can combine with other goals for ecosystem restoration and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Prescribed fire is becoming better understood and useful as a tool in wildfire hazard reduction. Mendocino County has a Prescribed Burn Association to support private landowners in using safe prescribed fire on their land.

If you'd like to find out more about the excellent and varied programs at Galbreath Wildlands Preserve check out the Sonoma State University Center for Environmental Inquiry website (cei.sonoma.edu) and sign up for the mailing list.





Juglans hindsii

Northern California Black Walnut

It has certainly been an unusual past two years...and Covid is proving a very tough nut to crack. Using that segue, our featured plant also produces a very tough nut to crack: *Juglans hindsii*, the Northern California black walnut. Just leafing out at this time of year, its fresh green foliage contrasts with its dark and deeply furrowed bark. It is a large deciduous tree that occurs throughout California, though this species is more abundant in the northern part of the state while its cousin *Juglans californica* occupies the southern regions. It favors areas along water courses (for those of you familiar with the California's East Bay, think Walnut Creek), but can survive considerable dryness under cultivation. During the active growing season, the tree sports long feathery leaves of many pointed bright green leaflets; the spring flowers are long hanging catkins, greenish in color, not showy but noticeable. It can become a large majestic tree, reaching heights of up to 70 feet. It serves well as a stately shade tree, but the fruit drop can be messy. The nuts, while certainly edible, take some work to get to that point. The outer husk (that surrounds the familiar shell) is fuzzy and when cracked open (not easy!) leaves a blackish residue on the hands that is hard to remove. The nuts have a stronger flavor than the far more commercially popular English walnut (*Juglans regia*).

Once European settlers introduced English walnut, it proved susceptible to soil-borne disease to which black walnut is resistant. Thus, to this day, black walnut rootstock is often used as a grafting base for English walnut, which is evident when viewing walnut orchards. The bark of the black walnut is dark and furrowed, while that of the English is light and smooth. It's easy to see the graft line near the base of the tree.

Black walnut has gone through many revisions over its storied history, both in nomenclature and botanical status. Once thought to exist naturally in only 3 locations, after much scientific research and meticulous studies over the years, it has gone from being a protected species in the state to currently no special listing by the resource agencies. To quote an early version of the Jepson Manual (the respected authority on native California vegetation), "The situation is now hopelessly confused," being that the tree has naturalized along numerous stream and creeks, creating large stands that look like native populations. Confounding all this is that Native Americans cultivated *Juglans hindsii* and certainly made good use of the nuts. Black walnut also hybridizes with the introduced English walnut, rendering true native populations difficult to discern.



Thank You Volunteers!

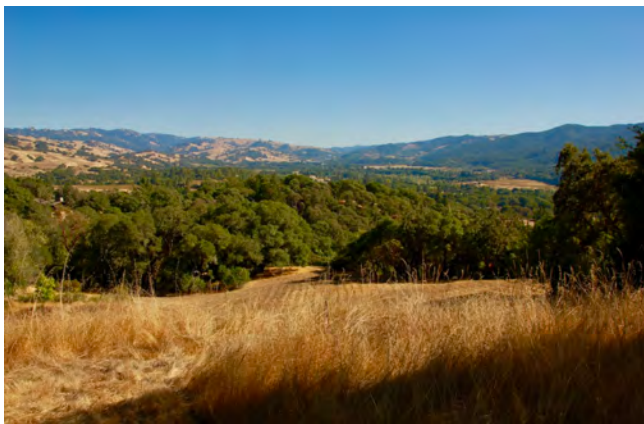
Each year, the AVLJ joins a number of other Anderson Valley area non-profit organizations with a group of volunteers to assist with operational support for the Annual Legendary Boonville Beer Festival. In turn, the proceeds from the festival are returned to the community in support of these organizations, and we are grateful to be one of the beneficiaries thanks to AV Brewing Co. and the Kimmies of the Bahl Beljeemer (friends of the good dog) Foundation. Along with AVLJ Board members who volunteered, a special thanks to our other volunteers for the day:

- Julia Sheng
- Luke Benjamin
- Bridgett Shank
- Annie Lo

Symposium (continued from Page 3)

Resource Conservation District, and a long list of supporting partner organizations will offer a ‘*State of Anderson Valley*’ for its watershed, looking at the past history, the present, and potential future. Panel discussions will follow, sharing information, resources and inspiring stories of what’s being done here, what more we can do, what help is available and why we are hopeful. There will also be time to mingle for a cross pollination of ideas.

By sharing information and best practices, learning from experts and peers, the Symposium will identify the gaps, opportunities, challenges we face and initiatives to address them. What are we not doing today that we should be doing? Is a dry Navarro River and its tributaries the elephant in the room? How are our cumulative efforts making an impact on our quality of life, natural resources, and long-term economic viability?



