

# YOLO LAND TRUST



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Protecting Yolo County land for over 20 years.

SPRING/SUMMER 2008

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Walnut-line road at Elkhorn Basin Ranch



Hayes' farm fields



Bargers' riparian corridor

## A Message from Our President Casey Stone

Greetings folks! What a monumental and exciting year 2008 has been! With a new Executive Director, Conservation Director, office space, and more projects than we can shake a large stick at, YLT is experiencing incredible growth. Our current success is the direct result of years of support from donors, board members, landowners, advisers, and hard-working staff. As we celebrate our 20th year of existence, let us reflect not only on past accomplishments, but also on future goals. Preserving Yolo County's most precious natural resource was the core mission of YLT when it was founded in 1988, and that mission still guides us today. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to continue such a noble cause.

## Spring Brings Success and Challenges to the Yolo Land Trust

The early months of 2008 have brought extraordinary advancements for the Yolo Land Trust. With the help of concerned landowners and dedicated supporters like you, the land trust has secured two significant conservation easements in recent months and have many more planned.

"This is a highly exciting time in the history of our organization," says Casey Stone, President of the Yolo Land Trust Board of Directors. "We have an unprecedented volume of projects and interest from landowners, but it also presents a challenge, as we seek creative ways to build staff and board capacity, while still providing quality service."

Stone says every aspect of the organization is being evaluated and expanded to

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## New Staff and New Office for YLT

### Boshoven Named Executive Director, North Promoted to Conservation Director

The new year brought new leadership to the Yolo Land Trust. With more than 20 years of experience promoting open space preservation, habitat restoration and the protection of natural and cultural resources, Judith Boshoven was named Executive Director by the Yolo Land Trust Board of Directors.

Although Boshoven has spent the last several years working and teaching in Chile and Argentina, she is well known to local conservationists. From 1999 to 2003, she served as the founding Director of the Landowner Stewardship Program at Audubon California. There she assisted landowners in conserving



Deborah North  
Conservation Director

Judith Boshoven  
Executive Director

and restoring habitat on their properties, including wetlands, riparian habitats, oak woodlands and grasslands.

"With two young children and family living in the county," Boshoven says, "I have a personal stake in helping to assure that future generations have the same benefits that I did

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accommodate the new growth.

"Our board members and staff have risen to the occasion, and I'm very pleased with the direction we're headed," he says.

### The Barger Easement: Preserving Farmland and Habitat

The land trust's most recent project is important not only because it preserves valuable farmland, but also because it includes crucial riparian habitat.

The Barger easement consists of 80 acres on County Road 30 at Dry Slough between County Roads 98 and 99. The easement preserves farmland as well as a riparian corridor on both sides of Dry Slough.

"This project is in a strategic location between Davis and Woodland, along an important waterway and part of a growing block of easements what Yolo Land Trust holds in that area," says Debbie North, conservation director for the land trust.

The project is being funded by the City of Davis with mitigation money set aside from the Wildhorse housing development. The City of Davis and Yolo Land Trust are co-holders of the easement and the land trust is responsible for annual monitoring and record-keeping responsibilities.

Mitch Sears, open space coordinator for the City of Davis, says the Barger easement meets the city's desire for projects that include farmland and habitat and help to piece together a greenbelt between the cities of Davis and Woodland. "This is a high-quality project because it meets many of our objectives," Sears says.

Paul Barger says the deal has been a win-win for his family. "This has allowed me to continue my farming operation," he says.

Barger plans to use proceeds from the sale of this easement to purchase a nearby property to develop into

a walnut orchard. The Bargers intend to then sell an easement on this second property to the Yolo Land Trust and the City of Davis to help finance improvements to the site.

### The Hayes Easement: A Sizeable Project in a Critical Area

The 350-acre Hayes Farm's location makes it a particularly important easement. It is southwest of Woodland, a half-mile south of the Monument Hills subdivision in an area often eyed for development.

Tom Hayes began farming the land for the previous owner, Russell Bell, about 10 years ago. When Bell died in 2005, he left most of the property to Hayes. While Hayes plans to continue to farm it for as long as possible, he felt it was important to protect the gift he had been given.

"When I heard about the Land Trust, I thought this is a good way to keep it in farming and that's what Russell would have wanted," Hayes said.

The Yolo Land Trust was able to fund the Hayes Farm project through a grant from the Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program.

### The Elkhorn Basin Ranch: A Spectacular Place, a Rare Opportunity

And there is more good news on the horizon. Together with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, the Yolo Land Trust is pursuing the over 1,500-acre Elkhorn Basin Ranch. Located across from the Sacramento International Airport and the Natomas Basin, the ranch includes farmland, wildlife refuge and water resources and sits in a fast-growing area between Woodland and Sacramento. Look for more information on this exciting project soon.

These projects are excellent examples of what the Yolo Land Trust can achieve for now and the future with your continued support.

### 'New Staff and Office' Continued From Page 1

growing up by protecting the rural landscape."

The board also promoted Deborah North to the position of Conservation Director. She serves as the primary contact person for landowners wishing to pursue a land conservation transaction. She has been with YLT since 2004.

"There are many challenges to putting together a conservation transaction, and no two projects are alike so there is always something new to learn," she says. "It makes me feel great to know that I am helping to make a

permanent difference in the landscape."

Judy and Debbie will be stepping up to their new roles in Yolo Land Trust's new office in Woodland. The office, which fittingly was once a mill, is at 1059 Court Street, Suite 217. The organization's new phone and fax number is (530) 662-1110. The land trust is pleased to have this space in which to take on an expanding number of conservation projects.

# Officers, Directors and Board Members

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**Judith Boshoven**  
*Executive Director*

**Deborah North**  
*Conservation Director*

*The Yolo Land Trust is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1988 by farmers, community leaders and conservationists dedicated to protecting Yolo County's land resources.*

**The Yolo Land Trust's purpose and function is to:**

- Acquire land or conservation easements on land of agricultural, habitat, historical, recreational, educational, scenic, ecological, or other environmental value within and surrounding Yolo County in a manner designed to assist in the preservation of such land for the benefit of the public.
- Provide education and disseminate information concerning the values and benefits of land conservation.
- To ensure the benefits of sound land use planning for Yolo County.

## Support the 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.

\$35     \$50     \$75     \$100     \$250     \$500     \$1,000    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please Check the Boxes Below If You Would Like:**

- To Discuss Conservation Options For Your Property
- To Be Added To Our Volunteer Roster

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE YOLO LAND TRUST AND RETURN.**

## Help Us Celebrate 20 Years of Land Preservation at “A Day in the Country”

The Yolo Land Trust invites you to help us celebrate 20 years of preserving farm and open space in Yolo County by sponsoring our 2008 fundraiser, “A Day in the Country.” This year’s event will be held on Sunday, September 7, from 3:00 – 6:00 pm at the lovely Victorian farm of Michael and Tootie Beeman, originally known as the William Marcus Jackson Ranch. Built in 1870, the main ranch house was the most ornate of the pioneer-era Italianate houses, exhibiting excellent detailing for the period and the style. The Beemans acquired the property in 1984, and completed the meticulous restoration of the house and farm outbuildings in 1990.

“A Day in the Country” highlights the diverse and bountiful farmland of Yolo County, bringing together producers and consumers in a rural setting. Yolo farm products are enjoyed every day in fine restaurants from the Bay Area and Napa Valley to Sacramento. At our

fundraiser, chefs from these restaurants will prepare a splendid array of seasonal offerings, complemented by Yolo County wines. There also will be live music, a silent auction, fun activities, and presentation of the Thomson-Rominger Award.



If you or your company is interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Judy Boshoven at (530) 662-1110.

Invitations for ticket purchases to attend the event will be arriving in your mailbox in the coming months.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you at “A Day in the Country”. Please save the date and join our celebration!

[www.YoloLandTrust.org](http://www.YoloLandTrust.org)



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