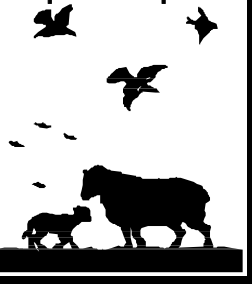




Bodega Land Trust



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*

"Big Trees" Easement Donated

By Sandy Sharp

Bodega Land Trust is very pleased to announce the donation of a "forever wild" conservation easement on approximately 17 acres of old growth and second growth redwoods on upper Joy Road. The property includes a creek that is part of the headwaters of Fay Creek, one of the most important tributaries of Salmon Creek. The property is owned by Don Sherer, a semi-retired lawyer from Palo Alto. His wife Joyce is an exceptionally talented artist.

The appraisal determined that there are approximately 700 redwoods on the property, many of which are old growth and old second growth. The easement prohibits the harvesting of redwoods, the subdivision of the property, any construction within the groves, and all commercial uses, while allowing low impact recreational uses such as hiking and nature study. The enhancement of the groves is encouraged by allowing the removal of non-native species and the planting of natives. The easement explicitly assigns all water rights not retained by the owner to the land trust for the purpose of maintaining maximum flow in Fay Creek. This will be of particular benefit to the salmonids whose spawning grounds were badly silted up in the 1980's.

A conservation easement not only benefits landowners by preserving their land as they want it to be in perpetuity, it also provided tax benefits. Since land trusts are 501(c)3 charities the appraised value of an easement that is donated counts as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes. The value of the property is reduced by the value of the easement, thus reducing the owner's property taxes as well. Last August Congress passed the Pension Protection Act, part of which allows an easement donor to spread his or her tax deductions over 15 years (see "Good Laws!" below), but the law expires at the end of 2007, so now is a good time to think about donating an easement! Thank you, Don and Joyce! 🌲



Photo: Sandy Sharp

Bodega Land Trust

PO Box 254, Bodega, CA 94922

For Information call (707) 876-3422 or (707) 876-1806

E-mail to: bodegalandtrust@bodeganet.com

www.bodeganet.com/BodegaLandTrust

Member: Land Trust Alliance

Salmon Creek Estuary Walk & Estuary Study

by Hazel Flett
Photos by Steve Killey, ©2006

In the quest to understand why there are no longer salmon in Salmon Creek, attention sometimes turns to the estuary. In a watershed that used to support coho salmon until the 1980s and which has a lot of good habitat, is it the estuary which is the problem? This question prompted the Salmon Creek Watershed Council to seek funds for an assessment of the estuary, and funds were provided by the State Coastal Conservancy in 2002 for a two year study. It was conducted by fish biologist Michael Fawcett, and hydrologist/geomorphologist Lauren Hammack of Prunuske Chatham Inc., environmental engineers.



In September 2005 Michael and Lauren led a walk at the estuary for the Bodega Land Trust. They talked about some of their findings so far and the questions they raise. We met at North Salmon Creek beach on a beautiful morning, but the picture they painted was somber.

Salmon Creek estuary was closed, as most California estuaries are in summer.

Beaches tend to build up in summer, then winter storms wash the sand away. In 2004 the mouth did not open until December 28, much too late for coho to go up. Steelhead come in later: January, February, March.

Michael thinks the estuary does not function as well for salmonids as it once did. It has probably been affected significantly by sedimentation. Currently it is a shallow system about five feet deep (only three feet under Salmon Creek Bridge). When the mouth is closed the water is stratified by salinity and temperature. The most saline layer is at the bottom, about three feet down; the top layer acts as a lens directing heat to the bottom, which heats up to 30 degrees C°. and has no oxygen. In 2004, a dry year, the estuary held little water, most of it was saline and there was nowhere for steelhead to go. The steelhead may have been coming down to the estuary for lack of water

upstream, due to drought and/or withdrawals of water from the creek. But the estuary was not a good place to be; it has very little woody debris for cover or shade, and the fish were easy prey for pelicans and cormorants.

Michael described how coho can disappear rapidly with a run of bad years. They have a three year life cycle. They spawn in December and January and go out to sea at one year; they return to spawn and die at three years. A bad year wipes out that age class; three consecutive bad years wipe out all age classes. Steelhead are less vulnerable; they go out to sea at different ages and return at different ages and they may spawn more than once.

The tidal range in the estuary is very small: only about three feet (when the mouth is open) whereas the range in the ocean is around nine feet. The estuary's ability to flush out sediment is very limited, partly because not enough water flows down the creek and, over time, too much sediment. A larger volume of water in the estuary before the rains gives more momentum when the rains start and more flushing action. Both the low flow and the excessive sediment reflect human activity.

The group crossed Highway 1 to look at the inland side of the estuary; we were now on the Carrington Ranch, bought by the Open Space District; Land Paths graciously allowed us access. We were able to compare what we saw with historical sources: an 1877 map and a 1941 aerial photo. The map depicts a much larger



tidal prism, including the flats by the creek. The photo shows an island and an open channel. A channel used to connect the freshwater ponds by the side of the valley. Side channels of the creek have been filled in by sediment, including sand and soil from the 1982 flood. Overall, considerable wetland habitat has been lost.

