

GOOD DIRT

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST
Winter, 2023

Philo-Greenwood Beach Public Access and Navarro River Restoration Concept Plan AN AVLT PROJECT UPDATE

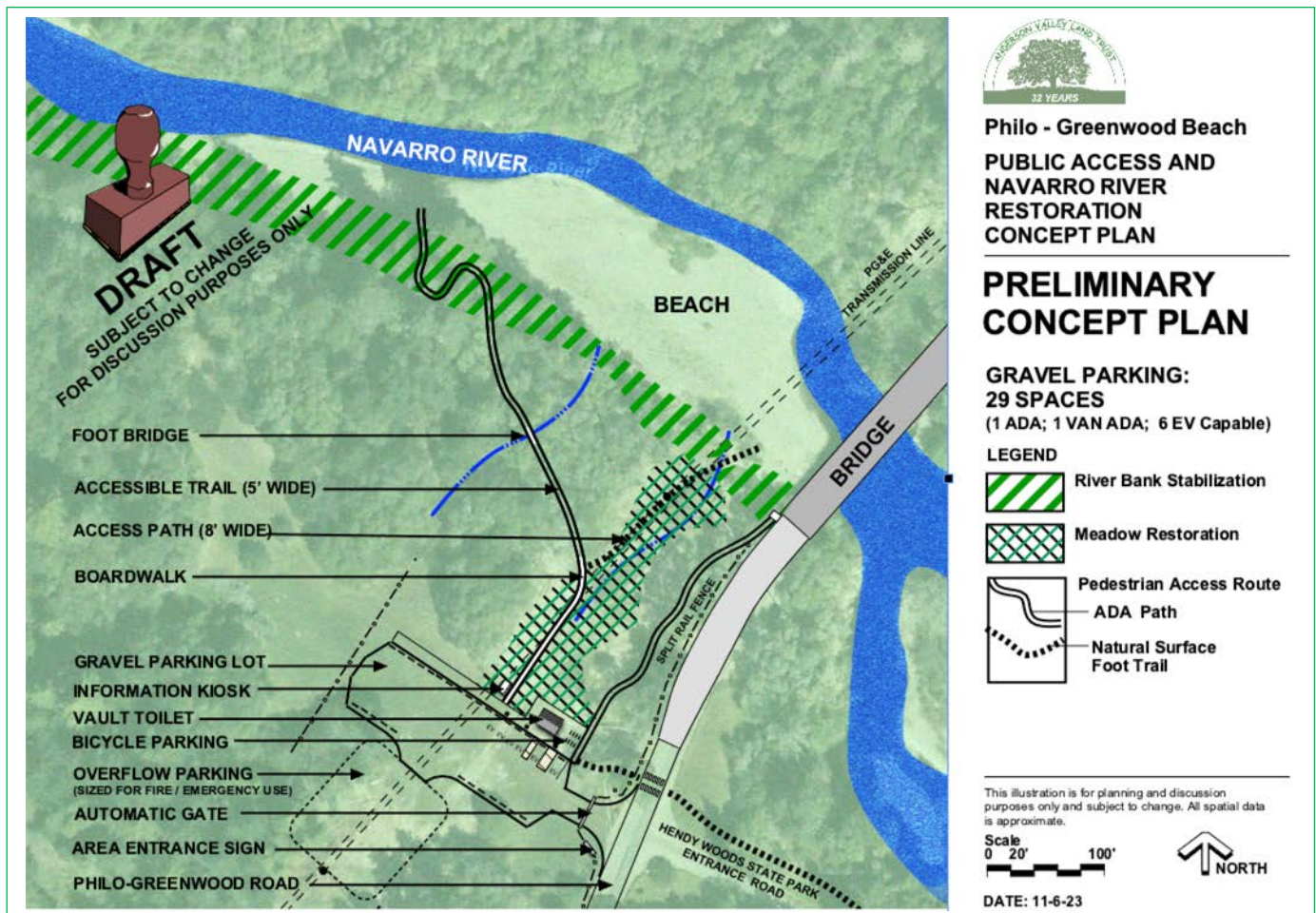
The Philo-Greenwood road bridge is scheduled to be reconstructed over a two-year period beginning in 2026. When it is completed, the construction staging area and vehicular access ramps needed to rebuild the bridge present a golden opportunity to be reclaimed to enhance safe future public access to the Navarro River, the beach, and Anderson Valley's favorite swimming hole.

