

YOLO LAND TRUST



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Protecting Yolo County land for over 20 years.

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

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The Yolo Land Trust is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, founded in 1988 by an innovative group of farmers, ranchers, community leaders and conservationists dedicated to protecting Yolo County's land resources. The Yolo Land Trust has helped landowners place conservation easements on 49 parcels throughout Yolo County, permanently conserving almost 9,000 acres of land for future generations. These farms remain privately owned and operated. The Yolo Land Trust is conserving land today that will shape the character of Yolo County for centuries.



For more information on the Yolo Land Trust or to receive YLT E-News visit www.yololandtrust.org or provide us with your email address on the enclosed remit envelope.

YOLO LAND TRUST HONORS HELEN THOMSON AT A DAY IN THE COUNTRY



Helen Thomson and Rich Rominger at "A Day in the Country" 2009 – photo by Phil Hogan

Yolo Land Trust will honor Yolo County Supervisor Helen M. Thomson at its annual fund raiser, *A Day in the Country*. Supervisor Thomson, along with local Yolo farmer Richard Rominger, helped found the Yolo Land Trust by bringing farmers and community leaders together in 1988. Thomson has remained a tireless supporter of the efforts of the Yolo Land Trust.

Beginning in 2000, the Yolo Land Trust has given the **Thomson Rominger Award** during *A Day in the Country* to a community leader dedicated to agricultural conservation. Helen Thomson will receive the award this year for her work as a long-time advocate for the preservation of agricultural lands both during her tenure in the California Legislature and on the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

"It is high time the Thomson Rominger Award is given to Helen Thomson," said **Richard Rominger**, former State Secretary of Food and Agriculture and former Deputy Secretary of Agriculture under President Clinton. "She has been a champion for

agricultural land preservation for many years and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude."

Thomson began her public service career in 1974 when she was elected as a member of the Davis Joint Unified School District Board where she served for three terms. She was elected to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in 1986 and re-elected in 1990 and 1994. In 1996, she won the 8th California State Assembly District seat where she served three terms. She returned to the Board of Supervisors in 2002, was re-elected in 2006 and will be retiring at the end of 2010. In recent years, a major goal of Supervisor Thomson's was the update of the County General Plan. Adopted in December 2009, the 2030 General Plan continues Yolo County's historic preservation of agricultural lands, natural resources and open space.

"Helen Thomson has been an exemplary public servant for over 35 years," said **Mary Kimball**, President of the Yolo Land Trust. "We simply cannot thank her enough for her service to the preservation of agricultural land and our rural values."

A DAY IN THE COUNTRY



A Day in the Country will be held at Elkhorn Basin Ranch on September 12th from 3pm to 6pm.

A Day in the Country, now in its 21st year, will be held under the shade of the walnut trees at the Elkhorn Basin Ranch along the Sacramento River on **September 12 from 3pm to 6pm**. The event showcases Yolo County wines and foods prepared by top chefs throughout northern California.

A Day in the Country was first held in 1990 at the Hays Truck Museum. At that time, each Yolo Land Trust board member brought a tray of hors d'oeuvres to share. Over the years, the event has grown as it moved around the County highlighting Yolo's finest farms and ranches - from the Oakdale Ranch in Esparto to the El Dorado Ranch in Knight's Landing to the Yolo Land and Cattle Company Ranch in western Yolo County. This year, *A Day in the Country* will be held on the Land Trust's own farm at the Elkhorn Basin Ranch. From a simple beginning twenty-one years ago, the event has grown to encompass over 40 restaurants, wineries and farms and ranches. Over 500 people regularly attend the event and it is considered the premier local food and wine event in the region. Music this year will be provided by the Mike Justis Band and children who attend will find fun at the Kids Corner. For a complete list of restaurants, wineries, farms and ranches participating in *A Day in the Country*, go to our Web site at www.yololandtrust.org.

ADMISSION

Adult \$75 each or \$85 at door

Child \$20 (under 6 free)

Call (530) 662-1110 or reserve on line at YoloLandTrust.org. Your name will be added to the admission list.

Strawberry Fields Forever Celebrates Success Between Davis and Woodland



First hayride of the summer at Barger Farm. – photo by Phil Hogan

The Yolo Land Trust celebrated spring, strawberries and success on June 6 at its “**Strawberry Fields Forever**” fund raiser. The event, held at the Barger Farm, located just west of Davis in Yolo County, was marked with hayrides, music and strawberry treats.

Yolo Land Trust Board President, Mary Kimball, greeted the crowd, “We are here today to honor our success as an organization and a community, and the partnerships that brought us here.” She noted that Yolo Land Trust has placed about 3,000 acres under permanent conservation between the cities of Davis and Woodland, nearly 1/3 of all the acreage the Yolo Land Trust currently holds. “We thank the Barger Farm not only for hosting us today, but also for their commitment to conservation by placing their farm in a permanent conservation easement.”

The crowd enjoyed music provided by The McDaniel Jazz Trio in the 100-year old barn on the Barger Farm. Monticello Bistro served strawberry shortcake topped with whipped cream and guests dipped fresh strawberries provided by Full Belly Farm, TandY Strawberry Patch and FL Strawberries into a fountain of chocolate. Wine was poured by Bogle Winery, Capay Valley Vineyards, Route 3 Winery and Simas Family Vineyard. Special strawberry ice cream created by The Davis Creamery kept everyone cool. Monsanto donated over 100 strawberry plants for guests to take as a memento of the celebration.

BOARD AND STAFF UPDATES:



Beth Gabor

Beth Gabor is a life-long resident of Yolo County and joined the Board in January 2010. Beth has been the Public Information Officer for the County of Yolo for the past four years. Prior to that, she served as Deputy to Yolo County Supervisor Helen M. Thomson. After graduating from the University of California at Davis with a Bachelor of Science in Human Development, Beth held a variety of positions with Calgene, a Monsanto biotechnology and research company. While at Calgene, Beth became involved with Explorit Science Center, ultimately serving on the Board of Trustees for seven years. Beth was a 2004 Fellow in the Great Valley Center's Institute for the Development of Emerging Area Leaders and holds a certificate in Graphic Design from the University of California, Davis Extension.



Chris Sinclair with wife Casey Sinclair and daughter Addison

Chris Sinclair is the walnut manager for Woodside Electronics Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic color sorters primarily dealing with blueberries, tomatoes, and walnuts. The walnut division provides equipment to sort at huller/dehydrating plants and to monitor moisture content of walnuts. Chris grew up in Davis and graduated from University of California at Davis in the spring of 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Crop Science and Management. Growing up in Davis allowed Chris to get involved in his grandparents' prune and walnut operations just north of the town of Winters. Chris is a graduate from Class 36 of the California Agriculture Leadership Program. Chris and his wife, Casey, moved off the family farm in 2008 to Sacramento where they live with their daughter Addison. Chris joined the Board in April 2010.



Michele M. Clark

Michele M. Clark was a member of the Board of Directors for Yolo Land Trust before she assumed the position of Executive Director in January 2010. Michele, a native Californian, has lived in Davis for the last 17 years. She previously served as the transaction director for the California Rangeland Trust and as western regional counsel for the Trust for Public Land. She graduated in Class 37 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Michele earned her law degree from Rutgers University and practice commercial real estate law in Pennsylvania and Florida, and was a shareholder with the Sacramento law firm McDonough, Holland and Allen until 2000. She has taught classes on conservation easements for the Land Trust Alliance, and has spoken at farm bureaus, colleges and other groups throughout the state.



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McIsaac Farm Conserved for Future Generations

Another Yolo County farm with significant agricultural and environmental value has been permanently set aside for agriculture. Thanks to the efforts of the owner McIsaac Farms, Inc., the Yolo Land Trust and the City of Davis, the 86-acre McIsaac Farm has been placed in an agricultural conservation easement that will keep the land in agriculture in perpetuity.

The McIsaac Farm is annually planted in irrigated field crops such as tomatoes and wheat. “Our family believes that agriculture is the base for what makes this country great,” said Cork McIsaac. “Our farm is close to town. By placing a conservation easement on our land we are able to attain our goals of ensuring that it will not be broken into smaller parcels.” For the McIsaac family, protecting the agricultural productive capacity of the land for the current three generations that live

on the farm is important. “We have to conserve it now for those who come after us,” says McIsaac.

The McIsaac Farm also contains an important riparian corridor on Dry Slough Corridor noted for its wildlife habitat and scenic qualities. The area is a mixed riparian forest supporting a canopy dominated by cottonwood, valley oak and California walnut. This canopy provides nesting and roosting habitat for hawks, owls and raptors, including the Swainson’s hawk, a California threatened species. The streambed provides a corridor for movement of a variety of mammals, birds and reptiles to the Sacramento River.

The City of Davis provided funding support for the project which recorded December 31, 2009.

Many thanks to our donors and sponsors from January 1, 2010 to June 30, 2010

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