Prunuske Chatham Inc. is looking at restoring some habitat, for example, by opening up side channels, but they question whether enough water is entering the estuary to sustain juvenile salmon. Some years the creek is dry for a mile above the estuary, and NO water enters the estuary.

Lauren emphasized that what happens at the estuary depends a great deal on what is happening upstream. Salmon Creek Watershed Council's water monitoring program, plus PCI's work, has been checking water quality and flow at numerous sites. Withdrawals of water from the creek and human caused changes in groundwater level affect the flow of water in the creek at the estuary. Groundwater feeds the creek year round. Sedimentation obviously comes from upstream.

The Bodega Bay Public Utilities District (BBPUD) has wells above the estuary and when they pump water the groundwater level falls. All the shallow wells in the aquifer have this effect: wells in Bodega, Freestone and Occidental as well as Bodega Bay. The PUD's permit requires them to pump less in summer. More storage for BBPUD would help, so would any storage for water in upper parts of the watershed to keep more of the winter run-off and require fewer withdrawals in summer.

A flood plain for the creek would help store groundwater. If the creek cuts a deep channel, the groundwater level sinks to meet the channel. Storm flows move rapidly through incised channels; hence the water has no time to infiltrate. Downstream floods are more likely with incised channels. It would be good to have a groundwater recharge program, as Santa

Clara County does. A demonstration project could study natural recharge areas, varied according to soil, rock and vegetation differences. Grassland composition is a factor since perennial grasses hold as much water as forest, while annuals not surprisingly do not.

Storms are also characterized by high turbidity, which in Salmon Creek tends to stay high unusually long, for six to eight hours. The fine sediment clogs the gravel and also makes it hard for fish to see; it can reach lethal levels, clogging the salmonids' gills. Among the prime sources of these fine sediment are our rural roads and driveways. The road assessments offered by Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District and funded by California Department of Fish and Game are designed to address this problem.

Prunuske Chatham and the Watershed Council held two public meetings in March and May 2006 to present the findings of their study and make recommendations. Both meetings were well attended. Their report is available at their office in Occidental, at the Bodega Land Trust office, at Cup o' Mud coffee shop in Bodega and Roadhouse Coffee in Bodega Bay; it is also on the Web at

<http://www.bodeganet.com/landtrust/SC%20Estuary%20Final.pdf>. The authors of the report invite feedback, to Lauren Hammack at PCI, 874-0100 or lauren@pcz.com. The recommendations follow.



SALMON CREEK ESTUARY STUDY:

Enhancement Recommendations, June 2006

by Hazel Flett et al.

The full details of the recommendations and the complete study can be found at www.bodeganet.com/landtrust/SC%Estuary%20Final.pdf

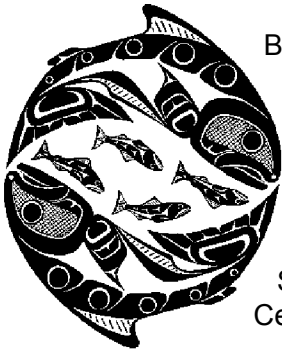
Recommendations

- 1) Enhance habitat diversity in the estuary to provide cooler temperatures, more foraging areas and cover for young steelhead. This includes installing small woody debris structures and possible restoration of side channels and pond connectivity.
- 2) Maintain sufficient freshwater flows to provide upstream rearing habitat, keep the sandbar open longer, and moderate salinity, temperature and dissolved
- 3) oxygen. This includes working on drawing from other sources during the summer, and establishing a water budget.
- 4) Reduce the amount of sediment entering estuary. Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for vineyards and livestock operations, repair of accelerated channel and upstream erosion, and sound management of unsurfaced roads and driveways will help.
- 5) Maintain high quality of incoming freshwater. This includes protecting and repairing grazed riparian areas.
- 6) Enhance upstream salmonid rearing habitat to provide alternatives to poor quality estuarine habitat.
- 7) Continue the biological and water quality monitoring in the estuary for at least 5 more years. These programs have currently been taken over by a volunteer group from Salmon Creek Watershed Council.
- 8) Install a USGS stream gauge at the upper end of the estuary as well as several additional flow monitors higher in the watershed.
- 9) Implement compelling education and outreach programs including
 - water conservation
 - BMPs for sediment control on ranches, horse facilities, vineyards and rural homes
 - reduction of stormwater runoff from roofs and other hard surfaces
 - stream dynamics—how stream channels adapt over time and how landowners can anticipate changes in the shape and location of their creeks
 - habitat needs for steelhead and coho salmon
 - Sudden Oak Death and land management to reduce fire danger
 - a primer on the Salmon Creek watershed for new residents
- 10) Integrate all of the current planning and restoration efforts into a coherent strategy for managing the Salmon Creek watershed to enhance and sustain viable salmonid runs.

Discovering the Salmon Creek Watershed

by Laura Duggan

The first of three educational events exploring the past, present and future of the Salmon Creek watershed took place on September 8. Despite the unexpected afternoon fog, a wonderful combination of children, adults and county dignitaries joined together for a picnic and a talk about the history of the land around the Salmon Creek areas.



