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‘Boots and Birkenstocks’ is land trust fundraiser



Auctioneers Lee Mora and Mandy Marquez invite bids on a painting during the live auction at a previous Northcoast Regional Land Trust Annual Celebration. Mora will again be serving as auctioneer at this year's dinner coming up on Saturday. PHOTO BY SARAH PILKINGTON

FORTUNA >> What happens when you put farmers, ranchers, foresters and business leaders in the same room with environmental advocates and restorationists? If you come to Northcoast Regional Land Trust's Annual Celebration, what you'll see and experience might surprise you.

The event, which is happening on Saturday (Oct. 10) at the River Lodge, in Fortuna, celebrates the bountiful wild and working lands in Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte counties, as well as the diverse people who work together to keep that land productive, its water and wildlife healthy, and the economy vital.

“The community calls this celebration ‘Boots and Birkenstocks’ because it brings out the full spectrum of people we work with,” said Mike Cipra, the land trust's executive director. “We could not do the work of protecting thousands of acres of our productive land and water without such broad community support. To see it all come together on one night is inspiring.”



Elisha Green, a 4-H volunteer, holds up a certificate for a “farm-to-table” dinner during the bidding at last year’s NRLT dinner and auction. Volunteers from the Kneeland 4-H group will be helping out this year at the dinner on Saturday. PHOTO BY RICHARD DUNING

People from widely different backgrounds, walks of life and political perspectives break bread together — a full dinner of locally produced beef, seafood, vegetables and fruit, all from North Coast producers. If you’re feeling jaded about the gridlock of polarizing politics, this night just might provide an immediate antidote: One look around the room and you’ll see the diversity the land trust brings together. You may take part in engaging conversations, laugh or share a drink with someone you never imagined you could, and you’ll be reminded of the hope that exists in the collaborative effort to protect what is most important the North Coast’s survival — the land.

Lee Mora of Humboldt Auction Yard will be running the evening’s lively auction, which includes items such as private ranch stays, farm-to-table meals and tours, horseback rides, getaways near and far, locally produced meat, CSA farm shares, firewood, private music parties, beer tastings, dinner gatherings, art inspired by the land, and fishing, hunting and sailing trips. A silent auction will also be part of the festivities. Music will be provided by Bramble and the Rose. The Northcoast Regional Land Trust’s Annual Celebration is sponsored by local companies and agencies too numerous to list.

Tickets are \$60 per person. To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit www.ncrlt.org or call 822-2242. The dinner always sells out, so early purchase is advised. The open bar and appetizers start at 5 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. (Despite the nickname, neither Birkenstocks nor boots are required attire.)

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 trust 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.