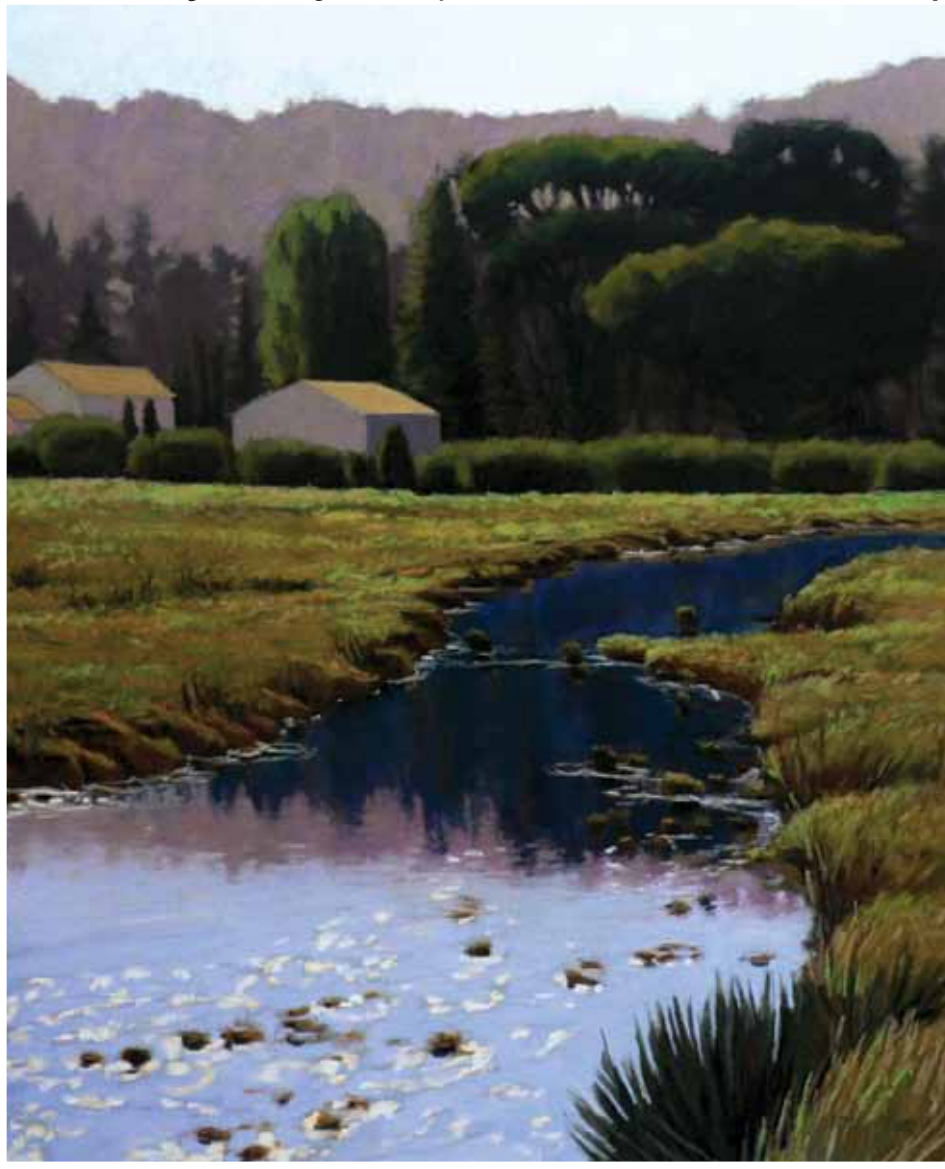


AUTUMN 2010

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Celebrating 10 years of conservation & stewardship



Stream of Contemplation

Victoria Ryan

Building Community for Conservation

As part of our long-term regional goals, the Northcoast Regional Land Trust (NRLT) is dedicated to providing education and outreach opportunities to engage the communities that we serve in our conservation efforts. Through collaboration, education and outreach, NRLT endeavors to strengthen our community by integrating landowners, youth, professionals and committed citizens in the stewardship of our lands.

This year, we were proud to offer numerous **workshops for landowners** that provided information on estate planning, succession and incentive programs available for stewardship and management of working landscapes. We are continually identifying new funding opportunities to support landowners and look forward to developing a Voluntary Oak Woodlands Conservation and Restoration Program in 2010/2011 (see p.3 for more information).