Bodega Land Trust was one of the sponsors of this event, partnering with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, Salmon Creek School, and the leadership team for the planned Salmon Creek Ecology Center.

Several speakers, including Mike Reilly (County Supervisor), Richard Retecki (Program Manager for the State Coastal Conservancy) and Brock Dolman (ecologist with the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center), celebrated the history and critical role a watershed plays in the lives of its people. The featured speaker, Kathleen Harrison, provided a rich recounting of the watershed's history, starting with the original inhabitants some 8,000 years ago, when the local Miwok or Olamentco peoples established villages along the creek and where they may have lived until the late 1840s. Another highlight of the evening was student led tours of the campus, forest, and watershed.

Many people in the community stopped by the Bodega Land Trust table to find out more about what we do and why we do it. It was wonderful to point to the very activity they were attending as part of our work in community education. At the table next to ours, one of our sponsored projects, the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, had a huge map of the Salmon Creek Watershed area. And at the entrance to the event, there was a display of the plans for the new building to house the Salmon Creek Ecology Center. This center, of which Bodega Land Trust is a joint-use partner, will provide the

structure for many more educational programs in the future.

The importance of the work we are all doing together was well captured by a comment from one of the opening speakers. He commented on the beautiful setting of the school, surrounded by a grove of redwoods, and a now-flourishing section of Salmon Creek, with a strong program of ecology studies. He said, "The amazing thing is that the kids going to this school think this is normal." He went on to say how crucial it was that it does become the norm for schools everywhere in the county. The educational center will become a hub for the region in melding ecology with education. The goal of the school is to create a world-class environmental education program that will nurture a new generation of responsible and compassionate stewards, a program that emphasized the vital relationship between a school, its community, and the watershed that sustains and imbues their lives. The Friday picnic kicked off a public campaign to raise over three million dollars for the construction of the Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center, which has already received \$1.4 million in pledges.

When the children are immersed in the awareness of land as a sacred trust, the future of our planet will be that much more secure. Bodega Land Trust is proud to be supporting this major move forward in education.

A second all day event, Discovering our Watershed, will be held on Saturday, January 27, from 10 AM – 4 PM and will feature a series of presentations and walks by local naturalists.

A Walk for the Senses – The Sone Easement

by Norma Jellison

A group of Bodega Land Trust members and friends gathered one weekend morning in August, 2005 to share the experience of a walk on Madeleine Sone's property. Bodega Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the 42-acre property that includes parts of Redwood and Jonive Creeks. While the fog hugged the coast, this inland location is a West County delight, with warm breezes and lots of warm sunshine.

Madeleine greeted us in a meadow just across the one car bridge that enters the lower section of the property at Bodega Highway. She invited us to join her at her house midway through the hike for some history, overview and to answer questions.



We started the loop trail that circumnavigates the property on a flat section in the valley. We then climbed up through the dappled shade of second growth redwoods, complete with the babbling of Jonive Creek. The creek parallels the well maintained trail for much of the south side ascent, providing the music of water falling over rocks and logs in the creek bed, and adding to the coolness of the redwood understory. Bird songs were sporadic, but traces of turkey feathers testified that they were about. Hints of the late rains remained in the form of trillium leaves, the flowers long gone. Our taste buds were treated to ripe blackberries on the vine along much of the path, never reaching for us, but always within reach.

We passed what appeared to be rock walls and foundations in a meadow on an adjacent property. It turned out to be part of the local history – a California Conservation Corps) camp, further remains of which we would pass later on our descent. After reaching the top of the hill, we walked down to Madeleine's house situated in a lovely meadow with a beautiful view across to another hilltop, which we decided was probably on Sexton Rd.

We lingered a bit with Madeleine and learned of how she came to West Sonoma County and bought the property, only to have a logging company come knocking within days of purchase to cut down "their redwood trees." Luckily, the previous owner had never signed the contract, and Madeleine was able to stop that first attempt to log the redwoods. When the adjacent seven acres was threatened with logging, she bought that land as well. In the end,

she managed to buy and preserve 42 acres of redwoods. For many years the Sone land housed an intentional community, whose inhabitants walked lightly on the land. One marvel she shared with us was the magic of a pond she created herself. As she enthused "If you make ponds, the wildlife will come". Creating a series of ponds to lessen impacts of storm water runoff, Madeleine was delighted to report that the ponds were almost immediately populated with frogs and dragonflies. The ponds attract all manner of wildlife, which add to the joy of her walks on the land. Later came her favorites, a pair of wood ducks. While some of the ponds dry up, one is year round, where we were lucky to briefly see some wood ducks, although they were quick to swim for cover under some reeds.

All in all, the hike was a pleasant one, not too strenuous, full of delights for all the senses, and easily accessible for that spur of the moment decision to get out in nature. The trail is open to visitors. Parking is available on Furlong Road just off of the intersection of Bodega Highway. While she retains ownership, Madeline allows hikers to partake of her paradise, asking only that you respect her privacy and that of her tenants, that you tread lightly, and respect the trees, plants and wildlife that make it such a special place.

