



Eel River at Redway

John Jameton

Partnerships Restore Oak Woodlands

Oak woodlands are a beautiful and essential part of the heritage of our region, providing food or cover for more than 300 wildlife species, including acorn woodpeckers, western grey squirrels, and black-tailed deer. This habitat also serves as valuable rangeland for cattle. But oak woodlands are in danger – it’s estimated that more than 30% of California’s oak woodlands have been lost since the start of European settlement in the mid-1800s.

Northwestern California’s oak woodland environments were historically preserved with frequent natural and cultural fires. Area tribes have long safeguarded oak

woodlands as vital habitats and food sources and stewarded them carefully with prescribed burns. These low-intensity fires would kill fire-sensitive conifers, while preserving slow growing oaks. Without this tending, faster-growing Douglas-fir trees and other conifers overtake oaks, shading them out and outcompeting with them for resources. Due to this past century’s fire suppression, many of these biodiverse, open landscapes have been lost to densely crowded conifer stands thereby also increasing the risk of high intensity fire.

In recent years, thanks to the work of conservation organizations, tribes, agencies,

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Executive Director	2
Calendar of Events	2
Conserving Agricultural Lands	3
Volunteers Make a Difference	3
Oak Woodland Restoration (cont.)	4
Growth at Freshwater Farms	5
Annual Report	6
NRLT Supporters	7
Featured Artist	8

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From the Executive Director

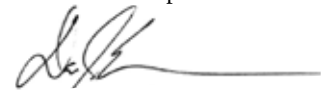
Over the past several months I have been reflecting on my time with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and why my work with the organization continues to hold my attention so fully on both a personal and professional level. My family instilled in me a love of the land. My curiosity about nature and ecological awareness was, and continues to be, nurtured by both of my parents. My appreciation for agriculture, while rooted across many generations of farmers, stems most directly from my grandparents – and I am proud to see the family farm continue in good hands today. This organization connects me every day to the values I grew up with and I hope it does the same for you.

At NRLT, I continue to be impressed with what this humble organization has achieved. Because of the hard work and commitment from all of you, NRLT has conserved over 60,000 acres of wild and working lands in northwestern California, and we have nine projects underway that will conserve another 40,000 acres of vital oak woodlands, forestland, and range.

I am continually inspired by the people we work with who share a passion for the land. One of these special people is NRLT Supporter, Deborah Fitzpatrick, who has been instrumental in the development of Freshwater Farms Reserve. Deborah recently shared with me the following about outgoing board member and incoming advisor, Ann King Smith, who has been vital to the growth of the Land Trust. “Around ten years ago, my friend of many decades Ann King Smith suggested we take a walk with Land Trust staff so I could see the Freshwater Farms Reserve property that the organization was very excited about. The path was still covered with blackberries in places and the barn was in falling down condition. And now, on the occasion of Ann’s retiring from the board after many, many years I want to express my appreciation to her for introducing me to the project and for all the time and energy she has put in to make the planet a better place.”

Thanks to Ann, to Deborah, and to all of you who make this work possible!

With gratitude,



Dan Ehresman, Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

TRAIL WORK DAY; 3RD SUNDAYS!

ALSO JULY 17, AUGUST 20,
SEPTEMBER 17, & OCTOBER 15
W/ HUMBOLDT TRAILS
COUNCIL!

@FRESHWATER FARMS
RESERVE, 5851 MYRTLE
9 AM - 12 PM

JUN
18

TRIVIA FOR CONSERVATION

& PINTS FOR NONPROFITS!
@ REDWOOD CURTAIN
550 G ST, ARCATA

10 AM - 11 PM;
TRIVIA @ 6 PM!

JUL
12

5TH ANNUAL SUMMER CELEBRATION

W/ HUCKLEBERRY FLINT!
@FRESHWATER FARMS
RESERVE, 5851 MYRTLE

4 PM - 8 PM

AUG
5

CAMINATA FAMILIAR GUIADA

W/ FRIENDS OF THE DUNES &
¡ÉCHALE GANAS!

@FRESHWATER FARMS
RESERVE, 5851 MYRTLE

10 AM - 1 PM

SEP
16

TIDAL MARSH SEED COLLECTION

W/ NORTH COAST CHAPTER OF
THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS
SOCIETY

@FRESHWATER FARMS
RESERVE, 5851 MYRTLE

10 AM - 2 PM

OCT
1

ANNUAL CELEBRATION: BOOTS & BIRKENSTOCKS

@FORTUNA RIVER LODGE,
1800 RIVERWALK DR.

5 - 9 PM

OCT
7

Opportunities for Conserving Agricultural Lands

At the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, our conservation easements come in all shapes and sizes and span both wild and working landscapes. Most of these easements conserve the agricultural lands that are vital to maintaining a rural lifestyle, provide food and fiber to our communities, and foster responsible stewardship of the places that sustain us. From expansive oak woodlands in the interior (like you read about in this issue's cover story) to coastal pasture lands, we work with landowners on an array of landscapes to ensure their properties stay whole – forever. This year, generous funding from the California Department of Conservation, along with other state and federal funding partners, means there are more opportunities for landowners to work with NRLT to explore conserving their ranches, farms, and forests.

Interested in finding out what a conservation easement would look like on your property? Check out the Guide for Landowners on our website, and then give us a call at (707) 822-2242 to discuss

the opportunities available. We're always happy to talk – whether you're considering succession planning for your ranch, want to ensure your farmland stays in production, or are seeking to leave a conservation legacy.



Cattle at Kinsey Ranch in Southern Humboldt.

Volunteers Make A Difference on the Land



Volunteer Trail Stewards at Freshwater Farms Reserve. Photo by Pete Carlson



California Conservation Corpsmember volunteers remove invasive vegetation at the Martin Slough property.

Volunteers for the Northcoast Regional Land Trust have been busy! At a Cesar Chavez Day Stewardship Event in March on NRLT's Martin Slough property just south of Eureka, volunteers worked to remove invasive blackberry brambles. Participants in this event, in collaboration with the California Conservation Corps' (CCC) Watershed Stewards Program, were successful in removing several hundred pounds of invasive vegetation along important fish rearing habitat and working pasture.

On another one of NRLT's properties, Freshwater Farms Reserve, a new partnership with the Volunteer Trail Stewards (VTS) is already making a big difference. In April, volunteers revitalized

the section of trail near the parking lot in a single day by digging out the area, adding gravel and rocks for drainage, laying weed cloth, compacting the new trail, and finishing it off with a layer of mulch.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for their hard work stewarding the land and making Freshwater Farms Reserve more inviting for visitors.

Ready to get your hands dirty? Everyone is invited to help with stewardship efforts at Freshwater Farm Reserve. Information can be found on our website at: nrlt.org/volunteer-with-us.

Partnerships Restore Oak Woodlands at Hunter Ranch



Heavy conifer encroachment on the oak woodland prior to restoration. Without active management, Douglas-fir trees would soon overtop the oaks and shade them out.



Chainsaw crews remove Douglas-fir trees from the oak woodland.

Continued from page 1

and landowners, more people are recognizing that active stewardship is necessary for oak woodland survival, and the survival of numerous species who depend on these habitats.

In 2016, NRLT, along with eight partnering organizations and private landowners, embarked on a multi-year oak woodland conservation project overseen by University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) and funded through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This project recently concluded, and we're proud to share the work that was completed on the Hunter Ranch,

on which NRLT holds a conservation easement encompassing more than 15,000 acres. Supported by the landowner of Hunter Ranch, the ranch's manager, Jeremy Heidrick and their forester Nick Robinson, NRLT oversaw planning and restoration on 500 acres of oak woodlands and set the stage for restoration across another 4,000 acres of the property. The restoration project furthers the easement's goal of conserving the property's oak woodlands and shows that partnerships can make a big difference on the land.

"It's a super special place out there with thousands of acres of exceptional woodlands, many of which could have been lost

without the support of NRLT and RCPP," said Shayne Green, a consulting ecologist and long-time NRLT collaborator who managed the project.

Thanks to agency and landowner partners for making possible this significant oak woodland restoration effort on the Hunter Ranch and beyond. If you would like to learn more about oak woodland restoration and the use of prescribed fire, resources are available through UC Cooperative Extension Humboldt.

Scan here to watch a video about the Hunter Ranch Conservation Easement, or find it on our Youtube channel @northcoastregionallandtrust



Piles of cut conifers lay at the bases of the restored oak woodland area.



A site visit two years after oak woodland restoration. The forest is much more open and the oaks can continue their slow growth without fierce competition for sunlight and resources.

New Growth at Freshwater Farms Reserve

Since the Northcoast Regional Land Trust acquired Freshwater Farms Reserve over a decade ago, thanks to the support and investment from people like you, it has evolved into a busy place! This Spring brings new partnerships and changes on the land at the Reserve.

New Tenants Bring New Energy

The row crop and farmstand areas will be teeming with new life again thanks to the Natural Resource Services division of the Redwood Community Action Agency (NRS-RCAA) and the North Coast Community Garden Collaborative (NCCGC). NRS-RCAA and NCCGC will be focusing this year on planting a u-pick garden and prepping the row crop area for planting next season. Produce grown on site will be donated to Food for People, Betty Kwan Chinn Day Center, and the Cal Poly Oh Snap! Student Food Programs.

NRLT is also excited to be partnering with Freshwater Family Farm, a small boutique microgreen farm who will be growing their microgreens in the greenhouse portion of the former milking barn. You can find their products at the farmer's market and local businesses. We will be sharing more of their stories as they settle in.

Wood Creek Phase III Restoration Project

NRLT is proud to be partnering with landowners' Sean and Kathy O'Day, The Buckeye Conservancy, area experts, and agencies to implement the next phase of restoration on and adjacent to Freshwater Farms Reserve. The Wood Creek Restoration Phase III project will reroute Wood Creek from a roadside ditch back into a natural channel through the neighboring Felt Ranch and connect to the restored wetlands on the Reserve. NRLT will be overseeing implementation of the project over the next three years. Stay tuned for the next steps in this significant coastal restoration project!

Revitalizing the Landscape

After winter storms toppled trees behind the barn at Freshwater Farms Reserve, staff found several layers of weed fabric prevent-



Wood Creek on the Freshwater Farms Reserve property (right foreground) has been restored into channels supporting habitat for juvenile salmon and other wildlife. The next phase of restoration will reconnect the waterways on the Reserve to the historic Wood Creek channel that flowed through the adjacent Felt Ranch. Wood Creek restoration can mitigate the extent of seasonal flooding, seen here from this winter's particularly heavy storms at Felt Ranch (top half, pre-restoration) and Freshwater Farms Reserve (bottom half, post-restoration).

ing the trees from rooting deeper in the soil. Restoration is now underway in this area, so you may notice more activity than usual, including removal of the weed fabric and preparing the ground to plant new shrubs and trees. A portion of this area will be set aside for the California Native Plant Society, North Coast Chapter, to expand its nursery.

NRLT Volunteer, Tom Gill, has been a vital part of maintaining Freshwater Farms Reserve for years, mowing and helping with other maintenance on the property. Tom has especially stepped up to help with this current revitalization project and we're so grateful!



Volunteer extraordinaire, Tom Gill, has been an essential part of the team maintaining Freshwater Farms Reserve. This spring, on top of his regular mowing and maintenance of the property, he assisted in removing trees, weed cloth, and plastic from the revitalization area north of the barn.

SAVE THE DATE

Summer Celebration

AT FRESHWATER FARMS RESERVE

Featuring
**Huckleberry
Flint**

Family
Friendly!

SATURDAY
AUGUST 5TH
4 - 8 PM

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL
LAND TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is pleased to provide our partners in conservation with an accounting of accomplishments for 2022.

- We completed the 3,348 acre Wagner Forest Conservation Easement to preserve the legacy of the Wagner family's four generations of stewardship on the property. Combined with adjacent public lands and privately held conservation easements, these areas create nearly 20,000 acres of permanently protected forestland in Southern Humboldt County.
- We began work on 3 new conservation easement projects covering 6,806 acres, and we continued work on 7 conservation easement projects spanning over 38,000 acres in Humboldt and Trinity Counties.
- We welcomed three new staff members to our team: Douglas Page, Project Manager; Nadia Van Lynn, Education and Outreach Manager; and Matthew Morassutti, Community Engagement Manager.
- Twelve interpretive tours and other outreach events returned after a pause during the pandemic—including the famed Canoe the Slough event in September.
- We piloted our new Cows and Cattails in classroom pre- and post- lessons which bookend our existing field trip program, serving nearly 500 students from 13 local schools.
- Our Summer Celebration at Freshwater Farms Reserve returned in person for a sold-out show with Huckleberry Flint and Wild Abandon. We were so happy to see everyone out in the sunshine reconnecting and supporting our conservation community!
- Boots and Birkenstocks, our Annual Celebration, also took place in person this fall and was a joyous night of delicious food and drink and a lively auction fundraiser.
- We hosted an Open House at Freshwater Farms Reserve in lieu of our traditional office Holiday Party and welcomed both familiar and new faces to our well-loved ambassador property.
- We received a Capacity Grant Award from the Department of Conservation for \$250,000 over 3 years that will allow us to host informational events for landowners interested in conservation easements and increase the amount of staff time dedicated to developing easement projects that are eligible for the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

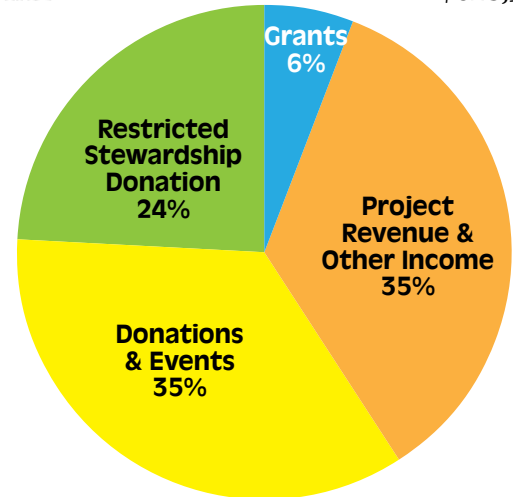
Thank you to these 2022 business partners!

Arise Bakery, Aalfs, Evans & Company, LLP, Bear River Casino Resort, Disiere and Associates, Humboldt Associations of Realtors, Northpoint Consulting, Renata's Creperie, Edward Jones – Hec Wood, Moonstone Crossing Winery, Kelly-O'Hern Associates, Lost Coast Ranch and Old Growth Timbers, Northtown Books, Pacific Builders, Roy E. Corsetti, CPA, Rumiano Cheese Company, Humboldt Cider Company

NRLT's Mission *The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is 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. We work with landowners on a voluntary basis to promote stewardship of Northern California's healthy and productive resource base, natural systems and quality of life.*

REVENUE & SUPPORT

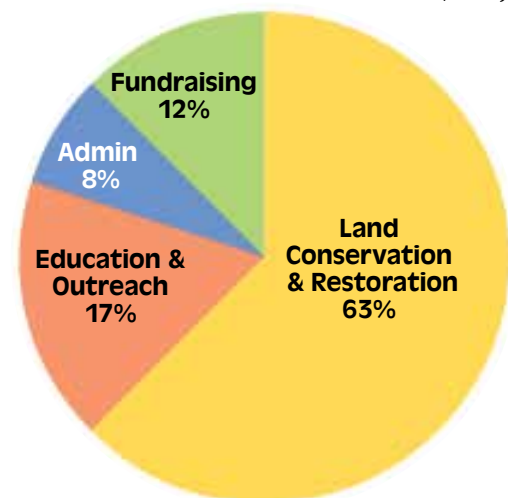
Grants	\$ 37,339
Donations & Events	219,623
Project Revenue & Other Income	217,841
Restricted Stewardship Donation*	153,709
TOTAL	\$628,512



*This restricted stewardship donation was made upon the completion of one easement project. The donation is held in an investment fund, allowing for the ongoing monitoring and stewardship of easement terms.

EXPENSES

Land Conservation & Restoration	\$332,655
Education & Outreach	92,117
Administration	42,324
Fundraising	63,922
TOTAL	\$531,018



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Thank You NRLT Supporters! We are grateful to the following who gave grants, donations, or support in 2022.

Agencies & Foundations

Americorps Watershed Stewards Program
The Buckeye
CA Coastal Commission
CA Conservation Corps
CA Council of Land Trusts
CA Department of Fish & Wildlife
CA Department of Water Resources
CALFIRE
CA Forest Legacy Program
CA Native Plant Society - North Coast Chapter
CA Natural Resources Agency
CA State Coastal Conservancy
CA Wildlife Conservation Board
Cal Poly Humboldt
County of Humboldt
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Friends of the Dunes
Humboldt Area Foundation
Humboldt County Cattlewomen
Humboldt County Office of Education
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Northwest California Oaks Network
Redwood Coast Action Agency (RCAA) Natural Resources Services
The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
UC Cooperative Extension
Umaja Center for Pan African Student Excellence
US Fish & Wildlife Service
USFS Forest Legacy Program

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Does not include auction item donors.

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Amy Ziegler
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Mark Zusan
Zach and Margie Zwerdling

In Honor Of

Ann King Smith: Corinne Frugoni
Beth Bray: donna luckey
Claudia Paliaga and Peter Jermyn: Maya Conrad
Cora Sheppard: Colin and Jillian Sheppard
Dan Ehresman: Rondal Snodgrass
David and Madeline McMurray: Ann Lindsay
and Alan Glasseroff, Roz Keller
DK and Kusum Stokes: Kathy Sattler
Heidi and Bill Bourne: Kathleen Stroup
Jeff Jones: Kyra Povirk
Leslie Jeanne Berns: Lacey Berns
Martha Spencer: Dan Spencer
Peter Blakemore: Mary Shanahan

In Memory Of

Barry Collins: Judy Tengbom, Patricia Thomas
and John Kulstad, Mark Zusan, Mike
Wallace and Marie Granshaw, Tim and
Debbie Summers, Gary Flosi, Tom Taylor
Carole Siler: Noah Levy
Doug Smith: Bob Battagin
Jack Norman Limmer: David and Madeline
McMurray
Jean and Paul Ludtke: Martin Ludtke
Jim Ely: Karole Ely
Rich Hess: John and Debbie Kelly
Robert and Valery McKee: Rondal Snodgrass
Scott Sattler: David and Madeline McMurray
Wes Anderson: David and Madeline McMurray

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Featured Artist – John Jameton

John Jameton, an award-winning watercolorist based in Southern Humboldt, was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1946 where his art experience began with childhood drawings. In the early 1960's he washed dishes for twenty artists at his uncle's summer art classes in Martha's Vineyard where he received the encouragement and inspiration that eventually led him to art school at Southern Illinois University. Alongside his art, he put his drawing skills to work as a civil drafter in New York City, Oakland, and St. Louis. Serendipity brought him to Northern California in 1969 when he had the

opportunity to buy into a piece of property in Southern Humboldt. Nestled in the wild hills, he made furniture for a store in Marin County and spent twenty years as a cabin builder after getting his contractor license. Around this time, he also found his artistic muse in Humboldt's unique landscapes and began painting and selling his art at local restaurants. His paintings have won awards in numerous exhibitions, including Best of Show from the Redwood Art Association, and are included in the Humboldt Arts Council permanent collection.



Dark Valley by John Jameton

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