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President	2
Of People & Place	3
Community for Conservation	4-5
2009 Annual Report	6
NRLT Supporters	7
About the Artist	8
Calendar of Events	8

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Cultural Resource Specialist

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2nd Vice President, Leland Mora, Business Owner, Humboldt Auction Yard & Humboldt Grassfed Beef

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Blake Alexandre, Business Owner, Alexandre Family EcoDairy Farms

Mark Andre, Director of Environmental Services, City of Arcata

Bill Bragg, Attorney at Law, Bragg, Perlmen, Russ, Stunich, Rudolph & Eads

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Kevin McKernan, Natural Resources Specialist

John Lima, Business Owner, Redwood Forest Products

Fred Neighbor, Attorney at Law, private practice

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Rondal Snodgrass

Eddie Tanner

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We welcome our new Advisors and extend a heartfelt thanks to those who have recently retired.

Staff

Lindsay Magnuson, Executive Director

Ryan Wells, Projects

Ben Morehead, Projects

Linda Serrano, Development

Chelsea Cough, Outreach & Admin.

Shayne Green, Planning Consultant

Volunteer

Leslie Scopes Anderson, newsletter layout

Ken Magnuson, media extraordinaire

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is a member of the Land Trust Alliance and the California Council of Land Trusts.

Contact Northcoast Regional Land Trust:

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Phone: 707.822.2242; Fax: 707.822.5210

info@ncrlt.org; www.ncrlt.org

From the President

Fall solstice greetings to all of you. I have always liked this time of year; I find it to be a good time for putting energy into ongoing and new projects. Since I am nearing the end of my term as Board President, I would like to use this column to express my appreciation for the Board of Directors of the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. I was drawn to the Land Trust, in part, because of the Board of Directors, and the wonderful cross-section of the community that it represents. During my last five years on the Board, I have found it to be an engaged, effective, and supportive group of individuals.

First, I want to thank Jack Limmer, Maya Conrad, and George Yandell who recently left the Board of Directors. Jack was a Board Member almost from the beginning. He was conscientious and steady, bringing his real estate skills to our land transactions. I could always count on him for assistance; he was active on committees, was in charge of thanking donors, and most recently volunteered a lot of his time for our 10th anniversary dinner. Maya Conrad came to the Board after a term as our Executive Director in which she was responsible for establishing a strong, enduring foundation for the Land Trust. On the Board, her background knowledge of the Land Trust, its donors, and of granting foundations was invaluable. George brought his wealth of experience from The Nature Conservancy to the NRLT Board and provided essential support related to real estate transactions and in planning activities for the Land Trust. All three will be missed.

The current board includes producers Blake Alexandre of Alexandre Family EcoDairy Farms, Lee Mora of Humboldt Grassfed Beef, Jill Hackett of Ferndale Farms and John Lima of Redwood Forest Products; attorneys Bill Bragg and Fred Neighbor; Humboldt County planner Martha Spencer; City of Arcata Environmental Services Director Mark Andre; Los Bagels owner Dennis Rael, Humboldt State University Environmental Planning professor Yvonne Everett, and Kevin McKernan, past land trust Executive Director and current California Program Director for the National Conservation System Foundation.

This is a hard working board. We have regular monthly to bi-monthly meetings, active committees, yearly planning meetings and annual retreats, in addition to events and special projects. I continue to be appreciative of the Board's ability to resolve complex issues, as well as Board Members' willingness to provide their expertise and contacts when needed, and also their generous financial contributions to the organization.

Sincerely,



Ann King Smith
Board President



Of People & Place

NRLT's 10-Year Celebration

We celebrated our 10th anniversary this year! Over 200 community members joined us on June 6th, to celebrate land protection and stewardship. We raised over \$5,000 and proceeds from the celebration will be used to begin the design and implementation of the Freshwater Nature Trail: a public access trail which will provide new educational and recreational opportunities for our community.



Freshwater Nature Trail

We are currently developing plans for the Freshwater Nature Trail. This 3/4 mile trail will offer public access to the newly restored Freshwater Farms Reserve wetland. There will be a boat launch to provide access for non-motorized water sports and informational signs about the history, ecology, restoration and compatible agricultural uses of the property. We are also planning a viewing platform to give visitors incredible views of the wildlife and waterways surrounding Humboldt Bay's tidelands. To learn more, or to help support this project, please visit: www.ncrlt.org.