Along with the new facilities (see graphic below) a vital part of the Concept Plan is to stabilize approximately 750 feet of the river's floodplain edge with willows and other riparian plantings and to

restore an approximately 1/2-acre meadow between the parking area and the beach.

For more information about the Concept Plan, the process for turning concept into reality, and the steps and costs involved, visit our web site at andersonvalleylandtrust.org.

If you would like to be informed of upcoming meetings and receive ongoing information about the plans as they are developed, send us an e-mail at avlt@mcn.org with the subject heading **Philo-Greenwood Beach**.



Back to the Future - Historical Ecology

The Navarro River watershed at 315 square miles in size (201,600 acres) is the largest coastal basin in Mendocino County. The watershed's ability to sequester carbon if stewarded in a positive way is considerable. Why worry about that? Carbon dioxide is the most commonly produced greenhouse gas (GHG). Carbon sequestration is the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide. It is one method of reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere with the goal of reducing global climate change. And be mindful of the words of Scottish planner and conservationist Patrick Geddes to "think globally, act locally".

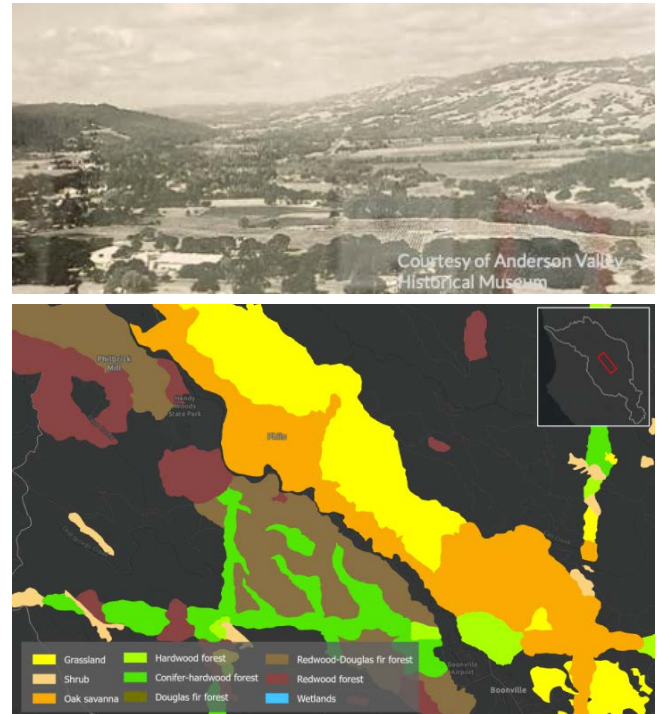
Last year at the AVLT-organized *Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium - Think Like a Watershed!* we introduced the idea of historical ecology - to look back and use the past landscape to help us look forward to envision its future potential to enhance climate resiliency and ecological health in the watershed. Since then, and thanks to a generous grant from the Environmental Defense Fund, the historical ecology study of the Navarro River watershed is now happening.

The AVLT and San Francisco Estuary Institute (SFEI) are working with a broader team of organizations and individuals to identify stewardship efforts we can all make locally that will result in protecting and increasing carbon stocks in the Navarro River watershed. The work is being led by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District. One overall goal is to prepare a GHG accounting of the Navarro River Watershed.

