



Newsletter

"...When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

... Aldo Leopold (1886-1948) American Forester

THE POINT REYES SEASHORE EXPANSION PLAN: TO EASE OR NOT TO EASE?

by Sandy Sharp

The discussion draft of Rep. Lynn Woolsey's proposed Point Reyes National Seashore Farmland Protection Act of 1996, dated 3/30/96, is beginning to generate some animated discussion (e.g., Marin Independent Journal 5/26 and 6/7; Sonoma Co. Farm Bureau "position paper" 6/3). Its purpose is to add 38,000 acres to the National Seashore (a National Park), 29,000 in Marin Co. and 9,000 in Sonoma Co., in order to "protect the pastoral nature of the [area]...from development that would be incompatible with the character, integrity and visitor experience of the park".

The bill provides \$15,000,000 in start-up funds to buy agricultural easements only from willing sellers who want to keep on ranching, or to buy the land itself from willing sellers who either want to retire or who want to keep on ranching by leasing their land back from the Federal Government.

It is important to remember that an easement is a private contract between the land owner and a governmental agency or an authorized non-governmental organization such as a land trust whose terms are set by the landowner before he signs it and which cannot be changed without the agreement of both parties. In the case of those who want to continue ranching, nothing need change for them except that they would have a large chunk of change in their pocket that wasn't there before. They would in short be paid fair market value for promising not to do what they had no intention of doing in the first place - namely developing their land for non-agricultural purposes. Any agricultural development the landowner felt was pertinent to his business will be permitted just as it has always been. What a great deal, right?

So what's all the discussion about? Why are ranchers not flocking to support this proposal? Well, in the beginning (1994) they were. There is a solid tradition of Marin ranchers supporting the concept. Since 1980, when the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT) was formed as a means of implementing part of the Marin County General Plan, many ranchers have sold easements to MALT. Today MALT holds easements in trust on about 25,000 acres of prime farm land, but its financing has faltered. Thus when Rep. Woolsey came up with her proposal it received enthusiastic support from MALT,

(Seashore continued on page 2)

Bodega Land Trust

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BodegalandTrust.html

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Bodega Land Trust



(Seashore continued from page 1)

the Farm Bureau and many individual landowners.

But on further consideration landowners began to worry about just what it would mean to be part of a National Park. Supposing they chose not to participate in the program because they wanted to keep their non-agricultural development options open; if they chose to exercise those options could the Park Service stop them? Or could the Fed come in and boss them around in some other way? According to the Discussion Draft "nothing in this Act shall authorize the Secretary [of the Interior, overseer of the National Parks Service] to regulate the use or enjoyment of privately owned lands, including lands currently subject to easements held by [MALT], and such privately owned lands shall continue under the jurisdiction of the State and political subdivisions within which they are located". In other words all private landowners will continue to be subject to their county's General Plan and permit process, just as they always have been, without interference from the Federal Government; the only exception would be in case the landowner wanted to put in a non-agricultural development "incompatible with the character" of the area, and such developments are already strongly curtailed at the county level. For the National Park Service to become involved, the landowner would have had to turn around his county's current General Plan and permit restrictions.

The \$15,000,000 financing requires matching funds which can include the value of "any lands or interests in lands that are within the boundaries of the area...that are currently held under a conservation easement...". The total of such lands currently held is somewhat over 10,000 acres. If the average value per acre is around \$1500 the total value would be around \$15,000,000 so no new cash would have to be raised.

The Farm Bureau supports an alternative funding already provided by the 1996 Farm Bill {HR 2554}. It makes available \$35,000,000 for agricultural easements only (no outright purchases), but that money is for the entire nation. How much of it would reach our shores remains problematical.

It is a good thing that this legislation is still in the form of a discussion draft. According to Woolsey's staff over 20 changes have already been made in response to public input, and there may still be some points that need working on. Woolsey herself says she will not submit the legislation without sufficient landowner support.

I strongly urge any of you who are interested in the future of our coast to read the draft and if you have any questions about what it means ask Woolsey's staff. Copies may be obtained and questions addressed by calling 415-507-9554.



Community Bulletin Board

Support the Bodega Big Event, the annual fundraiser for our local volunteer fire department. The BVFD provides us with fire and accident response as well as a strong organization for community involvement. The Big Event on August 18th includes a chicken barbecue, dance music, children's activities, raffle of the famous locally-crafted Bodega Quilt and much more.

