



Yolo Land Trust Newsletter

Summer 2007

Spring Projects Underway

April brought a bounty of potential new projects for the Yolo Land Trust.

We are actively working on about 1,000 acres of farmland easements that are in various stages of acquisition; if all the projects brought forward to us over the last two months come to fruition, we will have the opportunity to protect thousands more acres of significant resource lands -- predominately farm, ranch and oak woodland.

In January, Yolo County adopted its Oak Woodland Conservation and Enhancement Plan. This opens up the door to a potentially significant new funding source for conservation transactions in the county.

YLT is spearheading an effort to define how the cities and the county of Yolo might be able to transfer development rights from rural areas to the cities and enhance farmland preservation.



A Time of Transition

The spring season brought several transitions to the Yolo Land Trust. Longtime Executive Director Kathryn Kelly took on a position as Economic and Planning Manager for the City of Winters and three new members, Val Dolcini, Kathy Ward and Dan Clawson, joined the YLT Board of Directors.

Kathryn accomplished much in her eight years with the Yolo Land Trust, including securing 25 conservation easements totaling 4,900 acres of farmland, habitat and open space. She also leveraged \$422,000 in contributions into more than \$8.8 million in conservation easements and more than \$938,000 for other land trust programs.

"Kathryn has shepherded YLT from a loose group of farmers and conservation-minded citizens sitting around a coffee table to an effective, vibrant organization that is highly regarded throughout the region," says Board President Peter Hunter.

The Board of Directors would like to thank Kathryn for all her hard work and wishes her all the best in her new endeavor.

Yolo Land Trust Project Manager Deborah North has taken on the role of YLT Interim Executive Director while board members conduct a search for a permanent Executive Director.

"Debbie's infectious smile and hard-working drive is carrying the organization forward scarcely missing a beat," Peter says. "We are extremely lucky to have Debbie step into that role."

Yolo Land Trust is also pleased to welcome Val, Kathy and Dan to the Board of Directors.

Val is a fifth-generation Californian with deep roots in Yolo County. He currently manages all government relations activities in the western



VAL DOLCINI



KATHY WARD



DAN CLAWSON

"YLT is forging ahead with new projects and new energy."

-- YLT Board President Peter Hunter

TRANSITIONS

U.S. for Accenture LLC, a global consulting firm. Previously, he served as the State Executive Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency and before that he was Congressman Vic Fazio's district Chief of Staff. Val recently served as Chairman of the Yolo Basin Foundation Board of Directors and he currently sits on the Sutter Davis Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. He lives with his wife and son in Davis.

Kathy grew up on a ranch in Baker, Oregon, where she raised cattle, horses, hay, wheat, barley, peas, sugar beets and potatoes. She is employed at Seminis Vegetable Seeds in Woodland, where she is director of R & D Finance and Operations. She is responsible for overseeing resources in more than 16 countries involving all aspects of vegetable research including facility construction, farming, greenhouse and laboratory operations. She has served on the Board of the Woodland United Way and the Highway 16 Safety Task Force. She and her husband, Harold, live in Woodland.

Dan is currently a senior vice president/chief credit officer with Sacramento Valley Farm Credit. Sacramento Valley Farm Credit is a lending organization headquartered in Yolo County that has more than \$700 million in loans to local farmers. Dan grew up in Red Bluff and attended college at University of California, Santa Barbara. He has over 20 years of experience in agriculture and agricultural lending. Dan and his wife live in Folsom with their two children.

"YLT is forging ahead with new projects and new energy," Peter says. "This is an exciting time and an exciting organization."

"Art Farm" Bounty to Benefit YLT

Art and Agriculture, a project designed to foster a connection between local artists and farmers, will this year include an event benefiting the Yolo Land Trust.



"Art Farm," an art auction featuring Yolo County farm landscapes by local artists, will kick off during Slow Food Yolo's Village Feast on Aug. 25 at the Davis Farmers' Market. Artwork will be on display at the Davis Art Center throughout the month of September. Each piece will measure 12"-by-12" and will be on sale for \$150. The artwork will be sold, or "harvested," Saturday, Sept. 29, at a gala to be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Proceeds will go toward Yolo Land Trust's farmland preservation efforts.

Organic farmer Annie Main, of Good Humus in

the Capay Valley, created Art and Agriculture in April 2006 in the hopes of raising community awareness of the need for farmland preservation.

The program features monthly artist farm visits to various farms throughout Yolo County. It also includes bringing together art and agriculture in the classroom.

Art and Agriculture has grown in size and scope thanks to a partnership with the Davis Farmers' Market Foundation, the Davis Farm-to-School Connection and an Art Contract grant from the city of Davis.

For more information about the "Art Farm" or Art and Agriculture, contact Abby Rubenstein at (530) 908-4015 or at abigailrubenstein@charter.net.

A Day in the Country at the Harlan House

Auction items sought for September 9 event

Now's the time to start thinking about silent auction items for A Day in the Country.

Donations of farm, food or wine experiences, tours or educational items, tickets to major local attractions, original creations and unique offerings will be greatly appreciated!



Yolo Land Trust

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www.yololandtrust.org



THE YOLO LAND TRUST MISSION

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

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deborah North

Update on Charlie's Fund

The Yolo Land Trust and the Rominger family are deeply touched by the outpouring of support for the Charlie Rominger Farmland Preservation Fund. Friends from all around the world have donated \$75,000 to date.

YLT is exploring various opportunities to honor Charlie's wish to contribute towards a significant farmland preservation transaction.

"Recall that whatever lofty things you might accomplish today, you will do them only because you first ate something that grew out of dirt."

-- Barbara Kingsolver

Support the Yolo Land Trust

...help us preserve farmland and natural areas in Yolo County!

The Yolo Land Trust is thankful for all the individuals and organizations who have supported our work over the years and warmly welcomes new supporters. If you would like to renew your support or join us for the first time, please fill in the information below.

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$75 \$50 \$35 other

YLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowable by IRS guidelines.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

I would like to be contacted to discuss conservation options for my property

I'm interested in learning about volunteer opportunities

Please make your check payable to the Yolo Land Trust
Return form to: Yolo Land Trust, P.O. Box 1196, Woodland, CA 95776

A Day in the Country

The finest restaurants in the area will come once again to Yolo County, to create unique dishes from local produce. Taste the connection between farm and chef at this year's Harlan Ranch location.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

tickets at: www.yololandtrust.org

sponsorships available:
contact debbie@yololandtrust.org

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The Yolo Land Trust

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