An aspect of GHG accounting is how to make beneficial changes to the landscape in the future. The answer will be informed by the historical ecology analysis of the watershed SFEI is conducting. Their work is focused on asking the question "What were the vegetative cover conditions (also called landcover conditions) of the watershed at the time European settlers moved into Anderson Valley?"

Natural and working landscapes store and reduce GHG emissions in many ways. The vision of what landcover conditions were like in "natural" conditions prior to the arrival of Europeans will enable all of us to contemplate history's environmental and ecological landcover, understand the associated benefits, and prioritize

our future stewardship actions with those benefits in mind. Focusing on forest management and restoration activities, including actions in oak, coniferous, and riparian forests, can result in protecting and increasing carbon stocks in our watershed.



Historic Vegetative Cover: Anderson Valley (source SFEI)

The historical ecology study will synthesize diverse historical records to learn how habitats were distributed and ecological functions were maintained within Anderson Valley and the watershed. Given the dramatic changes to the watershed landscape during the past two centuries, residents of Anderson Valley will be well served to: understand the natural systems we seek to protect and enhance; help correctly identify current challenges; and identify active management options we can implement.

Understanding how streams, wetlands, and woodlands were organized along physical gradients helps us to develop new strategies for more integrated and functional landscape management. Historical reconstructions also educate and engage the public imagination, increasing how the community will perceive and be encouraged to take on local landscape stewardship. Thinking globally but acting locally!

The final study "Integrating Greenhouse Gas Accounting into the Navarro River Watershed Stewardship Efforts" is targeted to be completed by the end of 2024. More to follow in the Spring edition of Good Dirt!

Presidents Message

What a year this has been!

Building on the momentum of the Anderson Valley Resilient Lands Symposium last fall, our land trust began the year by partnering with the Anderson Valley Fire Department to hold “Living with Wildfire” workshops. I followed up with the Mendocino County Firesafe Council and was very impressed with the advisor, a former fire fighter, who came out to inspect our property. House by house, property by property, I feel we are getting better prepared. Are you prepared for the winter storms? Is your land ready to slow and sink any rains, rather than have it all run off rapidly into our creeks? These are just a few questions we should be asking ourselves as winter approaches.

I have also been delighted that the Land Trust has a growing number of people contacting us to explore protecting their legacy with a conservation easement on their property. We are currently in active investigation and negotiation on a number of easements, so stay tuned! This is the core of our work.

In other developments, our highly capable and downright amazing volunteer Conservation Director, Patrick Miller, is retiring. Patrick volunteered the equivalent of a more than halftime job for over two years—a major donation for anyone, and one that the AVLT greatly benefitted from since Patrick is a world class landscape architect who brought his immense experience, expertise and enthusiasm to benefit the entire Anderson Valley — *Thank you Patrick!!*

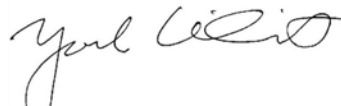
We need someone to step in to begin filling his big shoes. With your community support, our hard working fundraising committee, chaired by board

member Nancy Hornor, has doubled our annual fundraising from its previous level. Nancy is another board member we are fortunate to have, the former planning manager for Golden Gate National Recreational Area. She spearheaded a wonderful fundraising party at Allan and Lisa Green’s on Greenwood Ridge, a spectacular home designed by Allan’s father, Aaron Green, close associate of Frank Lloyd Wright (see related article on page 6).

At this event, we honored the memory of Sally Schmidt, who with her husband Don, founded the iconic French Laundry restaurant. Her daughter Karen Bates runs the Apple Farm with her husband Tim. The two were at the event and donated a stay at their farm and a copy of Sally’s cookbook. Sally and Don’s son, Johnny Schmitt, is the force behind Boonville Hotel and its restaurant. We were so honored that Johnny Schmitt and Shannon Hughes donated their time and culinary magic. A number of our wineries were very generous with wine donations, for the silent auction, a wine chest, and to serve. Deep thanks to everyone who made this event such a success! What a valley!

