

SPRING 2010

NORTHCOAST REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Celebrating 10 years of land protection



Fence (oil on linen)

Stock Schlueter

Land Trust Helps Conserve 3,300 More Acres

The Northcoast Regional Land Trust is proud to announce the closing of two conservation easement properties during the winter months of 2009-10. The end of 2009 brought a flurry of activity to our humble office as we worked to close the Fortuna Family Forest Conservation Easement before the end of December. At the same time, we worked to complete Phase I of the Chalk Mountain Ranch Conservation Easement.

The Fortuna Family Forest Conservation Easement property, located just east of the City of Fortuna, covers roughly 74 acres of mixed coniferous forest, and con-

tains tributaries to Strongs Creek, which provides water for Fortuna's residents and habitat for endangered salmon. The property is jointly owned by three families who purchased the land in 1972 during the "back to the land" movement (see Landowner Profile). Working with the Land Trust, the landowners developed a conservation easement that protects forest and riparian habitat, limits development and subdivision of the property, and specifies certain forest protections above the state forestry rules. For example, 'Legacy Trees' (the largest conifer and hardwood trees that provide wildlife habitat) will be identified and preserved.

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

Contact the Northcoast Regional Land Trust:

P.O. Box 398, Bayside, CA 95524

Ph: 707.822.2242; Fax: 707.822.5210

info@nrlt.org; www.nrlt.org

From the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that we are already ten years into this new millennium. Though this is a reminder of how quickly time can fly, the Land Trust is thrilled to celebrate this year with our tenth anniversary.

We are proud of all that we have accomplished in this decade and we are tremendously grateful to each and every one of you who have helped us to protect the working and wild lands of our region.

It is also with much pleasure that I have now entered my second year as Executive Director of the Land Trust. We sure started off with a bang! In late December of last year we were fortunate to work with three families in Fortuna to protect a 74-acre working forest – what we consider to be the model of family forestry for our region. We were also excited to complete a conservation easement on the beautiful Chalk Mountain Ranch in January of this year. The patience and dedication of the Barnwell family towards conservation of this incredible property means that thousands of acres of timbered rangeland will be protected forever from the threat of subdivision. Concluding our first ten years with conservation easements on these two properties means the Land Trust has been able to protect *in perpetuity* more than 12,000 acres of coastal, ranch, and forest lands for future generations.

I think it is also important to consider that conservation does not always come in the form of acres or miles protected. I am incredibly proud of the strides we are making to build stronger communities through our Regional Planning and North Coast Dialogues programs. In keeping with our vision to create a sustainable community, the Land Trust has been busy as ever broadening our collaborations and building networks for success. Through strategic partnerships with regional leaders, we look forward to finding new ways to offer even more to our community in the ways that are needed most.

Again, this incredible work would not be possible without your support. We thank you for helping to make these ten years so successful and look forward to serving our community at an even greater capacity in the years to come.

Lindsay Magnuson



Restoring Freshwater Farms Reserve

In fall 2009 the Northcoast Regional Land Trust, in partnership with the Redwood Community Action Agency – Natural Resources Services Division, constructed a brackish marsh in lower Wood Creek, an area historically dominated by wetlands off Old Arcata Road near Three Corners in Freshwater. Tidal and freshwater pools and slough channels were created to increase and enhance brackish and freshwater habitat. Small hills, called “hummocks”, were constructed to add topographic diversity. An old wooden flap tide gate, originally built to keep the incoming tide from inundating the property, was raised, allowing a carefully controlled amount of tide water to flood the project site. A dilapidated culvert crossing was replaced with a modified trailer bridge to remove constriction in Wood Creek. We are already observing recovery of wetland characteristics including standing pools, presence of wading birds and waterfowl,

and natural emergence of wetland plants. In addition, CA Department of Fish and Game biologists have observed dozens of young coho salmon inhabiting the created freshwater pool and surrounding habitats in Wood Creek.

To complete this project and further enhance this wetland, the Land Trust and its partners are planting over 40,000 native wetland plants across the 29-acre restoration site. Seeds and clippings of these plants were collected at the project site, and were raised at Freshwater Farms Nursery, conveniently located adjacent to the project site. From March 31 to the end of April, the Land Trust, RCAA, CCC, and scores of volunteers from our community are working together to plant Lyngbye’s sedge, tufted hairgrass, silverweed, small-fruited bulrush, willow, and soft-stem rush, all native to the project area. The Land Trust is also coordinating a five-year monitoring

effort, in order to determine whether our project goals are satisfactorily met, and to serve as an educational tool for future projects of this type.

Finally, the Land Trust would like to extend a special “Thank You” to the California Conservation Corps for contributing labor for this project, and to Pierson Building Center for their generous donation of tools and other materials. We are grateful for the community’s ongoing support for conservation and enhancement of our North Coast treasures.