Lay of the Land

More than 90 people have joined us for our new Lay of the Land events, so far. We started Lay of the Land in 2009 to spread the word about the Northcoast Regional Land Trust and what we are doing to

protect and enhance our region's farms, forests, rangelands, and natural areas. The presentations are a mix of information, personal stories and spectacular images, and include a short video. Please join us for one of these events, which are held every second Thursday of the month from 4 to 5pm. Seats are limited, so please call Chelsea at 822-2242 or email c.cough@ncrlt.org to reserve your spot.

Group Interpretive Events

The Land Trust would like to invite you and your family to get out on the land and to be more involved in our conservation work. We offer interpretive hikes, canoe trips and field trips for area schools. We hope you will join us for at least one of our land-based education and recreational events listed on page 8. Please call our office at 822-2242 or email info@ncrlt.org to sign-up for these events.

Protecting and Restoring Oak Woodlands

Early explorers who came to our region from the east described three very different types of landscapes experienced in succession as they approached the Pacific Coast. First they traversed a tangled knot of terrain we now call the Klamath Mountains, then a large expanse of open country involving a mosaic of grassland prairies and oak woodlands, and finally the lush, giant rainforests along our coasts.

The industries that soon emerged from these three very different landscapes were mining, ranching, and timber, respectively. That middle belt of open country has always been the basis of our ranching industry in this region. It has also always been considered prime hunting grounds, both by Native Americans and later by European settlers.

To conserve and restore oak woodlands is to protect a cultural heritage and to maintain the basis of a ranching industry that has persisted in the region for well over 100 years.

It is estimated that 30 percent of Humboldt County's historic oak woodlands have been lost, primarily due to encroachment by Douglas fir forests and development. The resulting loss of rangeland and deer foraging habitat from this ongoing trend is an economic concern for landowners who earn their living in

large part through livestock and hunting operations.

This concern and the importance of true oak woodlands are underscored by the spread of Sudden Oak Death, which now threatens to decimate tan oak acorn production and could seriously diminish food resources for wildlife populations.

In response to growing concerns over loss of this important habitat NRLT and its partners are developing a **Voluntary Oak Woodlands Conservation and Restoration Program**. This program will provide direct assistance to landowners who want to address loss or degradation of oak woodlands on their property. A recently awarded Headwaters Fund Grant will allow NRLT to begin development of this new program.

A healthy network of profitable working landscapes reduces developmental pressures, keeps large tracts of land open and productive, and benefits ecological functions and biodiversity over a large amount of acreage.

This program will help to preserve wildlife habitat and bolster the long-term viability of ranches containing oak woodlands by increasing access to funding and technical assistance for conservation easements and restoration activities. Please contact NRLT for more information.

A Legacy Gift...

Our cover story in the Spring Newsletter will feature the generous donation of property from former HSU professor Dr. Louise Watson to NRLT.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to Robin and Dave Kinzer and the Law Office of Catherine M. Koshkin for their assistance with this bequest.

DONATIONS WELCOME

This Newsletter costs NRLT approximately \$3.00 per copy to print and send to our readers. If you are not already a member of NRLT, please consider joining with your donation of \$25 today, to help us defray this cost.



Continued from page 1

In addition, we believe it is exceedingly important that members of our community have opportunities to enjoy nature so that they may explore the relationship between working lands and the beautiful natural landscapes that make Humboldt County so unique.

The **Stewards of Tomorrow** program uses hands-on activities to promote environmental awareness and increase the capacity of children to become the future caretakers of our lands. Our program integrates principles of rural land management and economic sustainability with those of ecology and conservation.

As part of this program, we were happy to again work with **Shannon Morago** and students from **Six Rivers Charter School** to conduct the third year of monitoring at the Freshwater Farms Reserve site. We have also continued to offer interpretive events, as well as opportunities to assist in the restoration of the Freshwater Farms Reserve (see Autumn 2009 newsletter).

New this year, we are proud to partner with local **Farm to School** coordinator **Erin Derden-Little** and **Friends of the Dunes** naturalist **Suzie Fortner**, to provide even more educational and recreational activities for members of our community. In 2010, hundreds of local students will have the opportunity to visit Redwood Roots Farm in Jacoby Creek to learn about sustainable farming practices through Farm to School

and dozens of students will be introduced to the restoration site at the Freshwater Farms Reserve for the first time.

