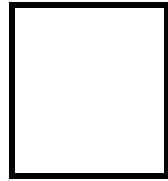




**YOLO LAND TRUST**  
P.O. Box 1196  
Woodland, CA 95776

Phone: 530.795.3110  
Fax: 530.795.3220



**THE YOLO LAND TRUST MISSION**

To preserve and protect the agricultural open space and habitat lands of Yolo County.



*Support Your Land Trust  
...help us do more!*

The Yolo Land Trust would like to welcome new supporters and thank all of the individuals and organizations who have been supporting our work over the years. Your contributions are critical to our continuance. We greatly appreciate all donations.

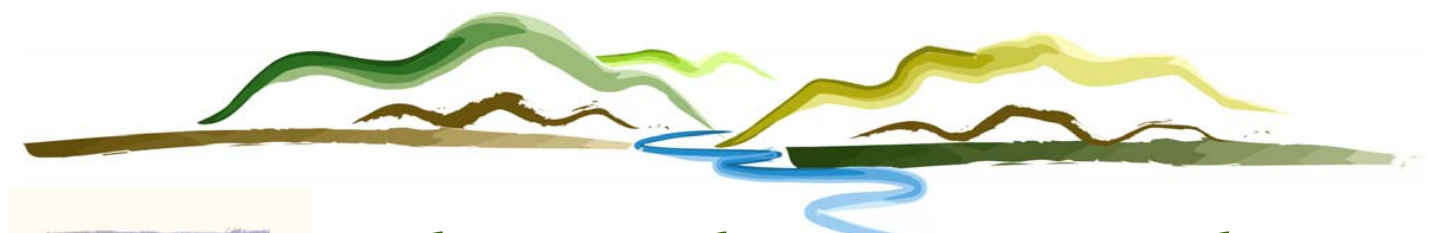
If you would like to renew your support or join us for the first time, please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- \$35
- \$75
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other

*Thanks!*

Please make your checks payable to the **Yolo Land Trust**.  
*The Yolo Land Trust is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.*  
*All contributions are tax deductible, to the extent allowed by the IRS guidelines.*



# Yolo Land Trust Newsletter

## Why I'm Involved by Peter Hunter, YLT Vice President

It is impossible to travel around the Central Valley, and Yolo County in particular, and not be struck by the richness and beauty of the environment. There are few places in the world where the unique combination of soil, water and temperature come together as they do here to produce a breadbasket that feeds millions. And just beyond the lushness of rice fields, just above the sweet scent of freshly cut alfalfa, the Blue Ridge Mountains provide a sharp horizon as the sun sets, as do the Sierra Nevada Mountains when the sun rises. This is God's country to be sure.



*Irrigated Yolo County Farmland*

It is equally impossible not to be struck by the relentless march of development, both residential and commercial, across that environment. Perhaps it is because I was raised on a farm and my life is centered in agriculture that I feel the loss as each new subdivision, and each new shopping center take from that environment. For many years I bore witness to the changes going on around me, feeling mostly helpless to protect that which I held so close to my heart. I then became aware of an organization that sought to protect the unprotected.

It is a rare event when an individ-

ual can participate in an activity that has a direct and tangible impact on the world around him. Yet this is exactly

how I feel about taking an active role in the Yolo Land Trust. It is incredibly energizing to be among people who share my concerns, who appreciate the intrinsic value of land and agriculture as a fundamental truth of society. Month after month we grapple with issues of land preservation, often cast in adversarial contexts with developers, land owners, and government. It frustrates me, as I'm sure it does other board members, that such a simple concept as preserving the very core of our economy — agriculture — can be so difficult. Yet we persist and three or four times a year we close an easement and chock up a few more acres preserved for agriculture in perpetuity. That's when I know I'm in the right place at the right time with the right organization.

\*\*\*

**“I spent 45 years developing this land into a sustainable, holistic property. What good is all that if, when I die, it all changes? If I don't protect it, I've wasted my time.”**

**—Sid Greenlow, Rancher**



## YOLO LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 1196  
Woodland, CA 95776  
Phone: 530.795.3110  
Fax: 530.795.3220  
www.yololandtrust.org

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Muller President  
Peter Hunter Vice Pres.  
Mary Kimball Secretary  
Marsha Anderson Treasurer  
Suzanne Ashworth  
Ken Giles  
Dan Hrdy  
Richard Jenness  
Kent Lang  
Greg Merwin  
Casey Stone  
Charles Tyson

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kathryn Kelly

### COUNSEL

Harry Pollack

### ADVISORY BOARD

Patty Bogle  
Ann Brice  
Mike Campbell  
John Carbahal  
Duane Chamberlain  
Paul Deering  
Peter Faye  
Antonio Fernandez Jr.  
Alan Flory  
Phil Hogan  
Greg House  
Russ Lester  
Jeff Loux  
Dona Mast  
Kathie Merwin  
Eric Paulsen  
Lynnel Pollock  
Henry Rodegerdts  
Richard Rominger  
Dave Rosenberg  
David Scheuring  
John Stephens  
Dennis Stewart  
Cass Sylvia  
Helen Thomson  
Ken Trott  
Joe Turkovich  
Tony Turkovich  
Erik Vink  
Bob Wirth  
Lois Wolk

## BOARD NEWS

### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

#### Casey Stone

Casey joins YLT with a B.S. degree in Business Administration from CSU Chico and over a decade of experience as a partner with the Yolo Land & Cattle Co., for which he is also a Vice-President. He has served as President of the Yolo County Farm Bureau and is a current member of the Yolo County Economic Development Committee. Casey resides in Winters with his wife, Angela, and children, Keeley and Wilson



#### Charles Tyson

Charles comes to us with one heck of a track record. He's managed to get 16 square blocks of downtown San Diego designated as a historical site. As a regional President of Ducks Unlimited, he once raised more money for conservation than any other community in the United States. Charles has conserved land for both recreational use and for habitat preservation, most recently turning the Las Lagunas property in Davis into a benchmark for other land restoration projects in the area.



#### OUTGOING: Paul Deering Founding Board Member. With YLT over 16 years.

One of many lessons learned: Choose Board Members and officers that you'd want to volunteer for. For me that means people I respect. Most of us can count on our two hands the people we have known who we truly respect - two of mine were founding Board Members of the Yolo Land Trust.

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear YLT Members,

As I write this, early December storms are plying the fields of Yolo county with soft nourishing rains – how very welcome they are. With rain, the fields grow quiet. With short days and low light, the work of making sunlight into sweetness is forgotten. Walnuts, almonds, prunes and grapevines drop their leaves, release their weight and slip into slumber. The energy of a season past is stored deep within wood and root. Field crops like alfalfa are dormant, others are gone altogether. Uncultivated edges and hill-sides turn velvety green as seeds, lying quietly in wait, sprout to assert their place in Nature's successions.

It is a time when migratory birds come to nest and feed in the bypass or perch on posts and wires along any county road. Mice move inside and take up residence in cozy places like my pantry or pickup's glovebox. Farmers also move inside, tabulating, planning and repairing in order to be ready when springtime arrives. Unlike the time and speed at which we can now move from one place to the next, or how quickly we can access and manipulate information, or the time it takes to communicate with someone far away, nature's time is wondrously perfect – unhurried.

There is a wisdom in this that should be recognized. Good land, for example, when gifted with benign climate and clear water will grow food season after season if well tended... but will grow that

food based on nature's time and logic. A ripe and nutritious tomato may be nurtured or bred to mature faster but still requires sunlight, moisture and time. The chill needed by certain trees for fruitfulness, the trigger in spring to break bud and make leaves, or the cold and rain that help those leaves fall are all examples of nature's good sense.

Preserving farmland and habitat lands within Yolo County is an act that recognizes this wisdom and understands that the resources that feed us will feed our children's children if we make the choice to be good stewards and keep those resources productive. If we truly are stewards of the future, we should take a broad look at all of the many pieces that fit together in a timeless logic of bird and



field; of river, rain, fish and crop; or of farmer/worker, skill and infrastructure, and apply tools that balance production/conservation with permanence.

We can start with "Preserving and protecting Yolo County's farmland and habitat lands" -- the mission of the Yolo Land Trust. Support our efforts to develop the tools of permanent, defensible land protection, and in turn celebrate with us the gift of early December rains.

Paul Muller, President

### THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

#### Why do you serve on the YLT Board?



I have lived and worked in many other areas of the country, in agricultural areas, and I know that not only is the Central Valley a truly amazing agricultural resource that should not be lost, but in Yolo County we have a unique blend of many old-time farming families, the University of California campus – the "hot-bed" of organic and sustainable farming – and a population that seems to really support agland preservation, on the whole.  
– Mary Kimball

#### What do you want YLT to accomplish while you are on the Board?

To protect agriculture in Yolo County and help to educate those who believe that the efforts of the Land Trust are just to preserve open space for habitat and visual pleasure rather than to assist in sustaining an industry which has been and will continue to be a key ingredient in the economic success of this country.  
– Richard Jenness

The Homer Simpson answer: I would like it if our board could afford to eat dinner at every meeting. Currently, we have limited options: 1) pilfer snacks out of the Farm Bureau refrigerator when Denise steps out, 2) rely on charity from board members, or 3) culls from Paul's packing shed.

### YL T PROJECT REPORT

In the past eighteen months, the Yolo Land Trust completed several mitigation easements for the City of Woodland's Spring Lake specific plan. As a result, 220 acres of new easements now permanently protect land for agricultural use and Swainson's Hawk foraging.

Four other agricultural conservation easements are expected to be completed within the next year that will protect an additional 1200 acres or so in the Woodland, Madison and Capay Valley areas.

On the policy front, YLT has worked with the Yolo County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on revisions of their agricultural mitigation policy, in particular addressing

the issue of home sites on mitigation easements.

Kathryn Kelly, YLT's Executive Director, participated in the formation of the California Council Land Trust (CCLT) statewide organization representing land trust and conservation issues and she is honored to serve on their board of directors.

Numerous other projects are in development and will be reported as they become more firm.

\*\*\*

The serious answer: We are a well-kept secret in the county. I would venture that most urban residents have never heard of YLT, and they certainly don't know what role it plays in the county's future. I would like to see our visibility increase dramatically through press releases and general media interest.  
– Casey Stone

\*\*\*