Walks and Talks 2006

by Hazel Flett

Photos by Steve Killey, ©2006

Jay Sliwa opened our spring 2006 series of walks and talks with a walk along Fay Creek, Bodega, one of the tributaries of Salmon Creek, on February 4. The Creek Flats where we walked are protected by a conservation easement held by Bodega Land Trust. They also contain a successful bank repair (willow wall and mattress) executed in 1999 by BLT volunteers supervised by Mike Jensen of Prunuske Chatham Incorporated, and also a reforestation project supported by Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. Jay showed us all this and more: steelhead habitat, a redd, shifting channels, fences to exclude

livestock. Jay has grown up near this creek and watches it in all seasons.

His walk formed the first event in a daylong combined effort between Bodega Land Trust and the Dodrill Gallery: "Hope in Restoration – a Tale of Two Creeks". In the afternoon Department of Fish and Game officers Bill Cox and Gail Seymour talked about salmonid habitat restoration in Salmon Creek and Lagunitas Creek (Marin County), and in the evening nature photographers Jerry Dodrill and Todd Pickering held an artists' reception to open an exhibition of



their photos of the two creeks. Restoration work is further along in Lagunitas Creek and this creek supports coho salmon as well as steelhead; Lagunitas is an inspiration to many of us in the Salmon Creek watershed.

Thank you Jay and Jerry for this fun event!

**Dodrill Gallery, 17175 Bodega Highway, Bodega. 876-1993*

Salmon Creek School Campus

In March we enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Salmon Creek School campus in Freestone. Victoria Johnston and John Parodi were our guides. Victoria is the project facilitator for the school's new Salmon Creek Falls Environmental Center, for which Bodega Land Trust is the Joint Use Partner. Building should begin in 2007. To quote from their brochure: "The Salmon Creek School is committed to teaching responsible stewardship through its special place in the watershed." Located between a coastal creek

and a redwood forest, the extraordinary 50-acre school site includes 30 acres of redwood forest and trails, an observation deck over Salmon Creek, restored perennial wetlands, a ½ acre school garden, and a native plant nursery.

Victoria guided us around all these locations and also settled us in the comfortable straw bale greenhouse to talk about the new center and to look at the architects' drawings. John, who is from STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring A Watershed), showed us the creek bank repairs he has worked on with some of the students.

We encourage you to visit the creek observation deck (during school hours call in at the school office first) and to donate to the capital campaign. The new building, besides giving the school a long-awaited cafeteria, will provide an assembly space for 100 people and meeting space for local environmental groups. It will be the first public K-8 school in the State to obtain Gold Certification from Leaders in Energy Efficient Design. The building fund has applied to the Office of Public School Construction, the State Coastal Conservancy and private donors large and small. Just in case you are wondering, most of this is not money that would be available for new textbooks, teachers' pay increases or other school operating costs.

**Victoria Johnston 874-2546
Harmony Union School District
874-1205*



Fern Grove Revisited

Fern Grove, Bodega, was the focus of one of our early walks (in 1999), when arborist Darrell Sukovitzen visited our much loved redwood grove, found many signs of over-use and resulting stress on the trees and initiated a program of protection for the ground and the trees and of education for the public.

His visit this April revealed many improvements: revegetation of the banks of a small creek running through the Grove, reduced compaction, allowing redwood sorrel to spread right to the edges of the paths, and (presumably) allowing the redwoods themselves to absorb moisture and nutrients more easily. The primary conduits for moisture and nutrients are the feeder roots, which grow into the duff on the forest floor. They cannot grow into heavily compacted soil, the result of too many trampling feet. The Grove has definitely benefited from being closed since 2001, but further recovery would be aided by mulching the most compacted areas of the forest floor. Darrell reminded his audience that it takes intensive effort to get things back once they are damaged. Rehabilitation is bound to be labor-intensive.



Despite the improvements overall the walk was sobering. Darrell found two new problems in the Grove. First Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is proliferating in the Grove. Bay is the host and will succumb eventually; brown and yellow spots on the leaves and easy breakage of limbs are two signs of the disease. Tan oak is very vulnerable to SOD. Both bays and oaks develop core rot; they fall over and break, revealing that the core of the trunk is mush. Redwood and fir are not affected by the disease, but can be hosts. It is especially important to maintain the health of the redwoods, because we may lose many oaks and bays from the forest. Sudden Oak Death will change (probably reduce) the food source of many animals; it may be an environmental disaster in the making.



Some tree cutters are spreading Sudden Oak Death by not disinfecting their tools with bleach or Lysol. Transport of tainted material is against federal law. Burning firewood with SOD is one use for it (and a way of disposing of it) but don't move the wood off site: that spreads the disease. The second problem which Darrell found was severe storm damage from our rainy winter. A washout on the path into the Grove and a mudslide at the back of the Grove brought several big trees down, delivered a great deal of sediment to Tannery Creek and threaten to deliver far more if trees which are listing also fall, further destabilizing the bank. Darrell emphasized safety concerns both about SOD trees likely to fall and about the mudslide. He advised intervention to minimize silting up of Tannery Creek, which may otherwise be so serious as to negate all the restorative action already taken on that creek.

