



AUTUMN 2020

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST



Campsite One

Gina Tuzzi

Celebrating 20 Years of Conservation

Twenty years ago, during a time of social and environmental conflict in this region, the Northcoast Regional Land Trust was founded thanks to the efforts of a group of people who held differing perspectives but were united by a common vision. Together, they believed in the importance of conserving northwestern California's open spaces; our wild and working lands. And they believed that maintaining diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and worldviews within the organization was foundational to that work. That foundation remains strong today and will help us as we work towards a more civil and sustainable future.

This year, people throughout the region are grappling with hardships brought by

the pandemic, record-breaking wildfires, social and political divisions, and unsteady economic times. In the face of these challenges, the past year has shown so many people stepping up to support one another – and doing so despite our differences.

As we celebrate our Land Trust's 20th Anniversary, we believe it is critical to continue working together on the issues where there is broad agreement such as making sure we conserve the places and resources that sustain us. We believe the next generation of leaders in our community will carry this collaborative work into the Land Trust's next 20 years and are eager to see what they accomplish.

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From the Board President

"The only way round is through"

— Robert Frost

What a year this has been! Little did we know when we embarked upon this adventure known as 2020, we would soon be faced with a pandemic and the abrupt cessation of normal life. Who could have foreseen 'social distancing' as the newest buzz word and face masks as the latest fashion accessory?

In the midst of it all, we can be thankful to live on the North Coast, surrounded by the natural beauty of our wild and working landscapes. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and while we celebrate our achievements, it is abundantly clear the mission of the land trust is more important than ever. Nurturing partnerships between resource conservation and production agriculture benefits entire communities and our society as a whole. The recent catastrophic wildfires underscore the need for responsible, strategic management of our forests and woodlands. Our actions today have far-reaching effects and planning now ensures we leave something for future generations to enjoy.

This summer we recorded a conservation easement with Diamond D Ranch and we commemorated the event with a virtual Summer Celebration featuring Huckleberry Flint. We continue to move forward on several more easements currently in progress. We moved our Annual Celebration online as well, and while it was disappointing to not be together in person, the virtual platform sent our message far and wide.

Even with current restrictions, our staff continues to go above and beyond, working through logistics and creating innovative ways to offer virtual education and outreach programs until we can host in-person events once again.

In the meantime, improvements continue at Freshwater Farms Reserve. If you've not had the chance to meander the trails, spot some wildlife and enjoy the fresh air and scenery, give it a try. It's a great place to connect with the outdoors while social distancing.

On behalf of our Board and Staff, we thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a healthy and peaceful autumn and holiday season.

Warm Regards,



Susan Moranda
NRLT Board President



Susan Moranda



Visiting the goats at Freshwater Farms Reserve

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Covid-19 has made it challenging to plan for future events, as we don't know when we'll be able to safely gather again in person.

Check our website (ncrlt.org) and social media (Facebook and Instagram) periodically to stay up to date on virtual event offerings and in-person events such as concerts, stewardship days, educational opportunities, etc.

Thank you for your support and patience during these unpredictable times.

Who Are Those Cows?

Have you ever wondered about the cows in the pasture at Freshwater Farms Reserve? We talked to the rancher who owns them, Justin Langer, to get the scoop!



Yearlings at Freshwater Farms Reserve

I started raising cattle right out of high school with a little herd, and when my father-in-law retired I took everything over from him. The main ranch is in Capetown, which is half way between Ferndale and Petrolia, and I have a couple of leases around Petrolia, Upper Bear River, and at Freshwater Farms Reserve.

All my cows are for beef production. Most of them are an Angus base breed and I cross them with some Hereford and Charolais. My operation is generally a cow calf operation, but I also keep a small handful of yearlings I raise up every year. The last couple of years I've been keeping the yearlings at Freshwater Farms Reserve and that works really well for me. This year I had about 16 of them out there. The yearlings just do better on that ground because its more sub-irrigated and you get more clover and grass to keep them growing. I also think it helps having people walk by them on the trail. They seem gentler than my cattle out in the hills because they're used to seeing people all the time.

Almost all of my cows go to Eel River Organic Beef, a local producer out of Hydesville. I sell them my calves and they grow them out, later selling the meat at local stores under the name Eel River Organic Beef. I would encourage people to look for local meat at the store so you know the cattle come from around here. You might even be buying meat that came directly from Freshwater Farms Reserve! And that goes for any type of agricultural production – look for local products like beef, chicken, vegetables, and grains so you're supporting the producers right here in our community.

Notes from the Field

Every summer the Northcoast Regional Land Trust monitors each of our easement properties to ensure compliance with the easement terms, document changes on the land, and maintain our connection with the landowners. This year was Project Manager Andria Townsend's first monitoring season, and due to Covid-19, it was a bit of an unconventional year.

The most notable thing about my first monitoring season was the pride each landowner or land manager showed for their properties. Everyone I met was so excited to show me around their easements, tell me the history of the land, and explain why they wanted to conserve it. This was my first time visiting each of our easement properties, and I was surprised to see just how incredibly varied the landscapes are in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. Even after living in the area for over a decade, I forget that there is so much more than conifer forests out there. I saw sprawling grassland meadows, true oak woodlands, wetland marshes, lush riparian corridors, and dramatic rock formations. Even the conifer forests surprised me with their diversity of species, from cedars to redwoods to Douglas firs to pines, and I got to see some of my favorite trees, Pacific yew!



Project Manager, Andria Townsend on a monitoring visit at Hunter Ranch

During a monitoring visit we prioritize viewing parts of the property where any recent land management has occurred, and we collect photos to document the condition of the easement that can be compared between years. In addition to in-person monitoring, we also review aerial imagery of each property for a birds-eye view and to get a better look at areas we can't see on the ground.

Covid-19 altered our monitoring season in a couple of ways. Normally, NRLT staff and board members would carpool but this year we had to meet at the property



NRLT Board President, Susan Moranda attending a monitoring visit at Chalk Mountain Ranch, along with the landowners and representatives from CalFire

and then caravan for the monitoring tour. This did reduce the amount of time spent getting to connect with others on the visits, but we were able to get in some good time together outdoors on the land. Another major difference this year was that I didn't get to shake a single hand!

I feel incredibly honored and privileged that these monitoring visits allowed me to explore more of this amazing place we all call home, and what a comfort in these crazy times to know all of those special places will be conserved in perpetuity.

Celebrating 20 Years of Conservation

Continued from page 1

Since its founding, the Northcoast Regional Land Trust has worked with private landowners, agency partners, students, businesses, community members – including you! – to conserve over 56,000 acres of vital forests, farms, wetlands and range. As numerous people observed at our recent Boots & Birkenstocks Annual Celebration, these lands are essential for providing food, fiber, shelter, wildlife habitat, and supporting livelihoods on the North Coast and beyond.

With celebration in mind, after nearly five years of effort, we are pleased to report the completion of our most recent conservation easement project on the Diamond D Ranch. Completed in partnership with the Dunn family, with support from CAL FIRE's California Climate Investments Forest Health Program, this 2,960-acre ranch lies in eastern Humboldt County within the

Van Duzen River watershed – an area with rolling grasslands, oak woodlands, and mixed conifer forest. The conservation easement bridges the previously conserved Chalk Mountain Ranch and Charles Mountain Ranch easements, altogether forming a privately conserved corridor of over 17,000 acres that connects to the public lands of Six Rivers National Forest.

Diamond D is a multi-generational working ranch owned by the Dunn family. Siblings Trenton and Jennifer lost their parents at a relatively young age and chose to partner with NRLT on a conservation easement as a strategy to keep this ranch intact and to enable their family to continue their parents' and grandparents' legacy of responsible land stewardship. The conservation of the Diamond D Ranch will ensure that it is permanently kept whole with future generations in mind and stewarded to conserve wildlife habitat, natural resources, and economic activities upon which so many people depend. In an interview earlier this year, Macy Dunn, one of the owners of Diamond D Ranch, spoke to the positive impact easements have on future generations. "The easement takes the burden off of them [the next generation]. There will be a plan for them and they can leave that plan for their kids – and that's the important thing. They'll enjoy it [the ranch] forever."



Sunset at Diamond D Ranch

Looking ahead, our Land Trust will continue our work on several exciting conservation easements in progress that will conserve another 27,000+ acres of forest, wetlands, and range throughout the three-county region within the next three years. We will also continue to provide opportunities for people to connect with the land at our Freshwater Farms Reserve which has grown increasingly popular as a safe place to enjoy the outdoors in this time of Covid-19.

Diamond D Ranch and Freshwater Farms Reserve are both excellent examples of the vision of NRLT's founders being realized. They represent the coming together of our broad community of supporters, landowners, and agency partners around a common goal of conserving working lands forever. Here's to another 20 years and much more of working together for land conservation in northwestern California!

Want to hear more from Trenton and Macy Dunn about running Diamond D Ranch, working with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust on a conservation easement, and what the easement means for their family? **Check out their video interview on nrlt.org.**



The Dunn Family at Diamond D Ranch

Shop Local This Holiday Season!

T-shirts and sweatshirts featuring Freshwater Farms Reserve are currently available at the NRLT office and make wonderful gifts. The hand-carved and letterpress-printed graphic was created by local artist Lynn M. Jones at Just My Type Letterpress. NRLT swag is not only a great gift for family and friends but also supports conservation efforts in our community.

The image shown on the shirts is also available as a limited-edition print at Just My Type Letterpress (235 F Street, Eureka). Prints are \$150 and \$50 of each print will be donated to NRLT.

Help spread the word about the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and Freshwater Farms Reserve by sporting one of our sweatshirts or t-shirts! To purchase shirts, contact Outreach and Development Director Beth Bray at b.bray@nrlt.org to set up an appointment.



New colors! Crewneck in red brick, moss green, and heather grey – hoodies in two shades of dark grey.



Project Manager, Karlee Jewell, leads a virtual Cows and Cattails field trip from her home.

Autumn typically brings flocks of third to sixth grade students out to Freshwater Farms Reserve (FWFR) for our Cows and Cattails environmental education field trips. Due to Covid-19, we were not able to have students out to FWFR in person this year, but that didn't stop us from offering local kids an opportunity to engage with the land!

we will serve over 400 students - that's more than we typically see in an entire school year at FWFR! Thank you notes received from multiple schools show that students are certainly enjoying and learning from the virtual experience – and that the field trips are inspiring them to want get out on the land.

Virtual Field Trips Are A Hit!

Virtual field trips started in September and will continue through December 2020. The modified "field trip" provides interactive and engaging activities related to natural and cultural history, wetlands, sustainable agriculture, and endangered species. Going virtual has allowed us to integrate more audio and visual learning opportunities, increase our geographic scope, and engage more students. In Fall 2020 alone

What students are saying:

Thank you for the virtual field trip. I really like the map part and the salmon part. I think Freshwater Farms Reserve is really cool!

I liked the virtual field trip. My favorite thing was "Salmon Says". I will visit soon!

Thank you for the virtual field trip. I can't wait to see the goats, can't wait to see the chickens, can't wait to see the cows, can't wait to see the salmon!

As we look to Spring 2021, we remain committed to providing Humboldt County students with opportunities to safely connect and engage with the natural world around us. Whether that's in-person or virtual, we will continue to adapt accordingly.

20th Anniversary Reflections

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, Advisor and former Board Member, Annette Holland, shares her memories of the early days of the organization, as well as her hopes for the future.

The Beginning

My earliest involvement in the NRLT came before the organization existed, when four of us sat at my dining room table and talked about the possibility of a regional land trust. I was serving on the board of the Jacoby Creek Land Trust and was concerned about the need for a larger organization. Three friends involved with Sanctuary Forest – David McMurray, Rondal Snodgrass, and Ben Morehead – had the same concern. So we discussed what a new organization might involve, what geographical area it might serve, and who could be involved in the planning stages. The next step was for David and Rondal to speak with community leaders and invite them to join.

The early meetings were filled with excitement and uncertainty. Could this experiment, bringing together people with such different perspectives, actually work? Fortunately, there was an abundance of good will on all sides – and a recognition of our common goals.



Annette Holland

The Future

I trust that in the future the Northcoast Regional Land Trust will keep working to protect the quality of life we are all so fortunate to enjoy. While suffering from effects of the pandemic, people throughout the world are turning to nature for solace and for healing. The health of our environment, so critical to human health, depends on protecting the natural diversity and resilience of our land.

From the Archives

Originally featured in the NRLT newsletter from Fall 2004, Annette Holland's poem is re-printed here as a reminder that the essential themes of our work have not wavered.

The Northcoast for David

This is a rugged land where
mountain ranges cut by many
rivers drop in folds of deep
green forest to the sea.

A place where salmon,
tattered from long voyages,
still find familiar streams,
swollen with rain.

A place where towns
still have their edges,
touching forest, farmland,
ocean or the bay.

A few last rivers still
run wild and free here,
Stands of ancient trees
still reach the sky.

If places can be left
on earth for breathing space,
for life to celebrate,
may this be one.

Great blue heron
flies beside the freeway.
Grey whales breach
beyond the crashing waves.

– Annette Boushey Holland

Bequest Helps Conservation Values Live On



Frank Cox cared about the land – about his modest piece of original second growth forest on Fickle Hill, about the mountains, and about the ocean. He loved visiting a friend's cabin in the Siskiyou Mountains, scaling oceanside cliffs to gather abalone, hunting in the Trinity Alps, and kayaking the wild rivers of northwestern California.

Frank took care of the land in small ways on his own property, but he wanted to do more. To ensure his conservation values lived on, Frank made a bequest in his will to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. When he passed away this summer, NRLT received his generous bequest and will use it to ensure the natural spaces Frank loved and appreciated are conserved in perpetuity.

Frank attended Humboldt State University and earned a degree in art, but eventually left the area to pursue an advanced degree and work in the field of electrical engineering. Although he traveled the world through his work, he always came back to Humboldt County, maintaining his connection to friends and the wild places of this region.

When he retired quite a few years ago, Frank moved back to Humboldt and settled in to his “forest lair” as friend, Greg Rael, fondly called Frank's ten-acre wooded property. A bit of a loner, but a very loyal friend and a great conversationalist, Frank wanted to keep the land the way it was and his bequest will help do just that.

Give to the Next Generation



Your estate plan affirms, honors and protects what matters most in your life – your loved ones, your principles, and your values.

Please consider including the Northcoast Regional Land Trust in your estate plans (will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy) to ensure working landscapes, forests, and grazing lands will be part of our community for generations to come.

Contact Outreach and Development Director, Beth Bray, at b.bray@ncrlt.org for more information.

Donor Voices – David McMurray



Madeline and I have been here 50 years. We have three kids, four grandkids. This is home. We want to protect this place – the viewshed, the wildlife, the working lands. That's why we chose to make a bequest to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust in our will.

When my parents died, they had written wills based on their values. They gave a certain amount to every community they had been part of. When we sat down to put together our estate plans, that inspired us.

We started the conversation about our wills with just the two of us and have slowly included the kids. Eventually we included an attorney who made the process easy, offering some tips that made us feel like we were making an educated decision.

It feels right to know that we will be supporting an organization that shares our appreciation and passion for this inspiring, beautiful place that we care so much about, even after we're gone.

Summer Celebration Goes Virtual for 2020

While we were not able to safely bring people together in person out at Freshwater Farms Reserve for the second annual Summer Celebration, we are inspired by the partnerships that made it possible to bring the event into people's homes – or wherever else folks tuned in from. Virtually, we were able to celebrate the completion of the Diamond D Ranch conservation easement while raising funds to support the Land Trust's work.

The August 22nd event featured a short film interview with the owners of Diamond D, Trenton and Macy Dunn, and a concert with beloved local band, Huckleberry Flint. The event was free but viewers from all over the country donated over \$6,000 to NRLT. We would like to thank Huckleberry Flint, who generously donated their time to perform at Freshwater Farms Reserve; the Dunn Family who took the time to share their ranch and their story with our viewers; our sponsors – American AgCredit, Almquist



Huckleberry Flint Performs at the 2020 Summer Celebration at Freshwater Farms Reserve

Lumber Company, Green Diamond Resource Company, Hjerpe & Godinho, LLP, and Humboldt/Mendocino Redwood Company; and everyone who participated in the event! **Missed the show? Visit givebutter.com/HuckFlint**



Boots and Birkenstocks Reaches Supporters Far and Wide

This year's Annual Celebration, Boots and Birkenstocks, recognized the 20th anniversary of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust with a virtual program on the evening of October 24th featuring a wonderful collection of short videos sharing the stories of the people and places of NRLT. Just as he does every year, NRLT Advisor and local business owner Lee Mora welcomed us to the event. Executive Director Dan Ehresman reflected on the commitment to the land and to community that prompted the creation of the organization twenty years ago. We got to know the landowners at Diamond D Ranch and learned why creating a conservation easement was important to them. And we heard from board members Susan Moranda and Peter Jermyn.

The event featured three speakers talking about why the Northcoast Regional Land Trust matters to them. David McMurray, NRLT co-founder, spoke to connection to the land and how this Land Trust came about; Karlee Jewell, NRLT Project Manager, talked about how it feels to be out with others experiencing the land; and NRLT Advisor and owner of Lone Star Ranch, Dina Moore, talked about managing a working ranch and how her values align with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's mission. All of their videos included beautiful footage of the landscapes in our region. Finally, we enjoyed an energetic auction led by Senator Mike McGuire. Thank you so much to all who gave their time to be part of the virtual

celebration – and for your support of NRLT overall!

We're so grateful to the more than 100 people who participated in the online auction and almost 300 who viewed the event. One of the benefits of the virtual event was that many of those participating were new to the organization and from outside the region. The generous support of so many enabled us to raise over \$30,000 for the conservation of wild and working lands in our region. We couldn't have pulled off this virtual event without the NRLT Friend and Fundraising Committee, the NRLT Board of Directors, and our sponsors - Points West Surveying, American AgCredit, Humboldt Mendocino Redwood Company, the North Coast Co-op,

Baldwin, Blomstrom, Wilkinson & Associates, Inc., Pierson Building Center, Hubbard's German Auto, Harber's Insurance Agency, Alexandre Family Farm, Hunter, Hunter, and Hunt, Stillwater Sciences, Green Diamond Resource Company, Planwest Partners, Eureka Natural Foods, Umpqua Bank, The Land Man, Conservation Partners, Clendenen's Cider Works, Humboldt Grassfed Beef, and Los Bagels.

Watch the whole virtual event or just choose the interview segments you want to see by visiting the NRLT website – **nrlt.org**. Links to all videos are right on our home page.

Thank You Auction Donors

In recognition of the economic impacts of the pandemic and due to the limitations of our first online auction, we asked fewer businesses and individuals than usual to donate to this year's event. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the businesses and individuals who have donated to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's Annual Celebration over the years. The following contributed an auction item to this year's event – thank you!

Adventure's Edge
Alexandre Family Farm
Alexandre Kids
Almquist Lumber Company
Greg Blomstrom
David Bray and Kathy Clark
Clendenen's Cider Works
Max and Nena Creasy
DeepSeeded Community Farm
Dick Taylor Craft Chocolate
Trenton and Macy Dunn
Ferndale Farms
Lee Figas
Flora Organica Designs
Gary and Jan Flosi
Foggy Bottoms Boys
Gary and Jan Friedrichsen

David Gibbs
Green Diamond Resource Company
Humboldt Grassfed Beef, Inc.
Hunter, Hunter & Hunt
Kellogg Supply, Inc.
Kokatat
Rollie Lamberson
Jason Lopiccio
Lost Coast Communications
Morgan and Macee Marquez
David McMurray
Jim McVicker
Moonstone Crossing Winery
Dina and Mark Moore
Jerry Rohde
Alan Sanborn
Shakefork Community Farm
Trinity River Vineyards

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Featured Artist – Gina Tuzzi

Gina Tuzzi was born and raised in Santa Cruz, California. She attended Humboldt State University, receiving a BA in painting and printmaking and later Mills College where she received a MFA in painting. Gina has exhibited her work both nationally and internationally, is a Murphy and Cadogan fellow, a two-time SECA nominee and a Facebook Artist In Residence. She teaches Painting at Humboldt State University and lives in Blue Lake, California. Her work is represented by Jen Tough Gallery in Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information, visit www.ginatuzzi.com.



The Time Traveler

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.*



Hunter, Hunter & Hunt, LLP