With many shoulders to the wheel to provide a solid financial base, we are now recruiting for a part time Conservation Director. If you know someone who might be interested in either the paid Conservation Director position or in joining our board as a volunteer, contact us!

We are looking forward to a wonderful holiday season and New Year. Best wishes from the AVLT Board of Directors to all of you.



Yoriko Kishimoto



Hendy Woods State Park

Climate Resilient Navarro River Watershed and Salmon

By Elise Allen and Sarah Gallagher, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Bragg, CA.

With autumn comes shorter days, vibrant colors, and emerging mushrooms. Rain will soon recharge our trickling coastal rivers and reopen habitat for the salmon and steelhead to return. Balance is the word that comes to mind when describing the fascinating life cycle of salmon and steelhead. They are a connection between the land and the sea, moving between freshwater and the ocean at different stages of life to find the right balance of habitat and food. When adult salmon leave the ocean and return to freshwater to spawn, they bring important marine nutrients that will feed the forest after they spawn and die.



From *Good Dirt*, Fall, 1994: W.J. Meyer Sr., with steelhead caught in Anderson Creek in Boonville (1940).

As keystone species, those which influence an entire ecosystem, salmon and steelhead are indicators of watershed health. Most populations in California are at very low numbers and protected under both federal and state Endangered Species Acts to reduce their risk of extinction. These include the Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and steelhead that inhabit the Navarro River watershed that flows

through redwood-dominated forests directly to the Pacific Ocean and is unregulated by dams. While each watershed in Mendocino County has its own special character, the Navarro River stands out as the largest.

Agencies and partners have made the recovery of imperiled populations of salmon and steelhead a high priority. Because degraded watersheds decrease salmon survival, recovery actions have included significant investments to repair stream habitat and build healthy ecosystems resilient to future threats. Monitoring is used to detect changes in population sizes over time and is also an important part of species recovery

Fisheries agencies have developed a scientifically sound monitoring program that is used to track populations of salmon and steelhead in their freshwater life stage. With the support of many landowners, the California Department of Fish and

Wildlife (CDFW) in partnership with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Mendocino Redwood Company, and Redwood Timber Company, have carried out monitoring from Usal Creek south to the Garcia River under this program since 2008. These intensive surveys of spawning grounds provide an understanding of population size and distribution to inform recovery strategies and help cultivate an awareness of the role salmonids play.



Survey crew member measuring a steelhead redd during a spawning survey on Indian Creek in the Navarro River watershed. California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In the late fall, rains begin to increase water flows, signaling mature salmon and steelhead to leave the salty depths of the sea. Estuary bars like that at Navarro Beach break open and tributaries reconnect to the spawning grounds. In years when rain is late or there is not enough, this migration can be delayed or blocked, as witnessed in the Navarro River watershed in recent drought years. Coho salmon and Chinook salmon are the first to return, typically in November, and their spawning extends into February. Steelhead return beginning in early winter, and spawn through late spring. Eggs can be found incubating in the gravel nests throughout the winter and spring.

The first baby salmon (called “fry”) will swim up out of their gravel nest in early spring. The tiny fish disperse to the margins of the riverbank, seeking shelter beneath the overhanging woody branches and amongst submerged logs. These fry do not have it easy. They must find refuge from high flows and avoid predators. Both Coho salmon and steelhead spend at least one full year in freshwater before heading to the ocean, making them vulnerable in

summer to low flow conditions associated with drought or water use.

Late spring is the peak timing for Coho Salmon and steelhead smolts to migrate to the ocean. Smolts are juvenile fish that have spent at least one year in the fresh water and are physically transforming to live life in salt water where they will feed, grow, mature, and begin the life cycle again. Nested within the spawning survey study area, smolts are trapped and collected for the surveys as they leave freshwater in some watersheds. This survey program includes the North Fork Navarro River. By knowing how many adults return and smolts leave, we can better understand how freshwater and the ocean conditions influence survival.