*Darrell Sukovitzen, The Tree Climber pg 887-1017

Volunteer Programs

By Abby Meyer

The Bodega Land Trust depends on dedicated volunteers to conduct almost of all of its work. Though we are actively seeking funding for administrative and operational support, our aim is to include the community in all our affairs. We rely on volunteers to govern the land trust, monitor easements, conduct educational programs and raise funds. We extend our sincere thanks to all who have provided service for the land trust this year. We also extend an equally sincere invitation to all who would like to contribute to any of the following programs. And if you have any other ideas on how you can help, please don't hesitate to let us know!

Easement Management

One of the most important roles of the land trust is to ensure that the terms of each easement are being upheld. In keeping with the Land Trust Alliance's recommended practices, Bodega Land Trust monitors each easement every year. Volunteer monitoring teams visit the easement, equipped with camera, compass and pen, and check a series of photo points that were identified in its Baseline Study. Photographs are re-taken at defined points to provide proper evidence that the conditions are being met. Our program also provides evidence that we are keeping our end of the stewardship bargain by monitoring.

Happily, all of our easements are doing very well! Thanks are due to our conscientious easement donors who, in all cases, are as devoted as we are to ensuring good land stewardship.

2006 was the second year of an expanded volunteer program that included 27 new and veteran monitors. The second annual monitors training picnic was held at the Bodega Pastures in June. Good food, good weather, good information and Bodega Land Trust ball caps were offered. The volunteers divided up into teams and set forth to schedule and conduct the monitoring. All seem to enjoy the chance to visit the beautiful sites and participate in the work.

Thanks this year go to: Dan Arendt, Lynn Axlerod, Mary Biggs, Ben and Noel Bouck, Bob

Burke, Rob and Cie Cary, Nancy Conkle, Jerry Dodrill, Laura Duggan, Ellie Fairbairn, Karen Froiland, Britany Heck, Ann and Don Hines, Norma Jellison, Christy Juhasz, Darlene LaMont, Bob Nelson, Susie Nosker, Abby Myers, Karen Olson, Karen Saari, Sharon Sadler, Sandy Sharp (Mr. Monitor himself!), and Don Sherer.

Fundraising

And what would we do without all those who have and will help us with our fundraising events? We deeply appreciate all those tireless (well almost tireless) volunteers who organize volunteers and the food and wine, setup, clean up, find auction items and sponsors, and publicize our events. We are still looking for hors d'oeuvres providers and participants of all types to help put on our November 4 fundraiser at the Bodega Fire Hall at 5 PM. Don't miss it! We also need planners for our soon-to-be-announced SPRING fundraiser. Please contact Abby at 876-3093 if you'd like to help. It's fun!

Newsletter

Anyone interested in working on our next newsletter should also call Abby and tell her what you'd like to do. She's got a list going on.

Good Laws!

by Abby Myers

Land conservation is becoming more and more a part of our way of life, thanks to new and pending laws that support it. Here's information on how you might benefit as a landowner, and how you can help to promote important new conservation measures.

New:

Federal Law Gives Better Tax Break for Voluntary Conservation Easements

Congress passed the Pensions Protection Act on August 15, 2006 enhancing the tax benefits of protecting private land through donating a voluntary conservation easement. Section 1206 provides new incentives that make it easier for average Americans, including working family farmers and ranchers, to donate land. The legislation stipulates that:

- Conservation easement donors can deduct up to 50% of their adjusted gross income in any year;
- Qualifying farmers and ranchers (individuals or corporations who make more than 50% of their living from agriculture) can deduct up to 100% of their adjusted gross income.
- Donors can carry over deductions for their contribution for up to 15 years.

This provision will be effective for donations made from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2007. After that, the law will revert back to previous provisions unless Congress extends the provision prior to the deadline. It's a good time to donate an easement!

Pending:

Sonoma County Open Space, Clean Water and Farmland Protection Measure:

Measure F

On November 7, 2006, voters of Sonoma County will be asked to continue a quarter cent sales tax to fund the work of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOS D) through 2031. Voted into existence in 1990, the SCAPOS D has thus far protected 70,000 acres on 141 properties for future generations. Focusing on Greenbelts, community separators, scenic natural areas, farms and ranches, wildlife habitat and recreational areas, the District has protected the following lands in West Sonoma County:

- A total of 2000 acres in the **Laguna de Santa Rosa**
- Almost 3900 acres on **Willow Creek and the Coast**
- **The Grove of the Old Trees**, 26 acres
- 104 acres plus of land along the **Russian River**
- **Estero Americano Preserve**: 127 acres along the Estero Americano.

Long-term assurance of funding is important for SCAPOS D's effectiveness. Real estate transactions involving easements often take a long time – sometimes several years. To continue to take advantage of purchase opportunities, SCAPOS D must be able to guarantee prospective sellers that it has a consistent funding source. SCAPOS D only

purchases property and easements from willing sellers.

Bodega Land Trust supports the continued funding of SCAPOS D and we hope you will go out and vote YES ON MEASURE F!

