

AUTUMN 2011

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST



To Hawkridge

Lisa Landis

Martin Slough Project Moving Forward

If you've lived in Eureka for any length of time you're sure to have seen the rainy winters bring flooding to the Eureka Municipal Golf Course at the south end of town. These flood waters are a result of Martin Slough, which drains the south end of Eureka on its way toward the Pacific Ocean, readily overtopping its banks and making the Golf Course and downstream agricultural properties unavailable for considerable periods of time.

In 2008 NRLT was approached by the

Redwood Community Action Agency's Natural Resource Services Division (RCAA - NRS) and the California State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to become a partner in the Martin Slough Enhancement Project, a two-phase fish passage improvement, wetland enhancement, and flood reduction project on the south side of Eureka. RCAA has been working toward implementation of the enhancement project since 2004, when a feasibility study was conducted analyzing a number of alternative project

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Board President	2
New Administrative Assistant	2
Freshwater Nature Trail	3
NRLT Partners with YES	3
Northern Region Council	3
Donor Voices	3
Martin Slough Moving Forward	4
Projects on the Horizon	5
Annual Celebration	6
NRLT Supporters	7
Calendar of Events	8
About the Artist	8

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The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a member of the Land Trust Alliance, the California Council of Land Trusts, and the CA Northern Region Land Trust Council

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From the Board President

In my line of business I am constantly reminded of how important agricultural producers are in the viability of our local economy and in the long-term protection of our natural resources and open space lands. I have learned through our business, Humboldt Grassfed Beef, how much our community values locally produced, sustainably managed agricultural products, but I often wonder how we can create broader understanding for the challenges our local ranchers and farmers face in continuing to manage and steward the land for future generations.

I got involved with the Land Trust because I believe in the importance of partnership and reaching across boundaries. I think we all have a vested interest in these productive landscapes and the Land Trust provides an opportunity for each of us to support the stewards of these lands. I've enjoyed my role as a Board member of the Land Trust because it challenges me to consider new perspectives on land use and conservation.

This year the Land Trust has decided to pursue accreditation through the Land Trust Alliance. As a Land Trust, we make a promise to steward conservation easement lands, forever. This is a huge commitment, and we believe that by achieving and maintaining accreditation status we will be meeting national standards for excellence, upholding the public trust and ensuring that our conservation efforts are permanent. Only 135 Land Trusts in the nation have achieved this status, and we hope to be the first in Northern California to become accredited.

I'd like to also extend our thanks to Mark Andre for his many years of service on our Board of Directors. As a member of the Governors Board of Forestry and as Director of Environmental Services for the City of Arcata, Mark is incredibly busy but has pledged to continue with NRLT as an advisor which we greatly appreciate.

Finally, thanks to each of you that joined us at our Annual Celebration on October 2nd. It was a huge success! One thing was clear, we have an incredible circle of partners that participate in our work and we thank you for the role that you play as a member of our community.



**Thank you Mark for
your years of service!**



New Administrative Assistant for NRLT



Xiaozhen "Ellen" Chen, Administrative Assistant, was born and raised in Southern China. She came to the U.S. with her family in 2002. Ellen moved to Humboldt County

to attend Humboldt State University in 2004 and has lived here since. She received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Mathematics and Business Administration, with an emphasis in Accounting in 2009.

Ellen has experience in budgeting, financial analysis, database management, tax preparation, event coordination and outreach. She highly values community-

