



AUTUMN 2019

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST



Freshwater Farms Reserve

Lynn M. Jones

Creating a Place for All at Freshwater Farms Reserve

This past year, the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's (NRLT) Freshwater Farms Reserve property has continued to blossom into a thriving community hub with public coastal access, education programs and events for all ages, sustainable agriculture, a native plant nursery, and ongoing wildlife habitat restoration. Our goal is to make the Reserve – and our work overall – relevant and accessible for everyone – because people care about what they know and can understand.

We believe conservation, restoration, and education efforts can be more relevant to broader audiences by meeting people where they are and relating on a personal level. With this goal in mind, NRLT is hosting affordable events on the land, creating bilingual interpretive materials, and establishing a family-friendly nature treasure hunt to help more people discover Freshwater Farms Reserve and build a deeper connection with the diverse

habitats and resource-based livelihoods of our region.

As part of our efforts to help more people connect with the land, we are committed to building authentic relationships with a greater diversity of community partners and hosting inclusive outdoor events. So far, in 2019, NRLT has worked with Latino Outdoors, Humboldt County Cattlewomen, the California Conservation Corps, Delta Phi Epsilon, Americorps Watershed Stewards Program and other local organizations. These groups have partnered to provide a meaningful experience for those who visit Freshwater Farms Reserve to work, learn, or recreate.

One of the most exciting developments at Freshwater Farms Reserve is the addition of a Redwood EdVentures Quest, a family-friendly nature treasure hunt, offered through a partnership with the Humboldt County Office of Education. On the Quest, families learn about agriculture,

coastal wetlands, and wildlife. We are excited to soon be offering the Quest in Spanish and will also be developing interpretive signs and

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Board President	2
Investing in Improvements	3
Landowner Lens	3
Freshwater Farms Reserve	4
Trinity County Easements	5
Donor Voices	6
Wagner Ranch	6
Annual Celebration	7
Calendar of Events	8

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The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a fully-accredited member of the Land Trust Alliance, California Council of Land Trusts, Northern Region Council of Land Trusts & Northern California Assoc. of Nonprofits.

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From the Board President

*"Every leaf speaks bliss to me,
fluttering from the autumn tree."*

— Emily Jane Bronte

Here along the North Coast, as autumn settles in around us, we eagerly anticipate the return of the salmon, the move of livestock down from the high country, getting in the last of the crops, and preparing forest and ranch roads for the coming rains. We look forward to the hunt, visits to the apple orchard, pumpkin patch, and corn maze, and, of course, finding reasons such as NRLT's Annual Celebration to gather with friends and family.

We have a lot to celebrate this year as long-pursued conservation easements linking critical habitat and conserving working ranches and forestlands successfully close and new easement opportunities appear on the horizon. Restoration projects at Freshwater Farms Reserve and Martin Slough continue to demonstrate that conservation and production go hand in hand. New partnerships, programs, and events at Freshwater Farms Reserve have led to new experiences, deeper community connections, and more people joining the NRLT family. This is what your support brings to our region – thank you!

If you are new to the area and/or to our Land Trust, call or drop by the office and we will get you caught up on our mission and current activities. On behalf of our Board, Staff, and all who support this organization, we wish you a wonderful autumn season and prosperous year's end!

Warmest Regards,



Mike Miles, NRLT Board President



Mike Miles, NRLT Board President (left), and Dan Ehresman, NRLT Executive Director, enjoy the June 2019 Freshwater Farms Summer Celebration.

NRLT Shirts, Bags, and Prints Make Great Holiday Gifts!

NRLT has a new way for you to show your support! T-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags featuring the NRLT property – Freshwater Farms Reserve – are now available at the NRLT office. The hand-carved and letterpress-printed graphic (featured on the cover of this newsletter) 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 is also a gift that supports conservation efforts in our community. Your purchase supports the protection of wild and working lands in our region. The image shown on the shirts and bags is also available as a limited edition print at Just My Type Letterpress (501 Third 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 new sweatshirts, t-shirts, or canvas bags or by purchasing an original print!

Investing in Improvements at Our Ambassador Property



Eastern part of the old milk barn flooded by Freshwater Slough.

Have you been by Freshwater Farms Reserve recently and noticed one of our buildings under construction? We are working on the strategic deconstruction of a portion of the former milking barn that was built far too close to – and is being undercut by – Freshwater Slough. Its removal is particularly timely in light of the increased flooding and sea level rise we are experiencing around Humboldt Bay. Following removal, native vegetation will be planted to restore riparian habitat and better protect the Reserve's infrastructure. NRLT is filled with gratitude and appreciation for all those who are helping make this possible. In particu-

lar, we are indebted to Deborah Fitzpatrick and Bob Felter who have given significant financial and in-kind support (respectively) to make the project happen.

We plan to rehabilitate the remaining portion of the historic structure (dubbed "Eastern Promises") so that it can once again support agricultural and habitat restoration activities. We are still fundraising for this last major infrastructure improvement, which we hope to complete by mid-2020. If this project is inspiring to you and you wish to contribute towards its completion (or wish to learn more), please give us a call at (707) 822-2242 or email info@ncrlt.org.



Demolition is almost complete on the section (left portion of building) of the milk barn.



Project Managers Karlee Jewell (left) and Lance Spece help with the demolition.

Landowner Lens – Francis Sweet, Valley View Ranch

Francis Sweet, owner of Valley View Ranch, sat down with us during a visit to his property this summer to share his history with his land, why he pursued a conservation easement in 2012, and what the next phase is for his family.

My Great Aunt left me the property [Valley View Ranch]. She owned the whole property from the beginning. I worked on the ranch when I was young, back in the '50s. I've always liked it. I've had family out here in the valley all my life. We used to always come out and visit.

This was always a cow ranch, they never raised sheep on it until I came. I brought sheep with me when I came. There was a lot of sheep ranching around here at the time. We had a couple bad years price-wise and coyotes were eating the sheep right and left. Between the low prices and losing so many, everybody threw their hands up and quit raising sheep. I lease to just one person now and they run about a 100 head of cattle on



this property. I still keep about 20 head of cows and 40 sheep down near town [Petroia]. Sheep are a lot of work but if you like them, you like them.

My wife and I wanted to keep it unpopulated here in the valley. I basically wanted to keep it like it was and we started hearing about these easements. A farmer came up here and had a couple of clinics. He talked about it and everything was a good idea as



far as he was concerned and so I did it [put a conservation easement on my property]. It's one of the best things that has ever happened to me.

My kids are waiting to take their turn at it and do a little ranching. They are all for keeping it in ranching. It's all they've known growing up. They've heard me preach about it enough times I think.

Creating a Place for All at Freshwater Farms Reserve

Continued from page 1

other materials in Spanish to ensure Freshwater Farms Reserve is accessible to our broader community.

We are proud of our Stewards of Today and Tomorrow program that continues to help connect people to the land. This program includes educational field trips at Freshwater Farms Reserve, Cows and Cattails, as well as our Volunteer Stew-

ards Program. Cows and Cattails reaches students from all over the county with lessons about the successful co-existence of sustainable agriculture and healthy wildlife habitat, while our Volunteer Stewards Program brings people of all ages to Freshwater Farms Reserve to participate in in-the-field educational workshops and hands-on restoration events.

It is our hope that Freshwater Farms

Reserve can continue to grow alongside and support our diverse communities, providing people with a place to cultivate their relationship with the land that is such a special part of this place we call home. We invite you to come take a stroll along the nature trail, participate in the Redwood EdVentures Quest, get out on an interpretive walk, or attend a volunteer stewardship day event soon!

Family Friendly Adventures at Freshwater Farms Reserve!

Summer Celebration

In June 2019, we hosted our first Freshwater Farms Summer Celebration concert! Over 400 people spent a beautiful afternoon in the sun enjoying live music by Wild Abandon and Huckleberry Flint while supporting the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. Our generous vendors, Booth Brewing Co, Wrangletown Cider, the Humboldt County Cattlewomen, and Los Bagels helped make the event a huge success. This family-friendly event was a great introduction to Freshwater Farms Reserve for the large portion of the audience who had never visited the property before.



Redwood EdVentures Quest

Our Freshwater Farms Reserve Redwood EdVentures Quest is up and running! The quest is a family friendly scavenger hunt, with interpretive clues leading participants through the Reserve. When the quest is completed, participants receive an official Redwood EdVentures Quest Patch. The brochure can be picked up at NRLT (901 Samoa Blvd, Arcata) or at the Humboldt County Office of Education (901 Myrtle Ave, Eureka). Or find it online at redwood.edventures.org/quests.



Photo by Mark Larson



Photo by Johanna Rivera: Latino Outdoors

Kayaking with Lation Outdoors

In July 2019, Latino Outdoors, NRLT, and Humboldt State's Center Activities celebrated Latino Conservation Week by providing a kayaking event that engaged Humboldt's Latinx community. This was a free, family-friendly outdoor recreation opportunity highlighting the commitment of each of these organizations to protect our tierra, agua, y aire libre (land, water, and fresh air).

We are grateful to the following funders for supporting activities at Freshwater Farms Reserve this year: the California State Coastal Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grant Program, The Strong Foundation for Environmental Values, the Clif Bar Family Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, the Sequoia Park Zoo Conservation Grant Program, and individual donors.

Landscape-Scale Conservation in Trinity County

NRLT is seeking funding for two expansive easement projects in western Trinity County. These two projects represent unique opportunities to enhance landscape connectivity, protect wildlife habitat, and maintain a critical mass of working lands that support the rural, resource-based economy of a county that is predominantly public land.

Travis Ranch

Perched above the federally designated Wild and Scenic North Fork Eel River, the Travis Ranch is an almost 12,000-acre working ranch straddled by the Yolla Bolly-Middle Eel and North Fork Wilderness Areas in southwestern Trinity County. The property encompasses an ecologically important and well-known migration corridor

for black-tailed deer and consists of thousands of acres of Oregon white oak and California black oak stands, grassland, and mixed conifer forest. Stewarded by the same multi-generational ranching family for 35 years, the property's rangelands support a substantial commercial cattle operation. An easement on this special land between two wilderness areas will ensure that over 80 legal parcels are not individually sold and developed and that this working ranch and forestland can continue to be responsibly managed.

Trinity Timberlands

Located in western Trinity County, the roughly 12,000-acre Trinity Timberlands tract is the single largest private inholding

in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The property encompasses approximately 147 linear stream miles that drain into the Wild & Scenic South Fork Trinity River. In an area known for its high biodiversity, the property and adjacent federal lands provide habitat for some of the last remaining runs of native spring-run Chinook salmon and endemic species such as the Trinity bristle snail, along with numerous other rare, threatened and endangered species. Permanent protection of the Trinity Timberlands property would ensure that the vast majority of land along South Fork Mountain will remain intact as a working forest while sequestering carbon, providing contiguous habitat, and protecting cold water streams vital for salmon.

From left to right: Dave Albee (multigenerational Trinity County rancher and 35+ year lessee of the Travis Ranch rangelands), Dan Albee (Dave's son and co-rancher), and Cody Cannelli (Dave's hired hand)



Forest and pasture at Travis Ranch



Forest post-fire at Trinity Timberlands

Thanks to our business partners:

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Donor Voices: Nancy Stevens



Steward's Circle Member and NRLT Volunteer

I'm not a rancher and I don't have working land. I do however love living in an area that has both. I first became familiar with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust around the same time they acquired Freshwater Farms Reserve. I had the chance to walk the property and hear about NRLT's vision for what it could become. This past June when

we gathered together for the Freshwater Farms Summer Celebration, I realized just how much the property has transformed since I first saw it. Freshwater Farms Reserve is now a sanctuary for wildlife, coho salmon, the native plant nursery, and for the many people who walk the trail along the slough. Over the years, I have witnessed how capable NRLT is at protecting working ranches in the hills as well as conserving lands on the coast that we can all enjoy.

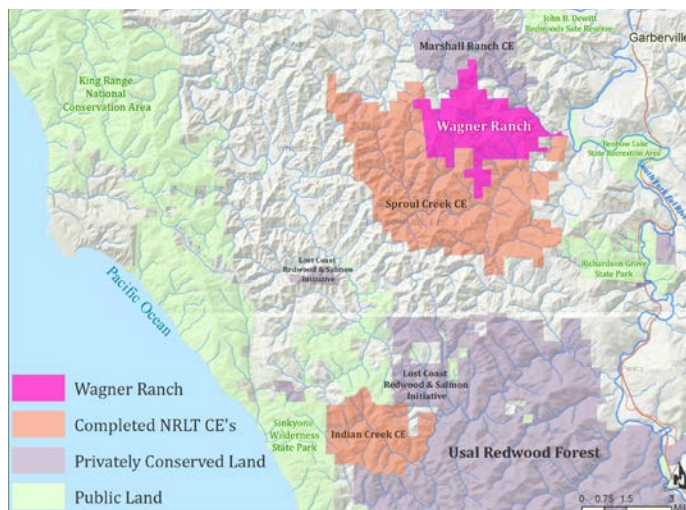
I'm so thankful for what NRLT does and am pleased to make a monthly gift to ensure their work continues. Being a monthly donor is seamless with automatic withdrawals, which means that I've been able to support NRLT on a regular basis for several years without any effort or coordination. I hope that you will join me in supporting NRLT in the same way! Any amount makes a difference!

To sign up, visit ncrlt.org

- \$10/month buys veggie starts for kids in our Know Your Farmer program!
- \$20/month pays for coordination of a work day at Freshwater Farms Reserve
- \$50/month funds a consultation for a potential conservation easement

JOIN THE STEWARD'S CIRCLE!

New Project Creates Forest Connectivity



NRLT is excited to announce that we will be working with the Wagner family to conserve their 3,400-acre ranch in southern Humboldt County. The family has tended this predominantly forested property since the late 1800s and they have recent awards from The Buckeye (among others) to show for their family's commitment to sustainable land stewardship. Numerous salmon-bearing streams traverse the property and drain into the South Fork Eel River watershed, which is recognized by state and federal agencies as one of the best remaining salmon strongholds in California. The ranch is strategically located between the 2,942-acre Marshall Ranch Conservation Easement, held by the California Rangeland Trust, and the 9,291-acre Sproul Creek Conservation Easement, held by NRLT. Obtaining funding for and completing an easement on the Wagner Ranch will create a contiguous block of privately conserved forestland of over 15,000 acres. Combined with the adjacent public lands including Richardson Grove State Park, these projects create nearly 20,000-acres of conserved mixed conifer-hardwood and redwood forest with a smattering of true oak stands and grassland.



Three generations of the Wagner Family gather by the beloved "Nonie and Grampy Tree" at the Wagner Ranch.

Representing Boots and Birkenstocks

Seeing the sunset over the Eel River is always a special part of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's Annual Celebration, Boots and Birkenstocks, and this year was no different. On Saturday, October 12th, supporters gathered to celebrate the completion of long-pursued conservation projects and new opportunities on the horizon, as well as NRLT's thriving restoration and education programs.