We want to put together a booth for the Big Event that will provide information about Bodega Land Trust and its activities and promote local agriculture and crafts. Anyone with a product that is produced locally or information leading thereto, please contact Anne Greenfield at 876-3402.

Bodega Marine Lab Seminar Series

July 25 - "Evolution and adaptive significance of the leaf mining habit"

August 1 - "Resource polymorphisms and speciation in African birds"

August 8 - "A brain for all seasons but for what reasons: Comparative studies of seasonal plasticity in the bird song control system."

August 22 - "Ecology and evolution of host use in leaf beetles"

September 5 - "Use of microsatellite DNA markers for analyses of a Southwest Vancouver Island sockeye salmon stock complex"

Time: 4 p.m.; coffee / cookies at 3:45 pm

Place: Bodega Marine Lab Lecture Hall

For information: call 875-2211

The Coastal Ridge Coalition (CRC), a grassroots group working to protect our local environment will have an open meeting on the afternoon of July 21st.

Time: 3:00 PM

Place: 18036 Coleman Valley Road

For information: call Julie @ 874-3088

WHAT'S GROWING ON?

by Michael Presley

With an abundance of spring heat and heavy late rains, everything in the plant world is growing in leaps and bounds. Perhaps gardeners and farmers feel it most with the extra tasks of weeding and tillage which the season has brought. As I look around the Salmon Creek Watershed and see how many interesting projects are growing, on the home, community and commercial scales, I wish there were more time to visit, learn and exchange what each of us is experiencing in our growing realms.

If I had more historical perspective, maybe I would make fewer mistakes and if I knew more about the insect cycles, pollination mechanisms, and climate fluctuations, maybe I'd have better timing and success. Our west county gardening and farming community is rich in these diverse practical wisdoms. I hope that through our Bodega Land Trust activities we will meet, and together discover the knowledge and resources leading to success whatever the scale of our project. Come visit places and people through our tour program or lead a tour of your own.

TOUR OF ORGANIC MARKET AND HOME GARDENS

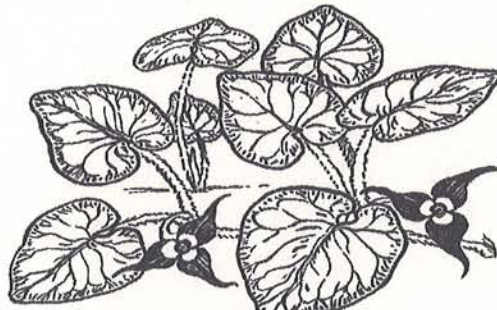
The Bodega Land Trust invites you to share personally the intimacy and creativity of LINDA'S GARDEN as described on page four. Next, car pool with us to an organic home garden, and then to an exciting young organic family farm in the making, TAYLOR MAID FARM, at the top of the Bodega hills. In leisurely fashion we will walk through the gardens and orchards. We will then picnic and swim in the pond.

While the focus of Taylor Maid Farm is aromatic herbal teas and berries, also grown are potatoes, amaranth, cut flowers and salad greens. Michael Presley, farm manager, will discuss: translating garden successes into larger production systems, gardening in all weather, developing soil fertility, creating the water web, designing energy and nutrient flow patterns, utilizing forest resources for home and industry, and the efficient use of hand tools.

Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Meeting: Bodega PO
Saturday, July 13th

Bring: a lunch, water bottle, swim gear
For reservations: call Michael @ 874-3714

First drawing for a set of Notecards of Natives by Nancy Conkle, Bodega Artist. Notecards will be for sale in the next newsletter.



Wild Ginger.

Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense* L.) is native to the Bodega area and grows lush in deep moist shade. Tiny reddish-brown blossoms hide beneath the large leaves and exude an odor foul enough to attract the flies that are necessary for its pollination. Wild ginger is not related to true ginger but the root-stock can be similarly used.

GARDENS & WILDLANDS OF THE OCCIDENTAL ARTS & ECOLOGY CENTER

Join the Bodega Land Trust and feel the heritage of a 20 year old bio-intensive garden, originally the Farallones Institute. The new stewards will present their permaculture demonstration projects, explain the residential community system and guide us through the orchards, gardens and wildlands. We will see the extensive biodiversity being preserved, the seed-saving, and the heirloom vegetables and rare fruits growing. The organic gardens are protected now in perpetuity by Sonoma Land Trust.

Time: 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 10th

Meeting: Bodega PO

Bring: a lunch, water bottle,
and swim gear

For reservations:

call Anne Greenfield @876-3402

BODEGA LAND TRUST BUSINESS

By Gloria Molica

Birds and flora The "Winter Birds" walk on February 25th with Roger Marlowe and the "Woodland Flowers and Ferns" walk on April 21st with Peggy Rockwood were both educational and fun. BLT is grateful for Roger and Peggy's willingness to share their expertises and their time with the participants. Be sure not to miss the BLT-sponsored garden tours in July and August!

Grant monies for BLT On June 1st Bodega Land Trust received a grant of \$3700 from The Trust for Public Lands! We have been trying to hone our grant writing skills for the purposes of conservation and are grateful for this reward for our efforts.

The Trust for Public Lands is a Sacramento-based national conservation organization dedicated to preserving open space. Part of their mission is to work closely with urban and rural groups to share knowledge of land conservation techniques.

The monies have been granted to BLT for educational purposes and specifically will be used for continuing production of the newsletter, preparation of an agricultural easement brochure and creation of a symposium early in 1997.

Heartfelt thanks go to Anne Greenfield for her hard work. Congratulations Anne on your successful first grant proposal!

Wheeler easement Work continues on William Wheeler's riparian corridors easement. The baseline assessment is currently underway, having been held up by late spring rains and challenging terrain. Preparation of easement documents nears completion.

More easements We have received a Letter of Intent for the donation of a riparian corridor conservation easement along the lower reach of another Salmon Creek Watershed tributary AND an inquiry from a upstream landowner of the same tributary for another easement!

Management Classes for BLT BLT is currently sponsoring active member Karl Andersen in his taking two grant writing classes offered by the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County in their Management Assistance Program. This program is designed to educate interested folks in non-profit agency management skills. We are appreciative of the effort and time Karl is putting into his stud-

(Business continued on page 4)

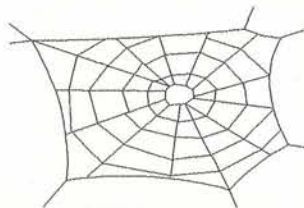


by Laird Sutton

The Bodega Land Trust has evolved out of a group of people who are seeking to actualize an ideal of existing in harmony with the land and each other. This experience may be characterized as **Interactive Stewardship**; a dynamic union of people and environment which fosters mutual respect, honor and preservation, creating in that interaction a socio/bio system reflective of the values inherent in each.

We live in a sphere of constant interaction with ourselves, others and the land. We touch and reveal ourselves to each other, seeking to work out common solutions which allow each to grow, live and contribute to a larger common good. The land responds to our presence and we respond to the land as it speaks to us in the language of sound, weather, wildlife, plants, life,----- creation in all its forms. Similarly our human community responds to our individual and collective ideals and actions and replies with approval and disapproval, love, caring and joy.

Environment and community become personal in this interaction and we experience the 'Thou' of existence. Therefore stewardship or the accountable caring for the land and community becomes an adventure well worth pursuing. The Bodega Land Trust is one vehicle which may be used for this purpose.



(Business continued from page 3)

ies, and particularly pleased that his homework has involved drafting a grant proposal addressing BLT capacity extension which would include monies toward the purchase of communication hardware.

Orienteering Thanks to active member Peggy Shannon who offered to teach orienteering skills. Watch for an announcement on this in the future.

Still Wanted BLT continues to search for a community organizer for the Script Program and we are still gathering favorite recipes for the Bodega Potluck Cookbook. If you can help with either of these important fundraisers, please call Hazel @ 876-3402

LINDA'S GARDEN OF LIFE

by Anne Greenfield

Blue nigelas, Peruvian lilies, red-lush antique roses spill forth everywhere, as though unable to be contained. Piles of variegated tiles and strangely shaped gourds lie waiting just for the creative touch. Linda's Garden blooms as an oasis of life and vitality for the little town of Bodega.

About eight years ago Linda Sauter began looking for a way the land could make a living for her. Never short of ideas, she conspired with friends and grown children to construct twenty 3-foot high redwood, gopher-proofed boxes for a market garden. They then cultivated a strip of land behind her house and later, cultivated a donated 45'x 50' patch of land in Sebastopol, completing her growing realm. She began producing, for income, all manner of lettuces, greens, root vegetables, tomatoes, potatoes and (her specialties) herbs, flowers and gourds.

"Herbs are full of life," Linda states passionately. "They need very little to grow yet have incredible healing properties. I'm inspired to learn how to make tinctures and dried teas."

Anyone who knows this woman, knows how she is always busy, but I've come to see also, a lovely pattern to this busy-ness -- her life appears to be a constant act of transformation, from the earth, through her hands, and into something useful to people. She turns Hopi gourds into bowls and rhythm rattles; plants and branches become baskets; dried flowers wind into wreaths or dry into sachets, all for sale at craft fairs and at her garden shop. She and a friend, Jelehla Ziemba, make and market the soap for the Salmon Creek Soap Company. Her myriad of garden flowers turn into boutonnieres, bouquets and centerpieces of awesome creativity for weddings and parties. Linda's current passion is breaking old, scavenged, ceramic objects into bits and pieces and crafting them into tiled flower pots, counters, and art objects, ("You can drop off any broken pottery at my place!").

Cosmically, Linda feels strongly that the way she fits into the universe is by soil building, composting and recycling. Her potting soil is homemade from chicken manure, weeds, rock dusts and whatever. In her gardening she tries to understand the interrelationships and ways of nature. Instead of digging the earth in her garden boxes she applies layers of organic nutrients, as nature does. "We should be very careful of what we do to the soil; it's the earth's skin. I see the earth as a living being and we should treat Her as we treat our children, our parents, or ourselves," her voice expresses concern.

What about pesky garden critters? Linda admittedly does feed thousands of snails to her chickens, though she tries to "not be at war in the garden". She explains, "Bugs, moles, and gophers are all part of the health of the living garden and my basic aim is to

keep the plants strong enough to resist the jaws of the marauders. I'm not sad anymore when a plant dies. I think perhaps it wasn't meant to be there".

Linda is one of the up-and-coming old-timers of Bodega (true old-timers are born and raised here). She and Gary Sauter moved to Bodega from southern California 30 years ago, looking for a country place to raise their four small children; (inspiration for the move she traces back to the happiest days of her childhood -- playing at her aunt and uncle's desert homestead). Farming skills they slowly gained over the next ten years of living on various Bodega-Occidental ranches. They tended cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens, goats and a garden. Her children were raised on homemade cheese, butter, breads, deer jerky and apple rings dried behind the wood stove.

"I've had a wonderful life, surrounded by the love of my family and community



"My aunt and uncle let me run free on the desert and showed me growing things in their garden."

(Linda continued on page 5)

WEEKEND ON WILLOW CREEK

by Katie Etienne

The Redwood Chapter of Trout Unlimited (RETU) would like to thank all those who participated in the education and restoration workshop on May 4-5. In addition to camping, dancing and reveling in the beauty of Willow Creek we had the opportunity to talk at length with representatives from State Parks, Bodega Marine Lab, Nature Conservancy, Dept. of Fish and Game and Louisiana Pacific. It was great to look around the multi-generational audience and see the confident smiles of people who fully understood what the experts were telling them and had insights of their own to share.

Speakers spoke of many things: creek history, salmon lifecycles, genetic structures, sources of sediment. We observed delicate mayflies and clever caddisflies that have been adapting to changes for the last 450 million years. A baseline study called "habitat typing" was explained and Willow Creek's first restoration project was begun, guided by Henry Appleton of Prunuske Chatham Inc and Doug Gore of Trout Unlimited. We were excited to hear that other property owners in the watershed are contemplating restoration plans as well.

"This project was an example of what we could do for Salmon Creek and its tributaries," said Jim Grant of Bodega, who attended the workshop. "Not only does it have obvious benefits for the environment, it's also an opportunity for those of us who live along these creeks to get together and learn more about where we live."

Bodega Land Trust is currently applying for a grant to do a complete habitat typing program on Tannery Creek, a tributary of Salmon Creek. If you'd like to find out more about the activities of Trout Unlimited, call Katie at 874-3353. Who knows, if we work together to improve the streams, perhaps the salmon will come.

ROAD KILL WARRIORS

by Laird Sutton



The Road Kill Warriors is a volunteer organization of individuals who have devoted themselves to reducing the number of road kills and moving such to the side of the road so that natural scavengers can safely take care of them.

An animal which has been killed by a car deserves respect. There is little respect in being ground into the pavement. This is an opportunity for us to reach out in death to another life form which is very close to our own. It is an opportunity to participate in the web of existence in a positive way. And reducing the number of road kills today means more life in its awesome diversity for tomorrow.