Photos by Ken Magnuson



A special thanks to Humboldt State University's YES House volunteers (shown here) for planting on March 31.





Continued from page 1

All three families will continue to own and enjoy this forest. It is expected that these landowners will utilize the federal tax incentive for conservation easement donations that has helped thousands of landowners conserve their land across the U.S.A. The Fortuna community will share in their enjoyment too, as the property continues to provide a lush green backdrop to the Friendly City.

Phase I of the Chalk Mountain Ranch Conservation Easement, totaling 3,268

acres and covering the northern half of the ranch, closed in mid-January 2010. Located near the town of Bridgeville off Alderpoint Road, Chalk Mountain Ranch has been owned and managed by the Barnwell Family since 1884, and has a long history of timber management and cattle ranching. Since 2003 the Barnwell family, landowner representative Agland Engineering, the state Forest Legacy Program, and the Land Trust have been working together to develop and fund a conservation easement to protect the property's natural resources in perpetuity.

As outlined in the easement, six miles of streams, which flow into the Larabee Creek and Van Duzen River systems, are now protected through riparian buffers and no-cut zones. Subdivision of the easement property is now prohibited. Wildlife habitat for salmon, steelhead, bear, mountain lion, and peregrine falcons will remain intact. Resource use such as timber harvest and cattle ranching will continue, supplying our community with local, high quality forest and beef products. The landowners will also continue to host an annual endurance ride and guided deer hunts. Furthermore, the amazing views that travelers enjoy as they drive along Alderpoint Road, capped by iconic Chalk Rock, will forever remain a part of the landscape.

LAND TRUST HELPS CON

Originally slated for funding through the federal USFS Forest Legacy Program and the CA Wildlife Conservation Board, budget shortfalls in the state required our strategy to adapt to a phased approach. Now, with Phase I closed and Phase II (designed to cover the remainder of the Ranch) already underway, the Barnwells are closer to being assured that their family legacy will be protected in its natural state forever.

We at the Northcoast Regional Land Trust applaud the efforts of the Fortuna Family Forest and Chalk Mountain Ranch landowners. They solidified their family conservation ethic and land use goals with a permanent conservation easement, while at the same time retaining private ownership and management of the land. Though the conservation easement process can be lengthy, the Land Trust is proud of our ability to assist people who wish to leave such a land conservation legacy. If you would like to discuss conservation options for your property, please feel free to call us at (707) 822-2242.



In Memoriam

Richard Philo Barnwell

April 27, 1927 - March 18, 2010

Your legacy lives on...

SERVE 3,300 MORE ACRES



Fortuna Family Forest Conservation Easement

In Memory of

Susan Parks

Your legacy lives on...



LANDOWNER PROFILE: Fortuna Family Forest



August 2002, Camp Turkey – for the grandkids!

Three Fortuna families have recently rekindled their ‘back to the land’ ethics in partnering with the Northcoast Regional Land Trust. Landowners Lynn and Gary Baker, Nancy and Richard Head, Robert Parks, and the late Susan Parks donated a 74-acre forest conservation easement. Located just outside of Fortuna, the purpose of the conservation easement (a legally binding agreement) is to assure that the families’ forestland will remain in its natural, scenic, and sustainably productive condition. The terms of the agreement do not allow for new residential development on the property, even if the property changes ownership.

The Baker, Head and Parks families first met in Fort Knox, Kentucky in

1971. They decided to find rural property to share as a community and become extended families to each other. As luck would have it, the property came up for sale in 1972, the day after the Heads arrived in Fortuna! The family trio was soon deemed ‘Turkey Productions’, describing their basic carpentry and country ‘skills’ needed to renew and rebuild the two houses and the shell of a barn.

“Indeed we were all a bunch of ecstatic turkeys”, says Nancy Head, “rebuilding and rejoicing in our tremendous good fortune in Fortuna. We learned about the land and each other through the days of working, playing and sharing together. There were goats, rabbits, chickens, geese, cattle, sheep and of course, a couple of noisy, messy

turkeys (that didn’t last too long)”.

The landowners donated the easement so that “the forest and open space will remain intact, offering a great value to our community,” says Lynn Baker. “Loss of resources can happen quickly. I grew up in the fertile Santa Clara Valley and walked to school through cherry orchards as far as you could see. Those orchards and family farms don’t exist anymore, being replaced by housing tracts, malls, and freeways.”

Rob Parks and his land partners agree, “All of us on the North Coast love the beauty that surrounds us and each of us has a part to play in preserving that beauty. I see this conservation easement as our part.”

The Land Trust is excited that the families decided to donate this forest conservation easement. The land will continue to support our natural resource-based economy, provide clean water and air, and protect important habitat. While the donation of a conservation easement offers the landowners income tax incentives, the property’s tax obligation will not be reassessed nor taken off the County tax rolls. Furthermore, the families will continue to enjoy all of the rights and privileges of land ownership. These are the types of conservation projects that benefit every member of our community.

Celebrating 10 years of land protection

2000-2006

Founding board members: David McMurray, Rondal Snodgrass, Carrie Grant, Katherine Ziemer, Sandra Jerabek, Ben Morehead, Steve Hackett and Kim Browning.

- Completed work for nonprofit 501(c)3 federal designation
- Held six conservation easement workshops for landowners
- Assumed ownership of Freshwater Farms Reserve and solidified a plan to restore the 54-acre property
- Created North Coast Dialogues to build community around a collective vision for land use on the North Coast
- Placed a conservation easement on two working ranches to protect more than 6,000 acres as part of the Six Rivers to the Sea Initiative
- Initiated Freshwater Farms Reserve restoration and education programs



Every year members tour otherwise restricted property under Land Trust easement stewardship.

2007-2008

- Protected 320 acres of old and mature growth forest and habitat through a transfer to the public domain
- Completed a conservation easements on two working ranches, protecting more than 2,600 acres
- Initiated a outdoor education program, giving 10th grade high school students the opportunity for scientific inquiry in the field

2009-2010

- Acquired a 77-acre dairy in Orick and protected 74 acres of urban forestland with a conservation easement
- A Working Lands Vision was developed as part of the North Coast Dialogues project
- Completed a conservation easement on 3,268 acres of working ranchland
- Completed restoration on 29 acres at Freshwater Farms Reserve

LEAVE A LEGACY

There are a number of ways that you can leave a legacy of land conservation. Planned gifts to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust – made today or tomorrow – help us protect special places for future generations.

There are many types of charitable gifts with substantial tax advantages. Ideas can include:

- Bequests – Remember us in your will through cash or property bequests.
- Charitable Remainder Trust – Appreciated assets are placed in an irrevocable trust, becoming the property of the Land Trust while providing tax savings.
- Appreciated Assets – Real estate, stocks, bonds or securities are donated and tax benefits realized from the donation without paying tax on capital gains.

Please contact your tax advisor as to how best structure your gift to the Northcoast Regional Land Trust.

Our New Look

We recently upgraded our ways to communicate with you! Please visit us at <www.ncrlt.org>; we anticipate that you will be pleasantly surprised by our new look. Now the information about what we do, upcoming events, and how you can help us accomplish our goals is just one or two clicks away.

Also, while on our website, you can sign up to receive paperless notices and updates from us. Please just make sure your email program is set up to include the Northcoast Regional Land Trust's emails, otherwise they may be filtered as spam. We hope you enjoy our new look and look forward to your involvement in our work!



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, 2008 through September 1, 2009.

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COVER ARTIST - STOCK SCHLUETER

Stock Schlueter grew up in Willow Creek, CA and received a B.A. in Fine Arts from the University of Northern Colorado. In 1973 he started showing at galleries in and around Humboldt County. Stock was selected in the California Statewide Water Color and Drawing Survey Exhibition from 1982 to 1987.

Since then he has won several prestigious awards in galleries in Washington D.C., Indiana, Ohio, Washington, Oregon, and throughout California. His work has been in the Coors National Western Invitational Show for the last three years and was on the cover of Southwest Arts Magazine in June 2009.

Stock is currently showing at the John Pence Gallery in San Francisco, the Fairmont Gallery in Sonoma, and the Highlight Gallery in Mendocino. Stock's work can also be viewed at <http://stockschlueter.com>.

Calendar of Events

Freshwater Farms Interpretive Walk

June 12, August 21 & September 11.

Put on your sturdy footwear and join one of our naturalists for a walk through the meadows, wetlands, and estuary of the Freshwater Farms Reserve. Learn about the natural history and current land use practices around the bay. Contact Ryan Wells at 822-2242 or r.wells@nrlt.org.

Canoe the Slough

June & July 2010.

Join us as we paddle with the tide on a natural history tour through the Humboldt Bay bottomlands. We'll follow Eureka and Freshwater Sloughs to finish at Freshwater Farms Reserve. All boats and gear will be provided. Specific dates and times will be determined by the tide so please contact our office at 822-2242.

Lay of the Land

Second Thursday of every month, 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Join the Land Trust and get the Lay of the Land, a one-hour presentation that gives an overview of what we are doing to protect and enhance special places – our region's farms, forests, rangelands, and natural areas.

NRLT's Mission

To protect working landscapes, farms, forests and grazing lands, and to preserve and protect land for its natural, educational, scenic and historic values. Our vision for the future includes vibrant communities, sustainable economies and healthy landscapes.

THANKS TO:

