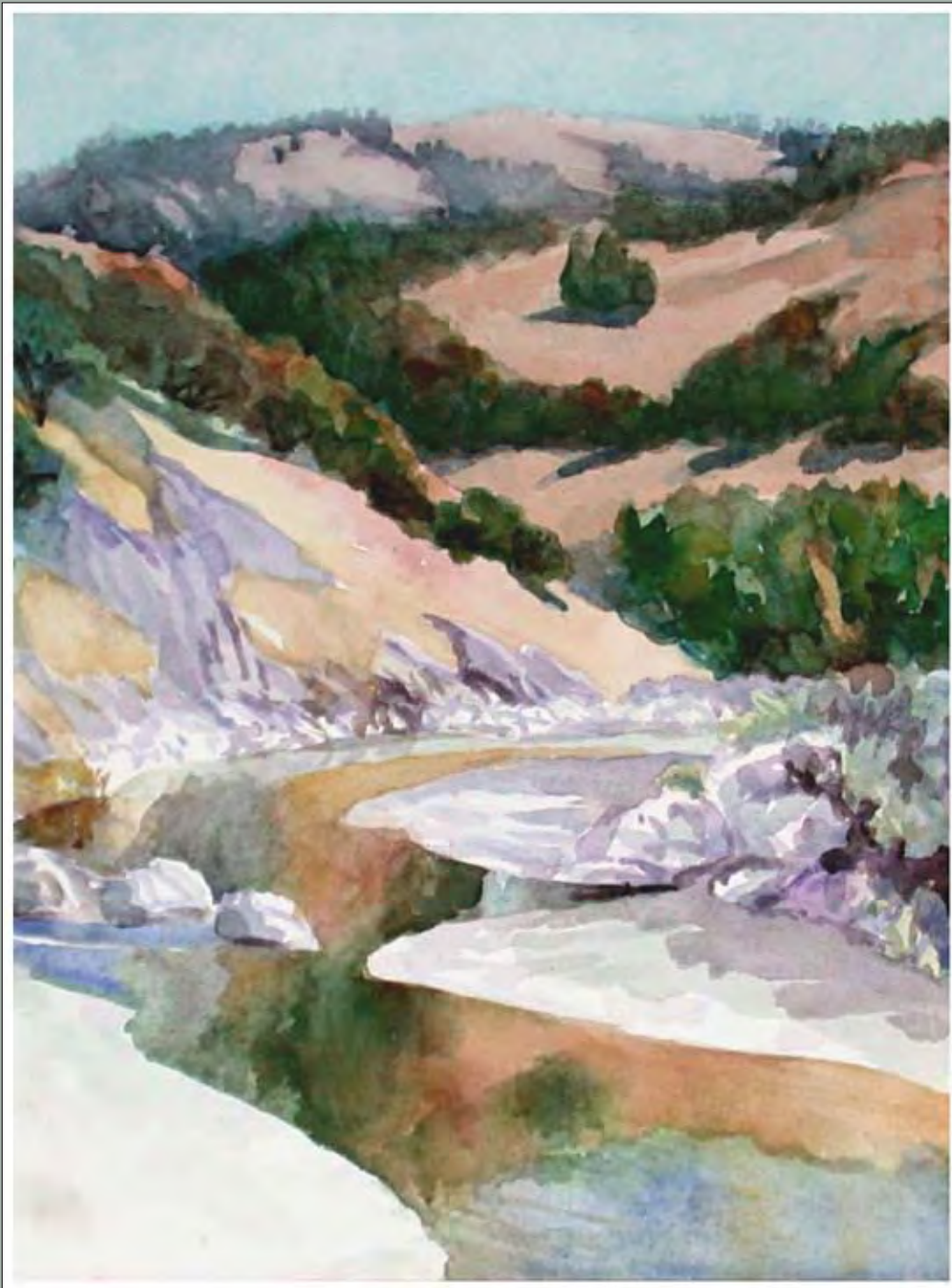


FALL 2007

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST



"Balance" (Eel River north of Redway, California; watercolor)