Are there additional State or private grants and resources to assist with transitions as the climate changes if we can show we are working together? How can we forge stronger connections with state representatives? What further collaborative opportunities can be formed beyond our individual efforts and boundaries to advance land and resource resiliency in Anderson Valley?

For inspiration, Obi Kaufman will be a featured speaker. Some of you may have met him when he came to Boonville to share his *California Field Atlas*. He is a gifted artist and author and has dedicated his life to studying California’s natural world. He has also published *The State of Water and Forests of California* and *Coasts of California*. Obi blends science and art to enhance our understanding and appreciation of the web of life.

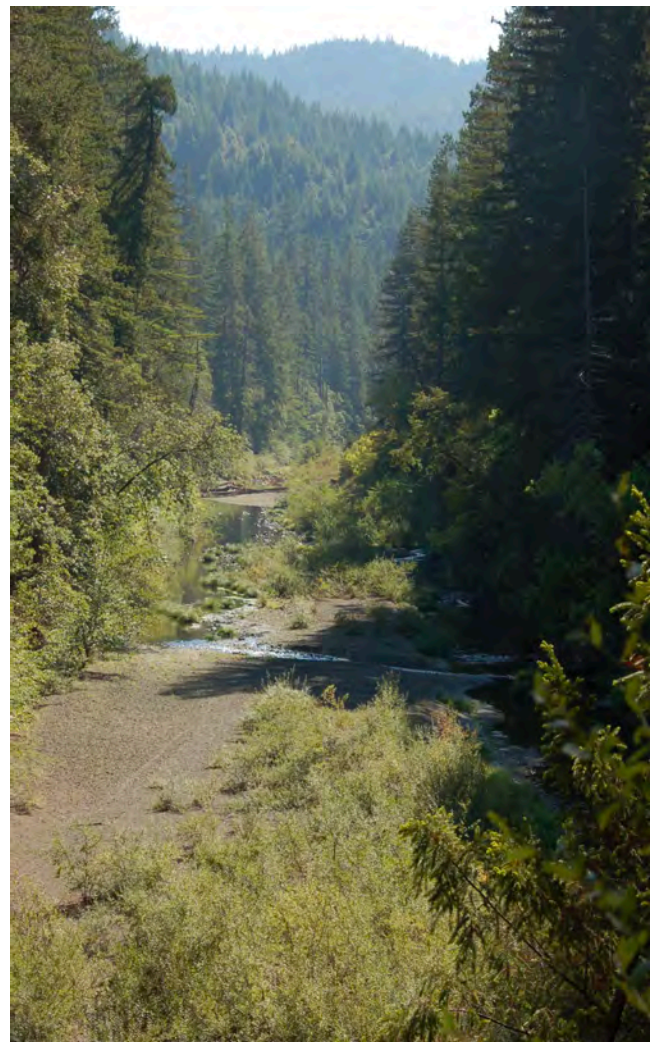
The Symposium will explore the unique features and challenges facing Anderson Valley. As Laurel

Marcus, the Executive Director of *Fish Friendly Farming*, notes, “Anderson Valley is a rare place where critically endangered coho salmon coexist with vineyards.” Redwood forests, coho salmon, vineyards, ranching, orchards, farms, and small rural communities. . . we have so many jewels to protect and enhance! It is our hope that the Symposium inspires us to “think like a watershed” so our common lifeboat can survive climate change, mega droughts, floods and other forms of extreme weather in our future.

The Resilient Lands Symposium will take place on October 15, 2022. It will also be recorded as much as possible for web presentations post event. Pre-registration is necessary.

If you want to be on our mailing list to receive information about the Symposium details and registration. please e-mail avlt@mcn.org or call 707-895-3150.

Save the date!



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Anderson Valley Land Trust: 2021 Financial Statement

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds*
Current Assets		
Operating Accounts	\$ 38,801	
Pioneer Stewardship Fund		\$ 29,057
Stewardship Endowment		\$ 447,031
Other Current Assets	\$ 655	\$ 21,584
Total	\$ 39,456	\$ 497,672
Income		
Cash donations	\$ 34,120	
Grant Income	\$ 4,346	
Stewardship Fund	\$ 15,137	
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 53,657	
Expenses		
Non-operating	\$ 4,601	
Operating	\$ 26,947	
Total Expenses	\$ 31,548	
Portfolio Value Increase	\$ 77,985	

*restricted funds for the continuing protection of our easements.

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INSIDE DIRT

CONSERVING AGRICULTURAL LANDS

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

**ANDERSON VALLEY RESILIENT LANDS
SYMPOSIUM**

IN MEMORIUM

MANAGING WOODLANDS FOR WILDFIRE

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACK WALNUT

WILDFLOWER WALK REVIEW

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**ANDERSON VALLEY RESILIENT LANDS
SYMPOSIUM**

Thinking Like a Watershed
October 15, 2022

FILIGREEN FARM TOUR

October 16, 2022

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