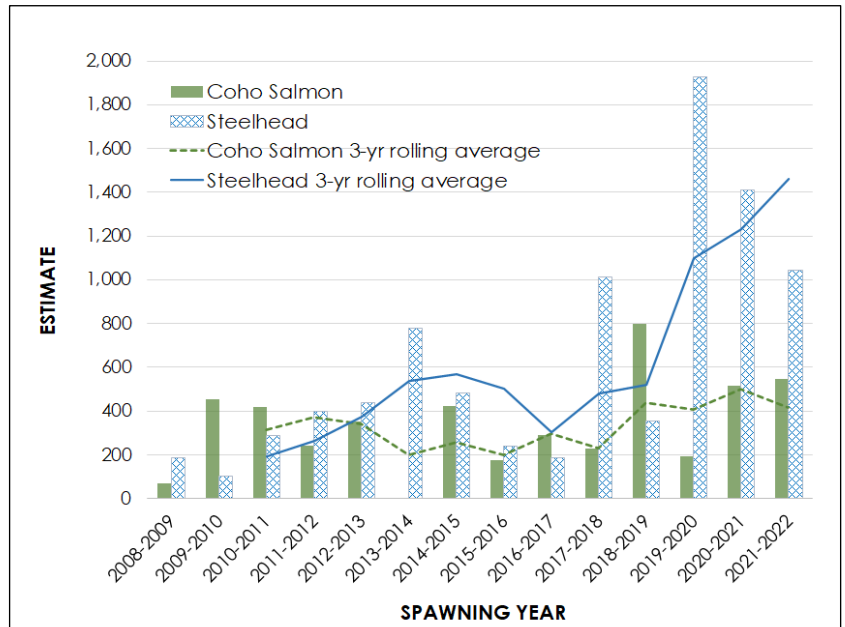
Today, salmon and steelhead numbers are low but stable in the Navarro River watershed, though well below targets set for recovery (see chart). Last year, above normal rainfall provided much needed drought relief, with stream flows allowing wide spawning distribution, good flow connectivity for out-migrating smolts and summer base flows for rearing juveniles. We are hopeful for another wet year this winter.

Rivers are not just salmonid nurseries, but a place for us to recreate. If you have an opportunity to walk along the river bank this winter, you may catch a glimpse of spawning salmon. Take a moment to pause and gaze toward the upstream end of a shallow faster moving section of stream called a “riffle”. As a female digs into the gravel with her tail to make a redd (nest), several males may be sparring to mate. Look for splashing, exposed salmon backs and thrashing tails.

The spawning ground survey crews have had the privilege to monitor, watch, and learn from salmon and steelhead throughout the seasons. Scientifically derived sampling schemes and protocols are used to quantify the life cycle of salmon and steelhead, a wonder that sometimes does not seem quantifiable.

What can you do for salmon recovery in the Navarro River and its tributaries?

- Know and explore the watershed, remembering to approach the riffles with caution to prevent crushing and killing eggs.
- Supporting community planning efforts to carefully consider water management strategies that support freshwater ecosystems, provide



Coho Salmon and steelhead adult abundance estimates. Navarro River, Mendocino County, CA 2008-2022. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Note: 2018-19 is only an estimate for North Fork Navarro River

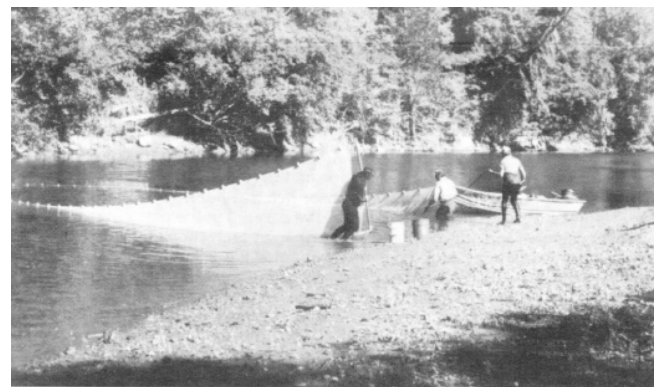
community water security, and consider current and future impacts of climate change.