For more information on SCAPOS D and Measure F please see the District Website at www.sonomaopenspace.org

Grants & Fundraising

by Abby Myers

In our ongoing efforts to build Bodega Land Trust's capacity to carry out our mission we have been working hard to obtain grants for a variety of projects. Successful grants that have been facilitated through Bodega Land Trust include:

- \$7900 from the Sonoma County fish and Wildlife Commission for **water quality monitoring equipment** for the Salmon Creek Watershed Council volunteer water quality monitoring project.
- \$1000 from the Furthur Foundation to transition the water quality sampling program from Prunuske Chatham's management to a wholly volunteer led program.

We hope to have positive responses in the fall for the following grant proposals:

- **Agricultural Best Management Practices: Implementation and Demonstration.** This \$ 525,000 proposal was submitted under the State Consolidated Grants program for agricultural water quality projects. We applied for funding to implement best management practices on a minimum of four agricultural properties, one in each of our surrounding watersheds (Salmon Creek, Bodega Bay, Estero Americano and Stemple Creek Watersheds). Our goal is to supplement funding for projects such as riparian and cross fencing, erosion control and road improvements, and to use these projects to educate and encourage others to do the same. In the process we will encourage agricultural

producers to understand and consider agricultural easements as a tool for sustaining agriculture in our area.

- **Habitat Positive Landscapes:** This \$82,000 proposal to the California Fish and Game Department is for a two-year program to provide educational materials and advice to local nurseries about the benefits of landscaping with non-invasive, native plant species.
- **Salmon Creek Estuary Structures:** This \$ 105,000 project implements recommendations made in the recently published document *Salmon Creek Estuary: Study Results and Enhancement Recommendations* prepared by Prunuske Chatham, Inc. for the Salmon Creek Watershed Council and the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (see related article). Large woody debris structures will be installed in the Estuary in order to provide severely needed shelter for juvenile steelhead and, we hope, coho salmon.

All of the above projects further our mission to promote wise land use through education and the restoration of habitat. We are continually (and fervently) on the look out for general operating funds as well. These funds help to keep our office staffed for taking care of the day-to-day aspects of administration, funding research and easement management. Please let us know if you have any ideas, help or money to offer! Your help is so appreciated and needed!

IN HONOR OF RUTH BURKE

We are very pleased to announce that
Nancy T. Conzett has donated \$100
in honor of Ruth Burke

**The Paula Lane Property in West
Petaluma**
– one step closer to permanent open space



Watershed

Laura Gildart Sauter

Be still. You can feel it – spreading out from
Around you, up into the hills – those supple chasms,
The tracks left in the earth by water, running.
Over and over I see it, the pattern
Of branching and splitting, or, to return,
The joining and weaving and braiding.
The desire of water repeated
In the palm of my hand, in the growth
Of a tree, in the long generations
Before us and after, flowing forward.
In the crumpled canyons of leaves I can
See it: the determination of water
To return to its source – some final
Ocean where it will meet all of itself.
In the mute geography of your body
I can see it: the confluence of slow veins
And arterial pulsing flowing out and returning always
To the surge of the heart's ruby basin.
Sitting in the white anaesthetized corridor
I willed its persistence, "beat, beat" the whole
Weight of me pulling the tide of your blood
Along interior rivers, driving the floodwaters
Through silt-choked channels. For a moment
I lifted my head and I heard it:

The distant sound of the sea.

This poem was previously published in *The Dickens*

by Susan Kirks

When members of the Paula Lane Action Network, known as P.L.A.N. in Petaluma, approached the Bodega Land Trust Board of Directors in 2002 for assistance, the Board listened - and said yes. The Trust would fiscally

sponsor P.L.A.N. while it awaited its 501(c)3 determination from the IRS. P.L.A.N. is a large group of homeowners and residents in West Petaluma who organized to work toward preservation of a key piece of land in a wildlife corridor that, if developed, would have inevitably led to the demise of many wildlife species, a property with wetlands characteristics, and loss of one of the few remaining open space areas in West Petaluma.

The property, located at Paula Lane and Sunset Drive in West Petaluma, is a centerpiece in one of the county's earliest agricultural neighborhoods and includes a late 1800s farmhouse. The 11.22 acre land is made up of grasslands with clustered trees and is a very rich foraging area for raptors, including white-tailed kites, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks, and kestrels. It has also long been habitat for the American Badger. Other nocturnal species thrive in the quiet dark evening life, where there are very few streetlights and noise is at a minimum in this urban-to-rural transition area.

In the winter, migratory birds like the Great Blue Heron and Snowy Egret take up residence. A swale on the land has wetlands characteristics with three identified wetlands plant species. So in winter and spring, the area is a virtual paradise for bird and wildlife watchers.

Preservation of the land through an open space acquisition was the goal. In May of 2002, 2nd District County Supervisor Mike Kerns visited with the neighborhood and also visited the property. Afterwards, he offered his support for an open space acquisition if the development proposal that was in process was not successful. With the assistance of consultant Joan Vilms of Santa Rosa, the group quietly and constructively pursued its goal. In the Summer of 2005, the developer had not renewed his contract with the property owners, and the land went back on the market.