Reduce the number of road kills by being alert when you drive, putting animal whistles on your car, slowing down, and talking to your friends about RKW.

To remove road kills: allow extra driving time, stop in a safe place, put car flashers on, use a rubber glove, baggy or sand shovel to protect yourself from diseases.

For more information write Laird Sutton, PO Box 18, Bodega 94922 or net address lgsutton@wco.com



(Linda continued from page 4)

and by the flowers, plants and earth that allow me to stay at home and lead my handmade life that I love."

Linda's newest endeavor is a partnership with Tim Cheng, a local organic gardener who is farming various patches of Bodega land. Tim will be providing the market vegetables for the "Garden" while she provides the flowers and herbs. And the latest "bee in her bonnet?".... to find a new home for the Northern California Women's Herbal Symposium. Anyone with any ideas, call Linda at 876-3466.

LAND TRUST MEMBERSHIP FORM

I would like to become a member or continue my membership at ☐\$10 ☐\$20 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐Other

Please check your address on other side of this form for accuracy and then mail this to B.L.T.

All donations are tax-deductible. Make checks payable to Bodega Land Trust.

☐I would like more information

I am interested in being involved as: ☐an advisor ☐an occasional volunteer ☐a Board member

☐an interest group participant

☐other _____

My special interests are _____

My special skills are _____

A project I would like to see Bodega Land Trust consider is _____

THEY DIDN'T REALLY GONG ME, DID THEY?

by Kooch Daniels

With help from friends of the Bodega Land Trust and from the community of Bodega, "The Gong Show" occurred on April 27 at McCaughey Hall, Bodega. The show, which included a silent auction and bake sale, was presented as a fundraiser for the Land Trust and rumor has it that everyone had a great time. Thanks to emcees Eric Menuez and Victor Daniels as well as a panel of judges (Jan Aanstoos, Gerry Andersen, Lila Daniels, Leif Mortensen and Maureen O'Sullivan), the evening flowed smoothly. Enlivening the event were the many hooting and howling unofficial judges and the gong master sitting in the back of the audience who brought his own gong. Laughter and enjoyment abounded throughout the night as comedians, singers, dancers, dramatists and musicians created a great show. A hardy round of applause goes to all entertainers: Gordon Stubbe, Anne Greenfield, John Everett, Linda Sauter and friends, Ken the Juggler, Delia Moon, Easton Stokes, Victor and Tara Daniels, Lois Pearlman, Nick Peck, Peter Stull, Shannon Killey, Javier Salmon, Lorenzo and Rafael, Jana, Patty, Ellen, April and friends, the Urethra Franklins, and Coley Glover and daughter Molly, the lovely First-place winners of the show.

Thanks to Bodega's great cooks the bake sale was also a success, as was the silent auction. Support for the Bodega Land Trust and its causes was apparent from the willingness of the more than 30 donors who provided gifts for the show. Money netted from the show will establish an endowment fund for BLT. Endowment funds are used to maintain, monitor and protect conservation easements. Donors of easements are sometimes asked to provide a monetary contribution to an endowment fund which can be used to protect their donation in perpetuity. On the other hand, endowment monies publicly gathered, such as from "The Gong Show", can help to serve this purpose.

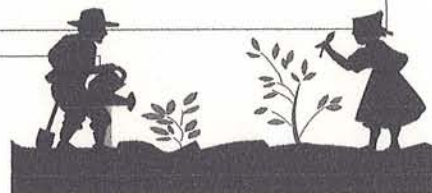
Bodega Land Trust wishes to express its deep appreciation to all who put together the best-ever Gong Show and to especially laud the enterprising and organizing talents of those most responsible for its creation: Annie Reis, gatherer of entertainment; Kooch Daniels, gatherer of prizes and baked goods; Tara Daniels, rumored to be the real force and rapid legwork that got the show going and gathered 22 of the 30 gifts; Rainbow Daniels, most-willing helper; Victor Daniels and Eric Menuez, emcees; and Anne Greenfield, liaison with the Fire Department and BLT.

Thank you for your generous donation of time and energy.



Board of Directors: Laird Sutton, President; Anne Greenfield and Gloria Molica, Vice-presidents; Sandy Sharp, Treasurer; Steve Killey, Secretary.

Newsletter Staff Editors: Anne Greenfield, Gloria Molica, Sandy Sharp
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