- Seek erosion control, habitat restoration, and drought assistance funding opportunities on your land.

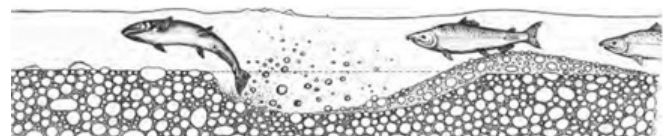
To learn more about salmon and steelhead of coastal Mendocino County visit the following;

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Fishes/Salmonid-Monitoring/CMP>

For more info on restoration practices and potential grant funding, contact Linda MacElwee, Mendocino County RCD, linda.macelwee@mrcrd.org



Fisher folk Gisele Reaney and Bob Baxter with Steve Cannata of Humboldt State set up the beaches seine for fish sampling in part of the Navarro Estuary for the AVLT-sponsored Navarro River Watershed Restoration Plan (1996).



Secrets of Anderson Valley

In late July, thanks to the generosity of Allan Green, many friends of the AVLT gathered at Allan's house for a very special event. It was special both for the people present and for the setting of the amazing organic architecture of Arron Green (Allan's father). The house is truly one of the secrets of Anderson Valley.



Watercolor: Yoriko Kishimoto

As an auction and fundraising event, money was raised for the AVLT's Conservation Fund. That contribution could not have happened without donations by many individuals and businesses. We want to thank and recognize you all with special thanks to Barbara Nelson for her contributions of time and auction items.

Food & Refreshments

- Johnny Schmitt, chef
- Shannon Hughes, chef
- Apple Farm
- Brock Farms
- Boonville Hotel
- Filigreen Farm
- Pennyroyal Farm
- Princess Seafood

Refreshments

- Domaine Anderson
- Long Meadow Ranch
- Maggy Hawk
- Navarro Vineyards
- Roederer Estate

Auction Items

- Allan Green
- Barbara Nelson
- Bee Hunter Wine
- Bill Meyer
- Boonville Bike Works
- Boonville Stables
- Catch a Canoe & Bicycles Too! / Stanford Inn
- Club Fugazi
- Disco Ranch
- Drew Family Wines
- James Martin
- Lichen Estate
- Long Meadow Ranch
- Margaret Pickens
- Mendocino Grove
- Nancy & John Horner
- Patrick and Jane Miller
- Barbara Nelson
- Pennyroyal Farm
- Phillip Thomas
- Rob Risucci
- Roederer Estate
- Scharffenberger Cellars
- Schooner Freda B
- Skunk Train
- The Apple Farm
- The Argonaut Hotel
- The Lodge at Cavallo Point
- Yoriko Kishimoto

The experience of the Aaron Green architecture looking out and over 480 forested acres of land conserved by the Anderson Valley Land Trust and others (thanks to conservation easement donations by both Allan and his brother Frank) absolutely "elevated" everyone present about the role of the AVLT in conserving the natural and working lands of Anderson Valley and Navarro River watershed.

Deep Thoughts: Why include the Anderson Valley Land Trust in Your Estate Planning

By: Mr. and Mrs. Anonymous

Like many, we have been very fortunate in growing up in a time where we benefited from, as Walter Cronkite coined the term, "The Greatest Generation". Our parents, lived through the Great Depression, fought and lived during World War II, and created Baby Boomers . . . our generation. Our parents were not wealthy by any means. But they worked hard to make sure we received a great formal education and passed on to us the mind set to be able to fend for ourselves and prosper. And so the cerebral and moral wealth we inherited transferred to an expendable wealth.