On 9/11/06, the Petaluma City Council, through a Resolution introduced by Council members Mike Healy and Mike Harris, agreed that this property is worthy of preservation. The Resolution was passed unanimously by the City Council. City staff indicated the Paula Lane property owners have now expressed interest in pursuing an application for possible sale to open

space. The Paula Lane matching grants application, along with two other property applications, is planned to be submitted when the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District begins accepting new applications.

For more information on the Paula Lane Action Network, or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact: Susan Kirks, 707-773-3215, or skypasture@aol.com.

A New Love

Laura Duggan

I have fallen in love with her –
her curves so sensuous,
her unexpected valleys,
her surprising pools of water,
her absolute surrender for whatever needs
arise:

roads
food for cattle,
she gives herself completely.

If her peaks were more majestic
or her colors more vibrant,
I might be too awestruck to claim her as
my love.

Some don't love her nakedness –
vast hills without trees, brown in the summer,
But I love her just as she has become –
This sacred land.

FIRESCAPING: Creating fire-resistant landscapes, gardens, and properties in California's diverse environments

by Douglas Kent, Wilderness Press, 2005

Since 1990, 53 lives and 11,000 structures were lost to wildfires in California. Living as I do at the dead end of a Sonoma County country road, I take heart reading this practical informative fire safety and planning guidebook. Kent's book informs us that wildfires in California are nearly an inevitability throughout the state but that through awareness and thoughtful preplanning and of course the usual requirements of time and effort, you and I can prepare for and accommodate wildfire.



12,000 years ago, man was managing fire in the landscape. Many were started by lightning but California's original inhabitants also intentionally ignited the grasslands, forests, or chaparral into flames.

Sometimes burning an area made travel easier or a fire might be set to encourage the proliferation of desirable grasses and herbs or basket making plant materials. Fires were set to drive insects or game into traps or collection areas. Regular burning created park like environments and wildfires were less severe.

Wildfire became a threat when landscape became a commodity starting shortly after California's gold rush. Starting around 1880 as fires threatened "resources", all effort was directed toward fighting fire and as a result California's older landscapes have been without benefit of fire for decades, which has created massive fuel loads. This, along with weather phenomena and other characteristics causes California to be called "the hot state". However, enlightened understanding of fire is newly aligned with today's economic trends. Wise fire management preserves tourist dollars, home and property values, and nature. This thinking is beginning to be supported by insurance companies. Folks with firescaped gardens and fire resistant buildings are rewarded with lower rates.

Kent's FIRESAPING is a detailed and practical guidebook for home and community safety in the event of a wildfire. This book tackles big questions such as when debris on a forest floor is helpful and when it isn't, and it offers simple starting points for negotiating a firescaping plan with your family, neighborhood and community. This book focuses on California, breaking it down into three basic types of landscape with firescaping issues, solutions and guidelines for all of us who live in this fire prone state. My ridgetop home is in an extreme fire risk situation; Chapter V was filled with graphic helpful suggestions for supportive firescaping pruning and plantings and even provided strategy to assist firefighters!

Issues dealt with in this book include suggestions for management and materials, outbuildings and fences, pruning and clearing, and removal of old undergrowth. Water management is also thoroughly examined. These guidelines are easily understood and go on to include matching water usage with perennial plantings, and irrigating to seasonal water availability. I found a "Watering times" chart helpful as was a large section addressing drip irrigation and even soaker hose pros and cons. I liked the designs for emergency water delivery systems that can incorporate sprinklers on the roof and utilize hot tub and pool or pond water resources. Water storage tanks can be made connector ready for firefighting equipment. Chapters are devoted to year round firescape maintenance (I found a great seasonal pruning chart) and practical emergency preparedness, erosion control after a fire, and closing chapter outlines what to do during a fire and how to be ultimately prepared for such an event.

This book contains essential information, is a good read and belongs in every California home.

Reviewed by Lorene Warwick

Bodega Land Trust Annual Fundraisers 2005 and 2006

By Hazel Flett

Bodega Land Trust Annual Fundraiser 2006 is coming right up: Saturday, November 4 5pm at Bodega Fire Hall. This year it takes a different form: we decided to separate the dinner from the auction. It felt last year as if the hall was bursting at the seams with an abundance of good energy, but we needed a

change. The November 4 event will be a silent auction and social, with appetizers, desserts, wine and coffee. There will be music and plenty of room to move around, socialize and bid on auction items – while still having plenty of seating available, and lots to eat. The sit-down dinner, or perhaps a dinner dance, will happen in late winter or early spring at a different location. (More information soon).

You are urged to buy your tickets in advance for the November 4 fundraiser: in Bodega at the Dodrill Gallery, Hamilton Trading Company or from the BLT office (behind the Dressmaker) and in Occidental at Hand Goods. You may also buy them by mail (Box 254, Bodega, CA 94922). Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, and \$5 for children under 12. Join us for a fun evening of raising money to protect land and support Bodega Land Trust goals.

As for last year's event, it was our best attended and most financially successful yet. We have thanked each donor and volunteer individually, and again give public acknowledgement to our generous donors and hard-working volunteers.



***Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who gave donations to our 2005
Dinner and Auction:***

Chester Aaron * Altered Images * Artisana * Artisans' Coop * Auric Blends * Belladonna
The Bicycle Factory * Kathy Biggs * The Boathouse * Bodega Bay Kayak * Bodega Bay Lodge Bodega Goat
Cheese * Bodega Pastures Sheep * Eli Bynum * California Academy of Sciences Ann Cassidy * Cinnabar Arts
Corporation * Copperfields Books * Crane Canyon Cellars * Cup 'O Mud * Dinucci's * Jerry Dodrill Photography *
The Dressmaker * East West Café * Earthchild Fiesta Market * Hazel Flett * Forestville Veterinary Hospital *
Forgetmenot * Frizelle Enos G & G Market * Ellen Galford * Galleria * Global Village * Gourmet au Bay * Gourmet
Mushroom * Jim Grant * Hamilton Trading Company * Hand Goods * Happy Woman Jewelry Harbor View Gifts *
Harmony Farm Supply * Hat in Hand * Amie Hill * Barbara Hoffman Pottery * Iron Horse Vineyards * Just Living
* Laura Kello * King Hwa Chinese Restaurant Libby Kirk * Laguna Farm * Laguna Veterinary Hospital * Landmark
Studio * Local Color Gallery * Lucy's Restaurant * Many Rivers * Martha's Old Mexico Restaurant * Mexico Lindo
Mom's Apple Pie * Gloria Molica * Will Morris 'Sweep for Hire' * Joan Mortenson * Mostly Natives Nursery *
Naturlich Flooring * The Navigator * Edie Nelson * Northern Light Surf Shop * Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
* Occidental Massage * Osmosis Enzyme Bath & Massage * Pastures Preschool * Roberta Paskos * People's Music *
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Karen Saarinen * Sharon Sadler * Sandpiper Seafood Restaurant * Santa Rosa Symphony Sea Cliff Designs *
Seaweed Café * Sebastopol Hardware Center * Screamin' Mimis
Charles Sellers * 6th Street Playhouse * Carol Sklar * Slice of Life * Sonoma Gourmet Sonoma County Library
Association * Sonoma County Repertory Theater * Fred Stasek Stillwater Cove Ranch * Laird Sutton * John Swift
Jr. ceramicist * Linda Tiller * Toy Works Trader Joe's * Traditional Medicinals * Trish's Dishes * Union Hotel *
Valley Ford Hotel Valley Ford Market * Scott van Cleemput Photography * Vintage Gardens* Lorene Warwick
Photography * Katrina Weaver * Whole Foods * Wild Flour Bread * Willowood Market Café Windwalker Designs
* Wooden Duck

I would like to join or continue my membership at: _ \$20 _ \$50 _ \$100 _ \$500 _ Other

Please mail to: B.L.T., PO Box 254, Bodega, CA 94922

Make checks payable to: Bodega Land Trust

All donations are tax-deductible

I am interested in being involved as:

- ☐ an interest group participant
- ☐ an advisor
- ☐ a Board member
- ☐ an occasional volunteer
- ☐ other

Thank you to our faithful volunteers:

Javier Salmon and Cuyuy for the music

John Everett for being auctioneer

Betsy Mundell, Roberta Paskos and Beth Tractenberg for helping get auction items

River and Joan Mortenson and Judith Volkart for setting up the auction

Norma Jellison and Peggy Shannon for cashiering

Cathi Bruton, John Bruton, Troy Ortega and Cody Reis for hall preparation and set up

Jay Sliwa and Alyssum Cowley for table decoration with native plants

Jill Davidson and Scott van Cleemput for shopping

Nick Peck and Barbara Peterson for choosing the menu and heading up the kitchen crew, who were Matthew Burnham, Cathi Bruton, Alyssum Cowley, Gloria Molica, Betsy Mundell, Tess Pohlman, Mary Rich, Jay Sliwa, Sandy Sharp and Sally Smith

Ann Cassidy, Anne Greenfield, Ann Hines, Patti Karlin, Buffy Menuetz, Satri Pencak, Tara Rodriguez, Sandy Sharp, Mary Sheila Smith, Peter Stull and Lorene Warwick for bringing hors d'oeuvres and desserts

Steve Killey for serving the wine

Laura Bennett, Les Kamens and Kelly Michalec for clean-up

Benedicta Justine and Marie Stokes for supervising the servers

And for serving the dinner: Madison Arndt, Brian Bennett, Lucy Bennett, Cheyenne Daleiden, Kaiya Daleiden, Jessica Dickerson, Cody Harlan, Harry Miller, Maddie Newman, Martin Newman, Isha Zoog



In This Issue

Results of the Salmon Creek Estuary Study



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Bodega Land Trust

Invites you to our

Tenth Annual Silent Auction

Wine, Hors d'Oeuvres, Desserts, Coffee

Saturday, November 4 from 5:00 PM

The Fire Hall, Bodega

Local Musicians

Adults: \$15 advance, \$20 at the door*; under 12 \$5.00

*Includes souvenir glass and first taste

Tickets available at, Hamilton Trading Co., Dodrill Gallery and the BLT office in Bodega; Hand Goods in Occidental; or send a check to BLT, PO Box 254, Bodega, CA 94922. For info, call 876-3093

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