This year, NRLT honored two leaders in the organization who embody the 'Boots and Birkenstocks' name by bringing together different parts of our community to work towards a common goal. Lee Mora, of Humboldt Auction Yard and Humboldt Grassfed Beef, and Dennis Rael, of Los Bagels, both joined the NRLT Board of Directors in 2007 and brought shared values of leadership, hard work, and commitment to this organization and to our mission to conserve this region's wild and working lands. The two of them remain advisors to the organization with a commitment to giving back to our community, they both are dedicated volunteers with a strong work ethic, and, of course, they both deeply value the land.

Supporters enjoyed lively music by That Buckin' String Band, a delightful dinner by Dorris & Daughter Catering, and dessert by Clendenen's Cider Works Bakery. We are grateful to all the individuals and businesses from across the region who supported the

event by donating or volunteering. The Annual Celebration is truly a community effort!

We would also like to thank our generous event sponsors: *Green Diamond Resource Company, Points West Surveying, ReMAX/ Humboldt Property Management, Humboldt Redwood Company/Mendocino Redwood Company, North Coast Audiology, Pierson Building Center, Stillwater Sciences, American AgCredit, Hubbard's German Auto, Planwest Partners, Ramone's Bakery & Café, GHD, Harbers Insurance Agency/The Shaw Group, Humboldt Area Foundation, The Land Man, Conservation Partners, Alexandre Family Farm, Clendenen Cider Works, Humboldt Grassfed Beef, and Los Bagels.*



That Buckin' String Band shared lively music with the crowd.

Visionary Award Recipients, Lee Mora (left) and Dennis Rael



Current and Former Executive Directors of NRLT were well represented. From left: Maya Conrad, Martha Spencer, Mike Cipra, Dan Ehresman, and Lindsey Green

SAVE THE DATE!
2020 Annual Celebration
Saturday, September 26th,
River Lodge, Fortuna

Thanks to Event Supporters & Volunteers

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Nancy Stevens
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Sequake Brewing
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Seth Magnuson
Shakefork Community Farm
Shannon Boyle
Shelley Lynn

Soul to Soul Spa & Foot Bar
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That Buckin' String Band
The Bodega/Nothing Obvious
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Note: Auction winners will be included in our Annual Report donor listing in Spring 2020.



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Cover Artist – Lynn M. Jones



Chickadee in Holly

Lynn M. Jones is a letterpress artist in Eureka, CA. She learned how to print from Berkeley artist David Lance Goines in 1999. She started Just My Type Letterpress around 2003 and currently prints in her combination studio/retail shop in Old Town Eureka. Her art is created by first carving large linoleum blocks by hand and then printing them on a 1947 flatbed letterpress. Lynn strongly believes in empowering women, preserving nature, supporting small businesses and encouraging art. See more at justmytypeletterpress.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Holiday Party: *Friday, December 14, 4-7 pm, NRLT Office.* Join landowners, conservation specialists, board members, advisors, staff, and our members as we celebrate the holidays.

Libations for Donations: *Saturday, April 4, 6-9 pm, Phatsy Kline's Parlor Lounge at The Historic Eagle House.* Join us at this beautiful location for a drink during Arts Alive! and enjoy the feral jazz of Dog Bone while supporting NRLT.

2nd Annual Freshwater Farms Summer Celebration featuring Huckleberry Flint. *Date to be determined.* Email info@ncrlt.org to make sure we have your email address for ticket info.

Freshwater Farms Interpretive Walks: *Visit ncrlt.org for spring dates.*

Stewardship Days: *Stay in the loop through our mailing list or Facebook page.* Join NRLT Projects staff and volunteers at Freshwater Farms Reserve for wetland restoration, trail maintenance, and invasive plant removal. Email Karlee at k.jewell@ncrlt.org to sign up.

Lay of the Land: *Upon request.* NRLT presentation that gives an overview of what we are doing to protect our region's wild and working landscapes. Contact Beth at b.bray@ncrlt.org.

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.*

Special thanks to these sponsors for underwriting this issue:

