Art auction benefits Northcoast Regional Land Trust

ARCATA — The Northcoast Regional Land Trust held its annual celebration on Oct. 7 with a sold-out venue, an auction and matching donations that raised approximately $55,000.

The group works to bring together "diverse, dynamic and committed voices" to conserve wild and working landscapes and to promote good stewardship.

The event is a time for many of these hard-working and enthusiastic people to come together to relax, have fun and celebrate the land. And with music from the Pilot Rock Ramblers, an open bar and a locally-produced meal, celebrating was in the air.

Organizers said the gathering was "a wonderful example of what can happen when people come together for a joint cause."

This year's silent and live auctions raised nearly $25,000 and totaled around 100 items. The auction had a land-based theme, and items included guided horseback riding trips on private ranches; exclusive breakfast and dinner parties from local producers; getaways to the Klamath and the Smith rivers; duck hunting, fishing and birding trips; loads and cords of locally harvested wood; veggie shares, farm tours and consultations; a private music party; locally produced beef, lamb, pork and eggs; handmade furniture by master woodworkers and regional landscape art.

The night also included a matching campaign led by Land Trust co-founders David McMurray and Rondal Snodgrass in which $10,000 was committed as a match prior to the event, and an additional $10,000 was donated at the end of the evening by committed supporters in attendance.

Many people donated goods and services to the event including local landowners, producers, businesses, artists, volunteer groups and individuals. Organizers extend special thanks to event sponsors the Northcoast Co-op, American AgCredit and Humboldt Grass-fed Beef. For more information and to see a full list of contributors, visit www.nclt.org/partners.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and economic viability of working landscapes, farms, forests and grazing lands, and to the preservation and protection of land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values.

The group works with landowners on a voluntary basis to promote stewardship of Northern California's healthy and productive resource base, natural systems and quality of life.