Judy Evenson

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Contact NRLT:

P.O. Box 398, Bayside, CA 95524
ph: 707.822.2242; fax: 707.822.5210
info@nrlt.org; www.nrlt.org



Letter from the Board President

The impending colder season, and what's needed to prepare for it, reminds me that change often brings renewal and improvement. So it is with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's recent change in leadership. We regret the circumstances obliging former executive director Jim Petruzzi to move south; his many contributions helped the organization to mature and become even more effective toward accomplishing our mission. Until we hire an executive director, we welcome Maya Conrad (executive director from 2003-2006) back into the role in the interim, facilitating the continued forward momentum of our dynamic programs.

We have included our 2006 annual report in this edition of our newsletter. NRLT's board of director's is proud of NRLT's accomplishments over the past year. For a young organization protecting more than 6,000 acres (part of our Six Rivers to the Sea Initiative) is an outstanding feat! With many more projects underway (see page 3), and with your help, we look forward to preserving more of our farms, forests, rangelands, and wild areas—our North Coast heritage—in the near future.

As you read this newsletter, you'll note the new role that NRLT is undertaking. From our Freshwater Farms Interpretive walks, emphasizing restoration of a working landscape, to our Canoe the Slough paddle which gets folks connected to Humboldt Bay through a fun activity, NRLT strives to open the wonders of the North Coast to all.

These events, along with the North Coast Dialogues & Agenda project (see page 3), are also designed to engage each of us to become more involved in caring for this region's outstanding resources. Creating venues for community discourse will help our community find common ground, and ultimately a common vision, which will sustain the land, the economy and the people that live here on the North Coast. Please join with me and the Northcoast Regional Land Trust as we create a future of our choice.



New Intern Ryan Wells

Originally hailing from Chico, CA, Ryan has been living in beautiful Humboldt County for more than seven years. He has worked with the California Conservation Corps and the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards Project, conducting stream habitat surveys and fish counts. Ryan also spent four years with the Eel River Watershed Improvement Group (ERWIG), during which he designed, wrote grant proposals for, and supervised the construction of dozens of salmon habitat enhancement and erosion control projects throughout the Eel River watershed.

Ryan hopes that the experience he gains here at NRLT, along with the Natural Resources Planning degree that he will earn from Humboldt State University this December, will allow him to continue to work cooperatively with all who have an interest in conserving and restoring wildlife habitat, sustainably-managed resource lands, and other essential landscapes, both locally and beyond.

The North Coast Dialogues

NRLT Initiates Collaborative Endeavor

NRLT has recently initiated a new program, the North Coast Dialogues & Agenda that seeks greater collaboration in maintaining the beauty, productivity, diversity, habitability, and wildness of North Coast landscapes. The Dialogues is intended first as an exploration of the diverse values that shape local attitudes about the land, our communities, and our culture, and second as an opportunity to work more skillfully towards the ideals we all share in common.

While there have been and continue to be numerous public and private efforts to develop land use, management, and/or conservation plans for the North Coast, the practical application (and hence usefulness) of these plans has been severely limited due to their inability to address and reconcile the

NRLT's Goals for the Dialogues:

1. Gain new insight into our own values and the values of others as they relate to the use, management, and conservation of land on the North Coast;
2. Build our community's capacity for using the unique skills, perspectives, and experience of its diverse citizenry to solve the problems of today and face the challenges of the future;
3. Clearly identify points of divergence and align shared values into a common Vision for our landscapes and our communities;
4. Develop a collaborative plan of action for pursuing that Vision.
5. Improve the quality of interpersonal relationships by cultivating more understanding and respect throughout our communities.

diverse personal and cultural values held by the various stakeholders of the region. The Dialogues will address the issue of values head-on and use the new understanding to develop a community Vision for our landscapes, communities,

An important result of the project will be to illuminate constraints on and opportunities for future collaboration between diverse constituents of the region.

and interpersonal relationships. A plan of action (Agenda) will subsequently be developed. An important result of the project will be to illuminate constraints on and opportunities for future collaboration between diverse constituents of the region.

The Dialogues is envisioned as a multi-year project that engages the citizens of the North Coast in the development of the Vision and Agenda. A values-based planning model will be designed and tested by a group of diverse Humboldt County stakeholders during early 2008.

Discussions and deliberations will likely be organized around cohesive themes such as Bottomlands and Estuaries, Forest and Rangelands, and Housing and Community Development to provide better focus on relevant issues. A 12-15 member Steering Committee with diverse representation will establish clear project goals and objectives, and will help design the project. Also assisting in this effort is a consulting firm based in Ohio that specializes in public deliberation and community reconciliation projects. Initial funding for the project is provided by the Andrus Family Fund (New York) and the Clarence E. Heller Foundation (San Francisco).

Land Protection Projects Update

- Significant progress is being made on three Six Rivers to the Sea projects, all designed to permanently protect the biodiversity, watercourse protection and sustainable resource production across more than 17,000 acres.

- In our effort to restore rearing salmon and estuary habitat on the wetland portions of our Freshwater Farms Reserve property, the final designs of the Freshwater Creek Estuary Rehabilitation project are being developed in preparation for a scheduled implementation Summer 2008. The entire Freshwater Farms Project is designed to maximize the agricultural use of the most productive lands, while using the less productive lands for maximized fisheries and wildlife potential. This project represents a model approach to coastal resource lands management, balancing, indeed combining, agricultural enhancement with wetlands and estuary restoration.

- We are moving forward with a generous conservation easement donation from a landowner on 200 acres near Humboldt Redwoods State Park, protecting meadowlands, old-growth and late seral redwood and fir forests, and tributaries to an anadromous stream.

- With a diverse coalition of Carlotta community members on the Van Duzen River, we are working to develop an innovative timberlands project which integrates community, ecological and production goals.

- Easement language is being finalized on a donated 100 acre forest conservation easement near Fortuna.

- NRLT is in the exploratory phase with five additional landowners representing over 2,000 acres of wild and working lands throughout Humboldt County.

- Our first annual conservation easement monitoring visits and corresponding reports have been completed for the Iaqua and Price Creek ranches.

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

Thank you, our members and supporters, for taking the Northcoast Regional Land Trust through another year of outstanding success and growth. Our shared promise to keep the North Coast beautiful, productive and unique launched NRLT into a number of new programs and stabilized existing ones, bringing us ever closer to our vision of a balanced ecology, culture and economy. As the following illustrates, our staff and board managed an impressive list of accomplishments in 2006, most notably with the first two Six Rivers to the Sea conservation easements:



Red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) at Freshwater Farms Reserve.

- **Created the North Coast Dialogues & Agenda Program** to build community around a collective vision for land use on the North Coast (see page 3)
- **Placed a conservation easement on the working Iaqua Ranch**, as part of the Six Rivers to the Sea Initiative. 4,747-acres of resplendent oak woodlands, bald hill prairies, mature conifer forests, and prime habitat for wildlife is now protected in perpetuity.
- **Placed a conservation easement on the 1,280-acre Price Creek Ranch**. Also part of the Six Rivers to the Sea Initiative, this working ranch's fish-bearing streams, productive forests, and rolling grasslands will forever be protected from further development.
- **Completed a five-year strategic plan**. This document was completed in January 2006 with the primary purpose of establishing conservation priorities and provides focus for NRLT's programs and activities for five years, to December 2010.
- **Initiated Freshwater Farms restoration and education programs**
 - **Supported passage of the new conservation tax incentives**, and are working to make them permanent through support letters and outreach
 - **Endorsed Proposition 84**, which provides for clean, safe drinking water and supports vital projects for coastal protection and water quality for California residents.
 - **Established a formal collaborative relationship with The Nature Conservancy**
 - **Received bequest pledges** from two parties
 - **Worked with a Humboldt State University service learning student**
 - **Attended the Land Trust Alliance Rally** in Nashville, TN
 - **Attended California Council of Land Trust Conference** in Sacramento, CA
 - **Supported regional conservation collaboration** through our involvement in the Northern Region Steering Committee for the California Council of Land Trusts





Photos: (lower left) Price Creek Ranch; NRLT members tour a protected property; (above) Iaqua Ranch; Francis and Carol Carrington. All photos by Erik Wilson.

2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income

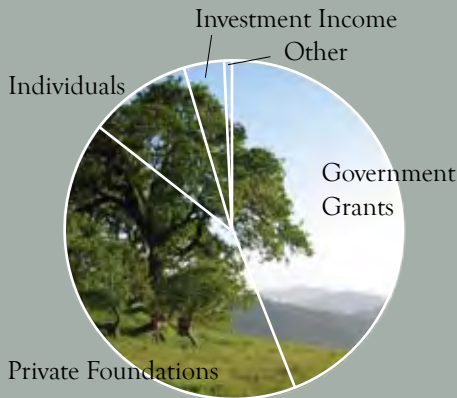
Private Foundations	\$108,000
Government Grants	\$154,221
Individual Donations	\$53,235
Investment Income	\$15,178
Other Income	\$4,150
Total	\$334,784

Expenses

Projects & Programs	\$233,053
Operational Expenses	\$34,487
Development	\$70,409
Total	\$337,950

FOUNDATION & AGENCY FUNDERS:

- California Council of Land Trusts**
- California Department of Fish & Game**
- California Department of Forestry**
Forest Legacy Program
- Columbia Foundation**
- County of Humboldt**
Conservation Easement Program
- Humboldt Area Foundation**
Community Response Grant
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
Coastal Program 2006
North American Wetlands
Conservation Act



Freshwater Farms Tour and Canoe the Slough



Hikers on the interpretive walk at Freshwater Farms Reserve. All photos by Erik Wilson.

The Freshwater Farms Reserve has had a lot of visitors lately. This summer NRLT launched its “Land Use and Environment” interpretive walk series with great success. Using the Freshwater Farms Reserve as a classroom, we have been sharing the story of the bottomlands of Humboldt Bay—the natural history of the land, the grazing regimes, the fish habitat and our own estuary restoration project. Interpretive walks are scheduled for the 1st Sunday of each month, 2:30-4:30pm. Join Us!

Give us a call for more details.

We have an outstanding network of trails and natural areas to enjoy throughout our region—including Water Trails. This summer we held our first “Canoe the Slough” event, with a ‘Moonlight Paddle’ from the Eureka Marina all the way up Freshwater Slough to the Freshwater Farms Reserve. In

an agreement with Humboats Kayak Adventures, we were able to get 20 people out on the water to enjoy the bay and Freshwater Slough on a calm summer night as a benefit for NRLT. Under the overcast skies we glided through the glassy evening waters and ended with a wine and cheese reception by lantern light. Our next Canoe the Slough event is coming up soon! **Saturday October 13, 12pm-5pm.** Space is limited. Call us for details and to reserve your kayak!

Conservation Tax Incentives Workshop Draws Crowd

At the end of March, NRLT teamed up with the California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) to host a free workshop and lunch highlighting the provisions of the new Pension Protection Act that contain tax incentives for the donation of conservation easements and other contributions that support private land conservation. More than 80 people with varying backgrounds attended the daylong event at the Fortuna River Lodge.

These incentives are set to expire in December 2007 unless they are made permanent before then by recently introduced legislation in congress.

The bulk of the workshop was led by renowned conservation attorney Ellen Fred, with the San Francisco law firm of Coblenz, Patch, Duffy and Bass. Appraiser Chris Bell also shared insight into the process of calculating the monetary value of rural properties on the North Coast, and explained the difference a conservation easement can make to property value.

NRLT’s First Annual Picnic

The annual NRLT membership picnic was held the end of July at the Alexandre dairy barn on a bright sunny day in Ferndale. Set among lush pasturelands, with dairy herds grazing nearby, it was a perfect setting for us to get together. After spending time seeing old friends, visiting, and meeting each other, we sat down to a good lunch and heard Erik Wilson, NRLT projects manager give a run down on recent accomplishments and current projects. It was especially inspiring to have Dick Hackett talk about why he and his wife LaVerne decided to enter into a conservation easement agreement.

Many thanks to all of you who attended, to the board members and staff who came, to Blake and his kids for all of their help, and to Brio Breadworks, the Northcoast Coop, Celebrations Catering, and Mad River Brewing Company for their contributions. See you all next year if not sooner.



NRLT members get involved with a tour of one of the recently conserved properties.

Thank You NRLT 2006-2007 Supporters!

Agencies & Foundations

Andrus Family Fund
California Coastal Conservancy
California Department of Conservation
California Department of Fish & Game
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Wildlife Conservation Board
Columbia Foundation
County of Humboldt
Clarence E. Heller Foundation
National Fish & Wildlife Federation
NOAA Fisheries
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Pacific Coast Joint Venture
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service

Redwood (\$1,000+)

Blake & Stephanie Alexandre
Barbara Barratt
Schorr & Donna Berman
Francis & Carole Carrington
Maya Conrad & Charlie Tripodi
David & Heidi Hodges
Jack & Rita Limmer
David & Madeline McMurray
Lee & Eileen Mora
Ann King Smith & Doug Smith
Jim Petruzzi
Bill & June Thompson
Ronald & Donna Thompson
John & Nancy VanSpeybroeck

Big Leaf Maple (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (1)
Dave Albee
Joan Berman
Bill Bragg & Lee Roscoe-Bragg
Melissa Bukosky
Renee Crowley
Yvonne Everett
Annette & Greg Holland
Peter Jermyn & Heidi Bourne
Mary Keehn, Cypress Grove Chevre
Fred Neighbor
George Yandell

Black Oak (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous (4)
Ira Blatt
Harry Blumenthal & Scott Mitchell
Tempra Board
Sue Bosch, Humboldt Land Title Company
Kim & Shirley Browning
Stephen & Sharon Davies
Stan & Judy Dixon
Susan Galliani, Humboldt Land Title Company
Glenn & Gail Giaimo
Kirk & Catherine Girard
Shayne Green
Dick Hackett
Steve & Jill Hackett, Agland Engineering

Danny Hagans
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Bill & Lynda Hutton
Laura Kadlecik & Mike Wilson
Tom Lisle & Lori Dengler
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Robin Park
Dennis Rael
Dennis Rael & Carol Falkenthal
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Jeff & Edith Schwartz
Linda Serrano
Kenneth & Rose Smith
Mock Wahlund, Coldwell Banker
Cutten Realty

Madrone (\$100-\$249)

Anonymous (5)
Thomas & Catherine Allen
Jim & Judith Anderson
Wes & Sue Anderson
Mark Andre & Nancy Rehg
Jon Brooks, Brooks Appraisal Service
Arthur Brown
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Harvey Harper, Harper Ford
Gordon & Jeffra Hull
Fred Hummel
Brian Hunt, Hunt Company Real Estate
Oscar Larson & Associates
Bill Kier, Kier Associates
John LaBoyteaux, Eel Canyon Farms
Nurit Licht & John Pendleton
Sam & Kathleen Manaktala
Hawk Martin & Roxanne Metz, Hum-Boats Kayak Adventures
Robert & Mavis McKelvey
Lisa Miller & Bryan Gaynor
Jim & Gay Morrison
Felicia Oldfather
Colleen O'Sullivan
Rob & Susan Parks
Claire & Gene Perricelli
Harry Pollack, Conservation Partners
Chuck Powell
Rex & Ruth Rathbun
Johanna Rodoni
Herb Schwartz, Change Mediation
Rondal Snodgrass
Virginia Springer
Francis & Lorana Sweet
Curley Tait,
Curley's Grill
Kent & Johnna Townsend
Don & Andrea Tuttle
Marlena & Moises Vega
Lynne & Bob Wells
Arnold Whittrick