We also offer **Interpretive Events** for all members of our community through collaborations with local schools, Humboldt State University and HumBoats Kayak Adventures. Events include naturalist-led interpretive hikes, "Canoe the Slough" events, field trips, and native plant restoration days. Call today to sign up for our next event or check out our website (www.ncrlt.org) for upcoming dates (see pg. 8)!



*(Top) Monitoring at Freshwater Farms Reserve
(Above) Spinach Roll-Up Buffet at Redwood Roots Farm
(Left) Interpretive Hike at Iaquia Ranch*

for CONSERVATION



*Clockwise (From top left):
Monitoring at Freshwater
Farms Reserve ; Spinach
harvest; Boy with net
preparing to catch and
inspect insects; Walking tour
of Redwood Roots Farm;
Monitoring at Freshwater
Farms Reserve*

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is pleased to provide our members with an accounting of organizational and programmatic accomplishments for 2009.

- In March, we acquired the 77-acre McNamara Dairy in Orick. Infrastructural improvements have begun and many more are planned for 2010. We will be completing a management plan for the McNamara Dairy and continuing to lease the property in 2010.

- NRLT worked diligently to prepare for the completion of a Phase I conservation easement on the Chalk Mountain Ranch (recorded January 15, 2010). The easement protects 3,268 acres of ranch and forestland. We are currently working towards protecting an additional 3,000+ acres of the ranch.

- The 74-Acre Fortuna Family Forest conservation easement was donated in memory of Susan Parks by the Baker Family, Head Family and Robert Parks.

- NRLT staff fielded numerous inquiries from interested and concerned landowners regarding land conservation options including new potential projects in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity Counties.

- The Wood Creek Enhancement project restored 35 acres of tidal salt marsh and retained 19 acres of sustainable agricultural grazing land at the Freshwater Farms Reserve. A film is in production that documented the restoration at Freshwater Farms. We also received preliminary funding to begin work on the Freshwater Nature Trail at Freshwater Farms Reserve.

- We completed Conservation Action Plans for three ecological targets: Oak Woodlands, Wildlife Corridors and Rare Plants.

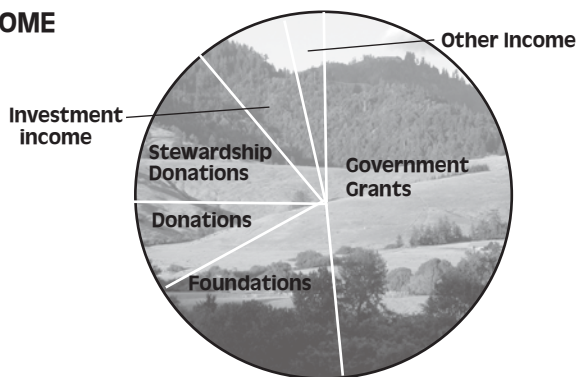
- We hosted Marilyn Cundiff of the CA Wildlife Conservation Board to present on oak woodlands funding through the state which was attended by over 25 landowners and resource professionals. We continued work on our oak woodlands conservation

planning and submitted applications for funding.

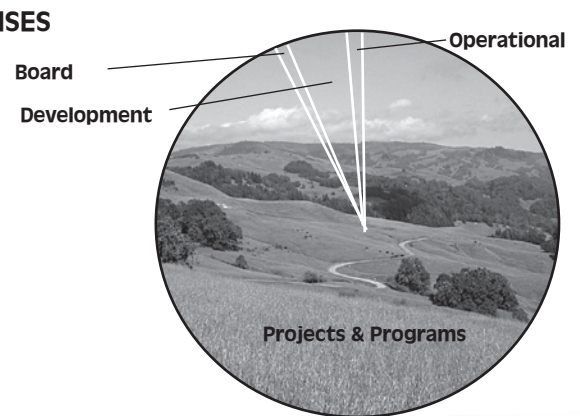
- We created a *Draft Vision for Working Lands* including collaborative vision statements and goals derived from NRLT's North Coast Dialogues work. This vision was informed by detailed analyses conducted on trends related to Forestry, Fisheries and Agriculture in Humboldt County. The community was engaged in the North Coast Dialogues project through several events including trainings on the Transitions Framework that formed the foundation of the Dialogues process.