There are, of course, many ways to pass that wealth along. The most common is to children , grandchildren, and other relatives. In our case, everyone is doing just fine on their own. So there are certainly other ways that wealth can be used to amplify a legacy over time for some greater good. The way is to make a true difference to a culture, a place, or an organization. So the question becomes what culture, or place, or organization is there of interest to you that might truly receive a significant boost with a legacy gift? In our particular case, after due consideration, we have decided that in our living trust, our financial legacy, whatever it may be after we move on, would best be used to support educational endowments and land conservation. And the conservation side of the equation from our standpoint it is the Anderson Valley Land Trust that, as an organization, works to conserve the landscape attributes of Anderson Valley that make it a unique and wonderful place to live. We know that at any time, a significant contribution will allow its staff to grow and its work to flourish conserving the valley we love. So please give your legacy planning a thought with the Anderson Valley Land Trust in mind.

THANK YOU! TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

With every issue of Good Dirt our list of donors grows. We wish to thank everyone for your contributions over the last year. It is your combined support that keeps the AVLT going. Thanks to you we met our ambitious goal of raising an additional \$40,000 this past year for our new **Anderson Valley Conservation Fund** to help our organization grow and keep up with the times while helping Anderson Valley stay natural and rural with working lands. Really! Without your support we could not envision a bright future for Anderson Valley or the AVLT.

THANK YOU!

Karen Altaras	Leonard Feinstein	Andrea Lum	Jonathan Rubenstein
Anonymous	Robert Finkelstein	Kathleen Macdonald &	Dario Sattui
Mark & Deanna Apfel	Rebecca Flato	Michael Nissenberg	Debra & Brent Salmi
Eric Arbanovella	Gina Fontana	Holly Madregal	Charlotte Saunders
Judith Auberjonois	John Friedman	Larry & Jeanne Mailliard	John Scharffenberger
Nicolette Ausschnitt	George & Mary Gaines	Sandy Mailliard	Mark Schneiderman
AV Brewing Company	Corine Gallagher	Keith Marshall	Kurt Schoeneman
Kathy Bailey	Sharon Garcia	James Martin	R. Timothy Scully
Swift Barnes	Glenn Gasaway	Miriam Martinez	Daniel Sicular
Justin & LisabBarnett	Robert Gates	Nancy Mayer	Ilene & Richard Sheng
MikeBarnett	Gail and Ron Gester	Elizabeth & Lenard	Anna Shimko
Barstow Fund	Peter Gillespie	Mayrisch	Silver Oak Wine Cellars
Julien Bartice	Robert Giuliani	Mathew & Dixie McCarthy	Barry & Betsy Smith
Karen Bates	Barbara & Rob Goodell	Jan & Glenn McGourty	Phillip Smith
Thomsas Bickell	Mark Goodstein	Kathleen McKenna	Steve Snyder
Joanne Blicher	Donald Gravers	Marta McKenzie	James Stent
Robert and Marion	Allan Green	Karen & Thomas McKewan	Molly Stump
Blumberg	Frank Green	P Jeffrey McQueen	Karin Swann
Richard & Alice Bonner	Theodore Griffinger	Michelle & Rolf Melhorn	Deanna Thomas
Lindsey Brown and Gina	Allen Gummer	Melody Merriman	Philip Thomas
Fontana	Henry & Heidi Gundling	Tom Meyer	Christine Thorsteinson &
Richard Browning	Lynne Halpern	William & Gail Meyer	Paul Cousineau
David Bunim	Kathleen Harberer	Julien Miclette	Dean Titus
Deborah Cahn	Valerie Hanelt	Patrick & Jane Miller	Ray & Susan Triplett
Lyman Casey	Laurel Headley	Jeanne Moulton	Van Zandt
Cheryl Cathey	Charles Hochberg	Barbara Nelson	Karin Vargervik
Lynne Clenfield	Walter & Susan Hopkins	Ali Nemo (Bee Hunter	Carrie Vriheas
William Chambers	David Hopmann & James	Wine)	Leona Walden
James Chanin	Taul	Marshall Newman	Gary Wandrey
Jenny Burnstad, Cloud	Nancy & John Honor	Susan Newstead	Warren & Janis Watkins
Forest Institute	Martha Hyde	Cindy Novella	Warren Watkins
Collins/Kishimoto Family	Kay Jablonski	Sophie Otis	Laurie Wayburn & Connie
Fund	Kathy Janes	Karen Ottoboni	Best
Dawn Cortland	James Johnson	Ashley Palm	Bradford Wiley
Robert Crochelt & Donna	Robert Jones	Ann Panittaja	Peter Wiley
Smith	Gerald Karp & Stephanie	Helen Papke & Wayne Nord	Patricia Williams
John Cunha	Gold	Sandra Parker	Rachel Williams
Mary Curtis	Kathy Kinzie	Nancy & Tom Patten	Toni Wise
Steve Curtiss	Yoriko Kishimoto & Lee	Mary Anne Payne	Dorothy Witt
Daniel Dodt and Linda	Collins	Steve & Jan Pearson	Steven & Deborah Wolfe
Blacketer	Heidi Knott	Suzanne & Timothy	Steve & Nancy Wood
Kathy Down & Greg Kelly	Steven Krieg	Pletcher	Steven Wood
Bruce Dragge	Eric Labowitz & Kathy	Jed Pogran & Gary	Wright Family Foundation
Jason Drew	Bailey	McGregor	Lily Wu & John Moffly
Molly Drew	Thomas Lacey	Kathryn Porter	Brian Zalaznick
Elizabeth Dusenberry	David Lakes	Cynthia Ramos & James	Gene Zanoni
Teresa Eligio	Mary Ann Landis	Alvers	2M Associates
Thom Elkjer	Kathleen Lee	Margot Rawlins	
Erica Etelson	Edward Lemon	Mary Lou Renner	
Don Ferguson	Judy & Ryan Long	Rhys Vineyards	
Matthew Ferguson	Helen Longino	Peter & Collette Rothschild	