Manzanita (up to \$99)

Anonymous (9)
Illijana Asara & Jim Vandegriff
Mary-Jane Ashton
Will & Kathy Bell
Ruth Blyther & Thomas Francis
Lucinda Bradshaw
John Calkins
Rita Carole
Susan & Earl Carson
Chris & Jeanne Chapin
Margaret Cole
Cindy Conover & Chris Beere
Kim & Tallchief Comet
Gail Coonen
Kathryn Corbett
Janet Czarnecki, Redwood Roots Farm
Diane Des Marets & David Price
Lane DeVries, Sun Valley Group
Charles & Natalie Di Costanzo
Sarah Eeles
Jud Ellinwood & Anda Webb
David Epstein & Patricia Platt Epstein
Michele Fell
Debra & Joe Frazier
Gary & Janis Friedrichsen
Mark Fritzke
Jared Gerstein & Yana Valachovic
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Lisa Hoover
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Melanie & Ron Kuhnle
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Bob & Susan Ornelas
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Jennifer Rice
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Steven & Jane Schonfeld
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Howard & Lynn Steinberg
Roger Sternberg
Jens & Claire Sund
Marlene Sylvia
Ted & Josephine Trichilo
Mike Torbert
Vicky Turner & Rudy Ramp
R. Uwe & Zuzana Gellner
Heidi & Kelly Walsh
Janie Walsh
Paul J. & Danielle Warner
Anne & Roger Weiss
Merry Winslow
Bob Wunner
Neal Youngblood & Karla Cummings

Inkind

Abruzzi Catering
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Northern Region Land Trust Conference Recap

Over the past few years NRLT has worked with the Northern Region Steering Committee, a committed group of land trust representatives from throughout a more than six-county area. The committee is organizing our collective efforts to advance conservation in the region. On June 15-16 NRLT and the Northern Region Steering Committee teamed up with the California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) to host "Thinking Like a Region," our first regional conference to bring Northern Region Land Trusts together.

Approximately 60 people attended the two-day event to share stories, discuss regional collaboration opportunities, and training. Workshops were held on conservation easements and stewardship, state funding and mitigation, planned giving, board development, fund and membership development and envisioning conservation objectives for the region.

A keynote address was given by former Senator Wes Chesbro, who has long been a conservation leader for the region and in state politics.

The success of this conference marks a historic moment in the movement to protect the productive and wild lands of the North Coast. The next regional conference has already been scheduled for June 12-13, 2008 (mark your calendars!), and a focus meeting on coastal access and trail programs just occurred this September.

NRLT Mission

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is dedicated to protecting and enhancing our region's farms, forests, rangelands, and wild areas in *perpetuity*. Our vision of the future includes vibrant communities, sustainable economies and healthy landscapes.

Cover Art Judy Evenson



"Split Rock"

Watercolor is a medium which captures light by its very transparency. Brilliant pigment flows off the brush onto the paper, leaving tiny specks of white. The resulting sparkle and characteristic brush marks and edges create an expressiveness that I love. Surrounding the small town in northern California where I live is a landscape of rich contrasts. Most dramatic is a river that boasts strong seasonal shifts; swift and dark green in winter, pale and slow in summer, revealing rocks and sand bars and willows. This environment provides constant inspiration to me. www.judyevenson.com