- We held numerous interpretive events at Freshwater Farms Reserve for students and community members throughout the year. Six Rivers Charter School completed the second year of data collection at the site and presented their results to the entire school. We also successfully fundraised to support our local Farm-to-School program which will be administered by Erin Derden-Little.

INCOME



EXPENSES



INCOME

Government Grants	238,729
Foundations	110,820
Donations	35,114
Stewardship Donations	69,669
Investments	35,655
Other Income	15,903
TOTAL	505,890

EXPENSES

Projects & Programs	421,009
Operational	3,716
Development	16,481
Board	3,000
TOTAL	444,206

THANK YOU NRLT Members and Supporters!

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is forever grateful to the following who gave grants or gifts from September 1, 2009 through September 1, 2010.

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.

Agencies & Foundations

Andrus Family Fund
 CA Coastal Conservancy
 CA Dept. of Fish & Game
 CAL FIRE
 CA Wildlife Conservation Board
 County of Humboldt
 Dean Witter Foundation
 Headwaters Fund
 Land Trust Alliance
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
 Natural Resource Conservation Service
 NOAA Fisheries
 Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc.
 Pacific Coast Joint Ventures
 Redwood Community Action Agency
 Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
 San Francisco Foundation
 S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy
 T.S. & K.D. Glide Foundation
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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 Dr. Louise Watson
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To make your valued donation to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, please use the enclosed remittance envelope.

Our Business Partners

Make our community strong. Please support the following businesses by using their services and products or frequent their establishments.

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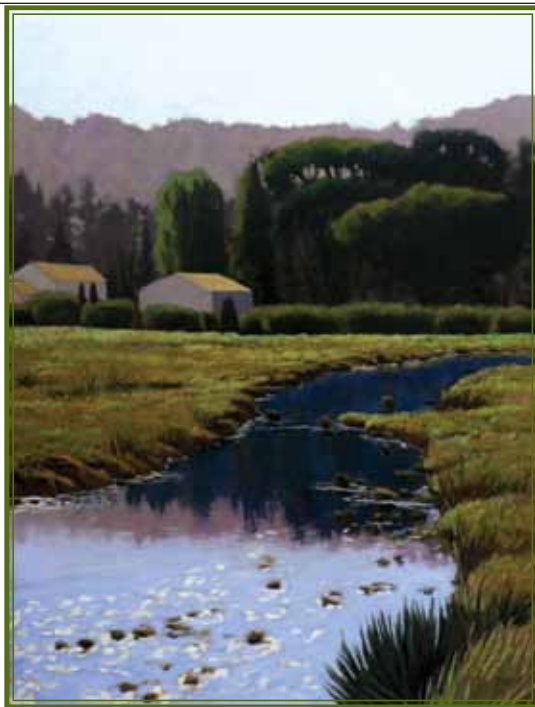
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COVER ARTIST – VICTORIA RYAN

A native Californian, Victoria Ryan has called Humboldt County her home since 2002. A professional fine artist for 25 years, Victoria works primarily in soft pastel to create vivid, dreamlike landscapes of the local terrain and from her travels. Layers of rich pigmented color are applied to various substrates to create eloquent and vibrant perspectives. Her work can be found in private, corporate and public collections world wide and can be viewed at www.victoriaryan.com. Today, a slice of her time is devoted to being a marketing coach to emerging artists who are striving to identify where they fit in the marketplace beyond their studio walls.

Calendar of Events

Land Trust Holiday Party, December 10 4:00 to 6:00 pm
 Join landowners, conservation specialists, board members, staff and our supporters as we celebrate the holidays.

Freshwater Farms Interpretive Walks, October 17, and TBD
 Experience, first hand, beautiful tidal salt marsh and pastureland at the Land Trust's 54-acre Freshwater Farms Reserve. Contact Ryan Wells at 707-822-2242 or r.wells@nrlt.org.

Canoe-the-Slough, October & November, date(s) TBD
 Paddle Humboldt Bay and the Freshwater Slough with an NRLT naturalist. Learn about the Bay's natural environment and the changes it has seen throughout the decades.

Board of Director's Picnic, May, 2011, date TBD
 Join NRLT's Board of Directors for a hike and spring picnic at one of NRLT's conservation properties.

Lay of the Land, Second Thursdays, 4:00 to 5:00 pm
 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.)

THANKS TO:

