



YOLO LAND TRUST

Our Lands. Our Future.

221 W. Court Street, Suite 5
Woodland, CA 95695

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BIG DAY OF GIVING → MAY 5

GiveLocalNow is gearing up for the second annual **BIG Day of Giving** benefiting the region's nonprofits with a 24-hour giving challenge.

Why give to the Yolo Land Trust? By preserving land we help keep farmers farming and ranchers ranching. This enhances the opportunity to "buy fresh, buy local" and enjoy a small-town, rural atmosphere.

How can you give? On May 5th, starting at 12:00am midnight for 24 hours until 11:59pm, visit givelocalnow.org and donate to the Yolo Land Trust through this website.

How else can I help? Use your social media networks and share your love for the Yolo Land Trust and ask others to make a donation to us.

Help us raise philanthropy and support the Yolo Land Trust. ■

24 HOURS TO GIVE WHERE YOUR HEART IS

221 W. Court Street, Suite 5, Woodland, CA 95695 | Phone: (530) 662-1110 | Fax: (530) 669-3020 | www.TheYoloLandTrust.org



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Have you seen our new website?

www.TheYoloLandTrust.org

NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2015



2015
International
Year of Soils

Celebrate 2015 International Year of Soils

The United Nations and the U.S. Department of Agriculture have declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. The purpose of the declaration is to raise awareness about the importance of soil, the substance that is one of the very foundations of life on earth.

A widely recognized function of soil is its support for food production. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 95% of the world's food is directly or indirectly produced on our soils. Healthy soils supply the essential nutrients, water, oxygen and root support that our food-producing plants need to grow and thrive. And yet, most of us don't consciously think about soil, or what is good soil or where good soil is found.

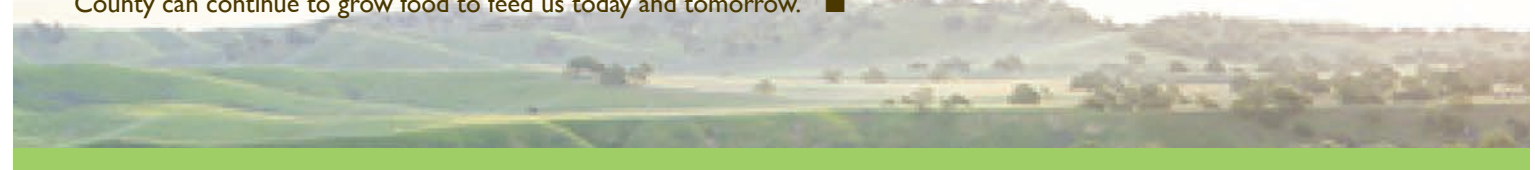
The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed a classification system for soil based primarily on its capability to produce common cultivated crops and pasture plants without deteriorating over a long period of time. These land capability classes can indicate the best long term use for the land.

Starting in 1899, USDA began the long term task of conducting soil surveys. Soil surveys provide a field-based scientific inventory of soil resources, including soil maps, data about the physical and chemical properties of soils, and information on the potentials and limitations of each soil classification. Today, nearly all of the United States has been surveyed and mapped.

USDA recognizes eight classes of soil. Class I and II soils are generally considered the best for growing a wide array of crops, and are commonly referenced as Prime Farmland. Lower classification soils have greater limitations, such as erodibility, poor drainage, and shallow rooting depth. Class III and IV soils, while not as versatile in the types of crops that can be grown, can still be important for such crops as vineyards and rice. Classes V-VIII generally have very limited value for cultivated agriculture, but are important as rangeland, forest land, and wildlife habitat.

Yolo County's soil survey was published in 1972. It revealed that Yolo County has a very high proportion of some of the most productive soil there is. According to a 2012 report published by California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Yolo County has 250,695 acres of prime soil which accounts for 68% of the important farmland in the County, and 47% of the total farmland in the County. <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Yolo.aspx>

"This is a remarkable percentage of highly productive soils. Without this quality of soil, available irrigation resources, and long growing season, Yolo County could not have generated \$721 Million of agricultural production in 2013," says Charles A. Tyson, PhD and President of the Yolo Land Trust. "The Yolo Land Trust is working to permanently protect farms that rely on these soils so that our County can continue to grow food to feed us today and tomorrow." ■



Meet our Board of Directors

Charles A. Tyson, PhD. (President) first came to Yolo County over 30 years ago to study soil science at UC Davis. Charles previously managed the California Farmland Conservancy Program for 14 years, overseeing grant funding for agricultural conservation easements throughout California. He is a graduate from Class 32 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and the 2007 recipient of the Thomson/Rominger Award. He raises bees for honey at his house in Davis.

Richard Reed (Vice President) was raised in a small farming and manufacturing community in western Ohio where his family farmed for many generations. Rich has served on the Yolo County Planning Commission since 2009, and was named 'Commissioner of the Year' by the California County Planning Commissioners Association in 2011.

Casey Walsh Cady (Secretary) holds a BS in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and an MS in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis. Casey has spent the bulk of her career at the California Department of Food and Agriculture. She also currently serves as the President of the California Small Farm Conference.

Kathy Ward (Treasurer) grew up on a ranch in Baker, Oregon. She earned a BS in Agronomy from Oregon State University and an MBA from Western Michigan University. She is employed as the Director of Vegetable R&D Finance and Operations with DeRuiter Seminis in Woodland, and grows olives on her own land near Woodland.

Robin Baral became involved in sustainable agriculture by working as a teenager on a rural mountain ranch in Washington, and by helping to develop a pilot organic gardening curriculum at Midland School in Los Olivos, California. Robin now works as an environmental and land use lawyer at

Churchwell White LLP in Sacramento, where he represents public agencies.

Bob Marr is the owner, operator and winemaker of Marr Cellars, a producer of premium and distinctive California red wines since 1997. A fifth generation Californian, Bob graduated from San Francisco State with a BA in Geography and Environmental Studies and then received an MS from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources.

Chuck Moore is a Vice President – Key Relationship Manager for Farm Credit West in their Woodland office where he has worked for over 31 years in various lending and management capacities. A Yolo County native, Chuck obtained a BS in Agricultural Management from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

Carol Murphy is the Controller at Capay Organic in Capay. She graduated from San Jose State University with a BS in Accounting. In 1993 she moved from the Bay Area to Davis and traded high tech for agriculture. Over the last 20 years she has worked in the local agricultural industry.

Chris Scheuring is an environmental lawyer specializing in land use and water resources, representing agricultural clients. Chris is also involved in the family farming operations in at Gold Oak Ranch in western Yolo County, which produce walnuts, almonds, mandarin oranges, and other crops. Chris served as a pilot in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years.

Chris Sinclair is the Walnut Manager for Woodside Electronics Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic color sorters primarily dealing with blueberries, tomatoes, and walnuts. Chris graduated from UC Davis with a BS in Crop Science and Management. He is a graduate from Class 36 of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. ■

Taryn Cadena Joins YLT Staff



Taryn Cadena became the Conservation Associate for the Yolo Land Trust in January, 2015.

She will be conducting the annual monitoring of the 60+ family farms in Yolo County with agricultural conservation easements. Taryn was born and raised in Woodland, and received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. Taryn's grandparents own Cadena Ranch in Esparto that has been in operation for the past 44 years, and a part of the Davis Farmer's Market for over 38 years. "It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to work for my community in a way that helps to maintain our agricultural heritage," says Taryn. "Preserving farmland to be used by the coming generations is imperative to sustaining our way of life, and I'm proud to be able to work for the Yolo Land Trust to do just that." ■



Join Us for Our Signature Event:

A Day in the Country

A Day in the Country will be held this year at **Gold Oak Ranch** on **Sunday, September 13 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Gold Oak Ranch is a beautiful, commercial farm located in the Capay Valley and owned by David Scheuring and his children, Chris, Rachel, and Paul. The farm produces almonds, walnuts, olives, and organic mandarin oranges, with a sequential harvest that stretches from August to March. Don't forget to **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**.

A Day in the Country features tastings from local wineries, breweries and chefs who create special dishes featuring food grown on Yolo County's farmland. Proceeds support Yolo Land Trust in its ongoing work to conserve land today that will shape the future character of Yolo County.

Visit our new website www.TheYoloLandTrust.org for more information and to purchase tickets. ■



Win a Prize with Social Media

Stay up to date with the Yolo Land Trust by "Liking" us on Facebook and "Following" us on Instagram. If you don't happen to have an account with one or the other, they're quick and easy to create. Simply go to the Facebook site online and fill out a profile. You can do the same with Instagram or make it more convenient and download the app for free on your smart phone. Finally, search for "Yolo Land Trust" in the search bars and click "Like" for Facebook and "Follow" for Instagram.

In addition, you can participate in our monthly First Friday Farm Challenge on Facebook for your chance to win an exclusive Yolo Land Trust prize! Just visit our page on the first Friday of each month and post your answer to our seedling trivia question. Every person that answers correctly will be entered into a raffle, and the winner will be chosen the following Monday! ■



The Yolo Land Trust is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1988 by an innovative group of farmers, ranchers, community leaders and conservationists dedicated to conserving Yolo County's land. The Yolo Land Trust has helped landowners place voluntary farmland conservation agreements on over 60 family farms throughout Yolo County, permanently conserving over 10,000 acres for future generations. These farms remain privately owned and operated. The Yolo Land Trust is helping to preserve the rural heritage of Yolo County.



For more information on the Yolo Land Trust or to receive YLT's E-news, visit www.TheYoloLandTrust.org, or provide us with your email address on the enclosed remit envelope.