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ANDERSON
VALLEY
LAND
TRUST
INCORPORATED

P.O. BOX 141
BOONVILLE, CA 95415

Non-Profit Org.
US POSTAGE
PAID
EXPRESSIT

“Dedicated to the Preservation and Restoration of Our Unique Rural Landscape”

INSIDE DIRT

**PHILO -GREENWOOD BEACH PUBLIC
ACCESS AND RIVER RESTORATION
CONCEPT PLAN UPDATE**

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

HISTORIC ECOLOGY

**CLIMATE RESILIENT NAVARRO RIVER
WATERSHED AND SALMON**

SECRETS OF ANDERSON VALLEY

ESTATE PLANNING

GOOD DIRT is published twice a year
by Anderson Valley Land Trust,
a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

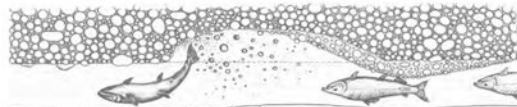
Contributors:

Elise Allen, Sean Baumgarten, Sarah
Gallagher, Yoriko Kishimoto, Linda
MacElewee, Patrick Miller, Anonymous

PRINTING: PS-PRINT.COM

MAILING: EXPRESS-IT, UKIAH

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



SAVE THE DATE

AN AVL T NATURE WALK

Location to be announced

April 28, 2024

You can sign up for email notices of events
by sending an email to AVLT@mcn.org or
call us at 707-895-3150

AVLT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KAREN ALTARAS

BARBARA GOODELL

NANCY HORNOR

YORIKO KISHIMOTO

BILL MEYER

JESSE RATHBUN

ROB RISUCCI

DAN SICULAR

RACHEL TURNER WILLIAMS

ANDERSON VALLEY LAND TRUST

14150 HIGHWAY 128

BOONVILLE, CA 95415

707-895-3150

avlt@mcn.org

www.andersonvalleylandtrust.org