

YOLO LAND TRUST



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Protecting Yolo County land for over 20 years.

SPRING/SUMMER 2009

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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.



Receive YLT E-News by going to our Web site, www.YoloLandTrust.org or providing us with your email address on the enclosed remit envelope.

President's Message

Greetings, folks! 2009 has already been a remarkable and unprecedented year in the land conservation business. Last year, we were at the pinnacle of success, with 15 easement transactions protecting more than 3000 acres, an exciting joint venture nearing completion with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy, and frequent inquiries from enthusiastic landowners. And then... the economy crashed and the state budget collapsed. Land Trust activities across the state were frozen, as funding sources were put on hold by state agencies. Yolo Land Trust was similarly affected, and it presented new challenges for funding basic operations.

Our saving grace throughout this ordeal is that Yolo Land Trust holds multiple types



Riparian corridor at Elkhorn Basin Ranch

of easements, including both agriculture and wildlife habitat mitigation easements.

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Conservation Easement Preserves 300-ac Staib Farm between Davis and Woodland

Reprinted from article released by Don Drysdale, California Dept. of Conservation

The amount of permanently protected farmland between Davis and Woodland has grown thanks to a joint federal, state and local effort to shield yet another family farm from development.

"The Staib Farm includes some of the best farmland in Yolo County, and we're very proud to have been part of setting this land aside for agriculture forever," said Bridgett Luther, Director of the California Department of Conservation (DOC).

The Staib Farm – 300 acres on two parcels – is located in the northwestern urban boundary of Davis. The protected block spans an entire mile, running east-west between Roads 98 and 99. The properties are adjacent to an 80-acre agricultural

conservation easement also held by the Yolo Land Trust. They are half a mile from the City of Davis' sphere of influence and one mile from city limits.

"The city is proud to have worked with a local farming family, the Yolo Land Trust, and our state and federal partners to protect this important farmland forever," Davis Mayor Ruth Asmundson said. "This project once again shows how strong partnerships can help maintain the viability of agriculture in Yolo County, promote sound stewardship, and help secure a farmer's future on their land. The result is a positive outcome for all parties involved and is a tangible legacy for future generations."

The Staibs were a longtime farming family in Yolo County. The farm was held by a family trust, which recently sold the property

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President's Message *Continued From Page 1*

Through our partnerships with the City of Davis, Yolo County, and the Yolo Natural Heritage Program, we have still been able to pursue many conservation easements, with local funds that aren't reliant on state sources.

This has also been a time of internal housekeeping and organizational development, as we have adopted new governance policies and guidelines that will serve us well in the future. We have focused on new fundraising concepts and events, such as our Four Seasons events, including the Art of Sausage Making at Tazzina Bistro in Woodland and Spring into Local Eating at the Winters Farmers Market, and there are other fundraising activities that we will be rolling out in the coming months.

On an extremely positive note, Wildlife Conservation Board funds from the State were recently released

to finalize the acquisition of the Elkhorn Basin Ranch. Thanks to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy for their diligence and dedication. We are looking forward to a long and productive partnership with their organization. Please join us at the Elkhorn Basin Ranch under the shade of the walnut orchard for our annual "Day in the Country" event on September 13th. You can view firsthand this remarkable piece of property, which is now preserved for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support!



Casey Stone

Conservation Easement Preserves 300-ac Staib Farm *Continued From Page 1*

to Paul and Laura Barger. The Bargers last year worked with the City of Davis and the Yolo Land Trust to create an agricultural easement on a nearby piece of farmland.

Funding to purchase agricultural conservation easements on the properties was provided by DOC's California Farmland Conservancy Program and the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. The City of Davis holds the easement along with the Yolo Land Trust.

"The Staib Farm Easement will not only keep prime farmland in production in perpetuity, it will contribute to Yolo County's objectives of groundwater recharge, flood control, and wildlife habitat, including the Swainson's Hawks that roost and nest in nearby trees," said Ed Burton, State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

As of 2006, Yolo County ranked 23rd among California counties in total agricultural production at more than \$370 million. Despite the efforts of local government and organizations to preserve the county's farmland, 2,173 acres of agricultural land were converted to other uses from 2004-06, according to DOC's Farmland Monitoring and Mapping Program. Much of this was attributable to wetland conversions in the Yolo Bypass along with urban development in West Sacramento and Woodland.

"The Staib easement is yet another great result of the continuing partnership with landowners to implement



Harvest at Staib Farm

long-standing farmland-protection policies of the City of Davis, Yolo County, and the Yolo Land Trust," said Judy Boshoven, Executive Director of the Yolo Land Trust. "There are now more than 2,000 acres of preserved farm and habitat lands between Woodland and Davis, a cluster which has been named the John Williamson Easements."

What can you do to support YLT?

Join hundreds of others who support our efforts to protect the bountiful and irreplaceable land resources of Yolo County. Gifts of any amount to the Yolo Land Trust are always welcomed and valued. Your gift may be made in one or more of the following ways.

A gift of **cash** is the simplest and most convenient way of giving to YLT. Cash can be given in the form of currency, checks, or money orders. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Yolo Land Trust. Fill out the enclosed envelope and mail it back to us. Save time and a stamp! Make your donation online at: www.yololandtrust.org.

Gifts of appreciated **securities** provide considerable advantages to donors. When securities have been held for the required period of time, a donor can deduct the full fair market value of the gift and will avoid a capital gains tax on the appreciated amount of the securities.

Planned Giving options

The term “planned giving” describes the many ways in which individuals make charitable gifts beyond what they can give on an outright basis. There are several vehicles for planned giving that can provide significant tax benefits to donors. Please consult your own professional advisor(s) to discuss which might be right for you and your family. If you decide to leave a planned gift to YLT, please let us know. We want to make sure we have your wishes on record to properly carry them out after your lifetime.

- Through your **Will** or **Living Trust**, you may provide for a bequest to YLT.
- Individuals who are at least 70-1/2 may use **IRA or Roth IRA assets** as a convenient, tax-efficient source to make contributions to YLT. A direct contribution from an IRA to the YLT made by December 31, 2009, may be excluded from income tax.
- **Charitable Remainder Trusts** enable donors to transfer assets to a trustee to be held on behalf of specified beneficiaries during the trust’s lifetime with YLT as the ultimate beneficiary.
- **A Charitable Lead Trust** is the reverse of a Charitable Remainder Trust. When you don’t need income now but want to provide for your heirs, you may set up a Charitable Lead Trust and name YLT as the charitable beneficiary.
- A **life insurance policy** may be donated by designating YLT as owner and Beneficiary.
- Through a **Life Estate** you may irrevocably transfer the ownership of a home or land to the Yolo Land Trust and retain the right to occupy the premises for the rest of your life.
- **Other Contributions** of real estate, tangible personal property, closely held stock, patents and copyrights, surplus business inventory, etc. are other ways of donating. Please let us know if you would like to **volunteer** your time and skills. Call our office at (530) 662-1110 and we will be glad to find a way to put you to work!

Thank you for your generous support!

William Merchad joins the YLT Board

As of the new year, we are very pleased to welcome William as the newest member of the Board of Directors. William grew up in Petaluma, CA before his family relocated to Yolo County. He graduated from Davis Senior High School and went on to attend U.C. Davis where he majored in Managerial Economics and minored in Communications. William also captained the U.C. Davis Cross Country and Track teams, was named an Academic All-American, and received a prestigious NCAA post-graduate scholarship. After college, he worked for the Foundation for Teaching Economics (FTE), a non-profit organization, managing their nation-wide “Gillette Economics for Leaders” programs before pursuing his business career with Wells Fargo Institutional Brokerage.

There he helped the larger clients of the bank (including cities, counties, non-profits, corporations, and individuals) safely invest their money, primarily in fixed income securities. William currently works as a Financial Advisor for Edward Jones Investments in downtown Winters. He is a member of the Winters Rotary Club and a volunteer high school sports coach. During his six months on the Board, William has already made invaluable contributions reviewing and restructuring YLT’s financial management and investment policies and procedures.



William Merchad



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Celebrate 21 Years of Land Preservation at “A Day in the Country”

The Yolo Land Trust invites you to help us celebrate 21 years of preserving farm and open space in Yolo County by participating in our 2009 fundraiser, “A Day in the Country.” This year’s event will be held on **Sunday, September 13, from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the beautiful Elkhorn Basin Ranch**, between the Yolo Bypass and the Sacramento River, north of Highway 5. Yolo Land Trust has partnered with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy to protect this 1500-acre working walnut ranch on the Yolo County side of the river.

“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.

Invitations to attend the event will be arriving in your mailbox in the coming weeks. We would also be very pleased if you or your company is interested in sponsoring this event. You may make your reservations or sponsor the event at our Web site at www.yololandtrust.org.

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!



Please contact Judy Boshoven, Executive Director, at (530) 662-1110 or email Judy Boshoven at judy@yololandtrust.org if you have any questions.