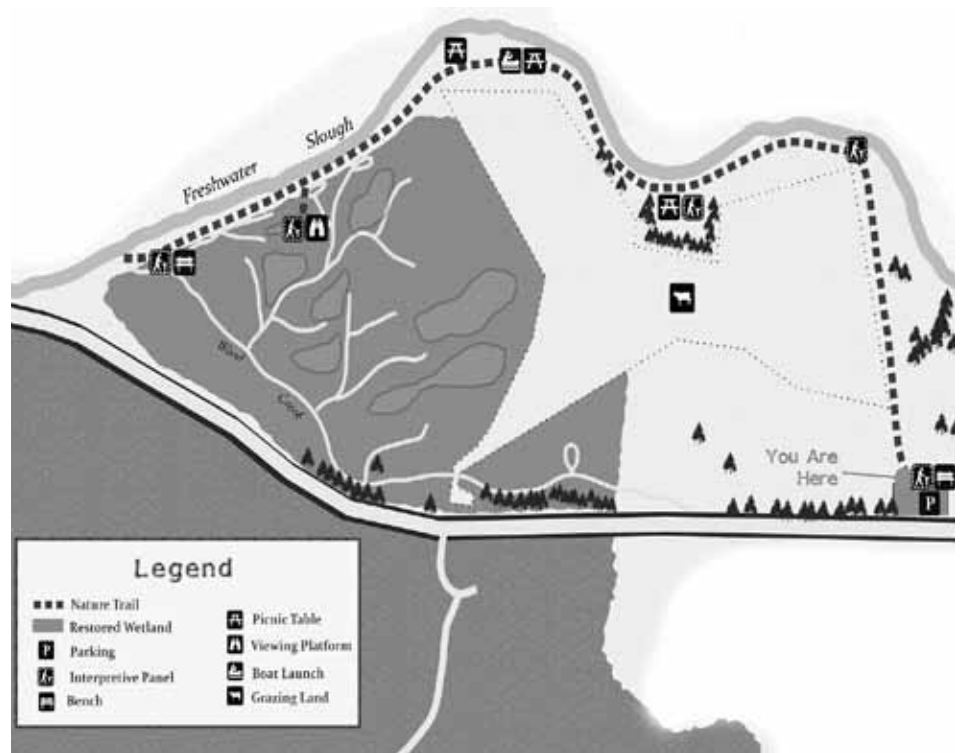
oriented work and has done volunteer bookkeeping and organizing work in the past. This is her first professional experience working with a non-profit. She enjoys outdoor activities at the beaches and forests on the North Coast. She plans to pursue her Master's degree in Non-profit Management and Accounting. Ellen is very excited about this new opportunity and hopes to contribute her skills to help NRLT move forward on upcoming developments.

Welcome Interns

Welcome to our new NRLT Project Interns Clara Cross & Rebekah Rafferty. We look forward to partnering with both Clara & Rebekah on many new projects in the coming months!

Freshwater Nature Trail Update

Since the completion of the Wood Creek Tidal Marsh Enhancement Project in 2010, we have been working toward the development of a public access walking trail at our Freshwater Farms Reserve property. The Freshwater Nature Trail will run for 0.7 miles and follow the contours of Freshwater Slough on the north side of the property. The trail will feature a canoe and kayak launch, numerous sitting and picnic benches, and interpretive signage. To date, we have secured preliminary funding from the State Coastal Conservancy and PG&E for design and permits and have worked closely with the Redwood Community Action Agency's Natural Resources Services Division to complete the final trail and interpretive display designs. We are working on securing the needed funding for construction, which will determine whether the trail will be built in summer 2012 or 2013. We are excited to provide public access to this property which showcases wetland restoration and compatible agricultural uses.



NRLT Proud to Be a Member of the California Northern Region Land Trust Council

The California Northern Region Land Trust Council (NRC) was formed several years ago with the purpose of supporting land trusts and other conservation organizations in a 10.4 million-acre region across seven counties in northern California. The mission of the NRC is to facilitate conservation of working and wild landscapes of California's Northern Region through strategic planning, training sponsorship, networking opportunities, capacity-building, and public policy advocacy. Member organizations of the Council include 15 land trusts and conservation organizations from the region.

Having recently completed a strategic planning retreat, the Council looks forward to developing new workshops and conference offerings as well as network-

ing opportunities for local land trust staff, board and project partners. This collaboration will help in addressing region wide issues related to land conservation. NRLT is currently acting as the fiscal sponsor for the NRC and is housing the regional coordinator position for this great effort. To learn more, please visit: <http://ncrlt.org/partners#region>.

NRC Executive Committee

David McMurray – *Co-chair*
 John Brennan – Siskiyou Land Trust, *Co-chair*
 Amy Chesnut – Sonoma Land Trust
 Hezekiah Allen – Mattole Restoration Council
 Lindsay Magnuson – NRLT
 Ellen Chen – Regional Coordinator, NRLT

Donor Voices: Heidi Bourne, NRLT Advisor Liaison and Local Business Owner

For a year or so, I've been participating with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust as a member of the Advisory Board. I got involved because I find their work completely inspiring; working with Humboldt, Trinity and Del Norte Counties generational ranches, farms and working landscapes to protect land in perpetuity through conservation easements. NRLT has conserved well over 15,000 acres over the last eleven years. It's amazing to see how such diverse voices can come together to achieve the common goal of maintaining economically viable working open space. I choose to support NRLT because they successfully bridge the gap, connecting people to the land in a way that will sustain generations to come.



NRLT Forms New Partnership with YES

NRLT is thrilled to have formed a new partnership with the Yager/Van Duzen Environmental Stewards (YES), a landowner group based in the Van Duzen River watershed. NRLT's staff capacity and technical

expertise combined with YES's track record of successful ecological restoration projects will surely lead to greater conservation success in the months and years to come!

MARTIN SLOUGH PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

Continued from page 1

designs. The Land Trust came on board with this project to purchase a 36-acre agricultural property at the mouth of Martin Slough in order to facilitate the first phase of the restoration, which includes replacement of the defunct tide gate at the mouth with a more fish-friendly and functional tide gate. The Phase One project will also involve widening of the lower Martin Slough channel to increase flow capacity, construction of three acres of tidal wetland, establishment of riparian habitat along the slough, and retention of 28 acres of productive coastal pasture for grazing.

Martin Slough hosts salmon and other aquatic species that use the Golf Course's irrigation ponds for rearing habitat. Thanks to diligent monitoring by the California Department of Fish & Game, salmon habitat needs have been assessed and juvenile fish populations have been tracked in this system for years. In the second phase of the enhancement project, a number of the irrigation ponds on the Golf Course will be expanded to improve the available salmon habitat and the ability to contain flood waters, thereby increasing the number of days on which the Golf Course is playable and agricultural fields are available for grazing.

NRLT has been working with its project partners to finalize all activities leading up to the purchase of the property. Funding has been secured with SCC and the landowners are working closely with NRLT to complete the purchase. Once NRLT gains title they will continue an agricultural lease of the property and begin improvements on the existing agricultural infrastructure, which includes a large storage barn and watering troughs. They will also become an active participant in the habitat restoration planned for the property.

NRLT appreciates the many individuals and agencies that are working cooperatively to make this and other resource enhancement projects a reality. We are dedicated to a complementary balance between productive working landscapes and conservation of natural habitats. With the completion of the Martin Slough Enhancement Project, we will see a native system restored and increased productivity on existing agricultural properties in this scenic southern portion of Humboldt Bay.



PROJECTS ON THE HORIZON

Bessette Ranch

The Bessette Ranch, located in Requa (south Del Norte County) is a stunning property that exemplifies the types of agricultural conservation projects the Land Trust hopes to support. With panoramic views of the Lower Klamath River and the Klamath River mouth, lush green pastures and mature mixed-conifer forest, the Bessette Ranch is an exceptional property with unique conservation values and agricultural attributes.

Surrounded by small 5-acre residential parcels, owners Tom and Nancy Bessette have worked hard to maintain their cattle

operation on the Ranch. The property is unique as they are able to utilize the higher elevation pastures on the property for winter grazing and the verdant bottomlands in summer and fall. Tom and Nancy have also worked for years to restore the three creeks and marshes on the property, all of which drain into the Klamath River.

The Bessette's have recently decided to begin exploring the possibility of a conservation easement on their property. An easement would prevent the future subdivision of their ranch and ensure that this important property will forever remain as one ranch into the future. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Tom and Nancy on this incredible project.



Noble Ranch

The 900-acre Noble Ranch lies 1.5 miles of the south bank of the Van Duzen River near Hydesville. The property is a pastoral gem, surrounded by forestlands to the south and the "Wild and Scenic" Van Duzen River to the north. Landowners Jack and Mary Noble are working with NRLT to explore a conservation easement to preserve the productive pasturelands and wildlife habitat on the ranch for future generations.

Located only four miles from Fortuna, the ranch is prime real estate for rural residential development, the last thing the

landowners want to see. The Nobles have spent decades constructing bank stabilization structures along the Van Duzen, both for erosion control and fish habitat. They have also planted thousands of willow, alder, and cottonwood trees to improve riparian habitat.

A conservation easement on 600 acres of the ranch will not only remove the threat of subdivision and loss of agricultural production, but will also complement the habitat work that has been Jack and Mary's management philosophy. We thank Jack and Mary for their dedication to land conservation and look forward to working with them in the coming year.



NRLT Annual Celebration: Incredible Success for the Land and Its Stewards

On October 2, 2011 over 275 people, supporters of NRLT, came to the Fortuna River Lodge to celebrate the land and its stewards. The diverse and dynamic group of attendees feasted on a delicious meal donated primarily by local producers while enjoying an open bar of cocktails and locally made wine and beer.

The night featured a silent and live auction with over 75 items, including a week condo rental in Kona, a guided hunt on Charles Mountain Ranch, veggie and grain shares, a Farm Fresh dinner party, steelhead fishing trips, a Dungeness crab feed, a load of hardwood logs, vacation getaways, local art, jewelry, wine, and more!

The event raised approximately \$27,000 which will go directly towards supporting the vital work NRLT does in our tri-county region for land conservation, conservation planning, and community outreach and education.

A very special thanks to all of those who helped make this event such a success: the Friend and Fundraising Committee, Board members, advisors, staff, local businesses and producers, auction donors, CCC volunteers, FFA helpers, HSU students, and the many individuals who were incredibly gracious with their time and resources. We are very appreciative of our community's incredible generosity. We would not be here without you!

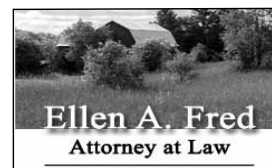
Protect a Place You Love: Leave a Legacy

Ensure that some of our most beautiful and important lands are conserved. Leave a legacy of healthy land, clean water, and hope for North Coast generations. Contact your financial advisor for details on how to include NRLT in your will or trust. For basic information, please contact the NRLT at (707) 822-2242.



Special thanks to my grandmother Carolyn who, at 96 is still inspiring me to enjoy life fully! – LM

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THANK YOU NRLT Members and Supporters!

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is forever grateful to the following who gave grants or gifts from October 1, 2010 through October 2, 2011.

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a tax-exempt, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization listed with the Internal Revenue Service under EIN #68-0456290. All donations are tax deductible.

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A special thanks to these members who have continued to sustain NRLT. For a full list of Lifetime Members, visit: <http://nrlt.org/partners>.

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Calendar of Events

Land Trust Holiday Party: Friday, December 9, 4:00 pm
 Join landowners, conservation specialists, board members, advisors, staff and our members as we celebrate the holidays.

Canoe-the-Slough: March 2012, TBD
 Paddle Humboldt Bay and the Freshwater Slough with a NRLT naturalist. Learn about the Bay's natural environment and the changes it has seen throughout the decades.

Lay of the Land: Second Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:00 pm at NRLT Office
 Join the Land Trust for the Lay of the Land, a one-hour presentation that gives an overview of what we are doing to protect and enhance our region's farms, forests, rangelands and natural areas.

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.



November Day

COVER ARTIST – LISA LANDIS

A California native, Lisa moved to Humboldt County in 1973. She studied art and art history at Humboldt State University. Lisa worked as a successful clothing designer, batik creator and glass artist for more than 25 years before discovering pastels five years ago. Lisa's paintings are inspired by California's rugged coasts and untouched back roads, but it is the way her eye interprets the subtleties of the subject's light and captures that feeling with her layers of intricate detail that a new story emerges. Eloquently put by the artist, "When I am painting it's like I have created a little place, a little world, and I am in there feeling, smelling, looking...experiencing the colors in a new way. And I become lost in composing, completely filled with inspiration that comes from inside me."

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