



Central Valley Farmland Trust

Legacy

Spring 2011

Sacramento County Farmer Wins \$2,500 for Central Valley Farmland Trust



Celebrating the Monsanto Award are . . . Front row l to r: Jeani Ferrari, Denny Jackman, Ken Oneto, Monica Bianchi, Back row l to r: Tim Byrd, Markus Bokisch

Ken and Florrie Oneto were selected as the winner in the America's Farmers Grow Communities program. This program is available through the Monsanto Fund, and gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The Onetos designated the Central Valley Farmland Trust, Inc. to receive the award.

Ken Oneto was very excited to have been selected as the winner for Sacramento County. "I think America's Farmers Grow Communities is a great program," said Oneto. "I hope they do it next year and the year after that and the year after that."

The \$2,500 donation was awarded at a ceremony held October 26 at the Oneto Ranch. In its initial year,

continued on page 2



Bill Martin

Executive Director Message

The Central Valley Farmland Trust continues to seemingly reinvent itself. Although there have been many twists and turns in the way we go about the business of accomplishing farmland conservation in the San Joaquin Valley, our mission has not wavered from day one.

CVFT was originally founded on the presumption that farmland mitigation initiatives would provide a significant portion of the funding for agricultural conservation easements (ACEs). In our early years, the California Department of Conservation under its California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP) and the Packard Foundation made up 100% of the funding. That all changed with the meltdown in the economy.

The good news is that there are considerably more willing landowners. The bad news is that the ability to readily identify viable acquisition funding is problematic. Because of the untimely hold placed on State funding over the last couple of years, we are just now in the final stages of completing several ACE projects that were initiated as far back as 2009. With the State budget unsettled, CFCP funding is tentative at best. Currently, we are utilizing funding from various (non-State) sources including the Natural Resource Conservation Service under its Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP), farmland mitigation fees from various jurisdictions, landowner donations, and outside entities who participate to satisfy mitigation requirements on specific development projects.

Even though the funding process is dysfunctional, we have closed 290 acres of ACEs since September 2010 and expect to close an additional 1,000 acres by the end of April, 2011. If difficult times demand that the Central Valley Farmland Trust reinvent itself, it will! Our mission has not wavered from day one.

CENTRAL VALLEY FARMLAND TRUST

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Bill Martin,
Executive Director

Susan Hooper,
Associate Director



ONETO/MONSANTO continued from page 1

the America's Farmers Grow Communities program has provided nearly 500 farmers in 10 states with \$2,500 awards to direct to their favorite nonprofit organization. In total, \$25,000 was donated to nonprofits in California.

Bill Martin, Executive Director of the Central Valley Farmland Trust indicated the donation by Oneto and the Monsanto Fund is much appreciated and will be used to defray the transactional costs for ag conservation easement costs, which add as much as 15 to 20 percent on top of the traditional costs to acquire farmland for preservation.

"To be awarded this grant is significant in a couple ways," said Martin. "First, it acknowledges the important work we are doing and provides direct support of that effort. Second, it is an opportunity to help support the tangential work of others in an effort to bring greater awareness to the importance of farming and how significant the production of food is to our economy and food safety and security."

The America's Farmers Grow Communities program is a part of a broad commitment by Monsanto Company to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society by helping them grow their local communities. More than 20,000 farmers participated in the program. To view a complete list of winners visit www.growcommunities.com.



The accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

President's Message



Ken Oneto

With the New Year come new challenges. The CVFT board began this year with a full day retreat, looking at what we accomplished in 2010 and making plans for 2011 and beyond. With help from consultant Amy Wolfe, we had a lively day strategizing how to make our Trust stronger.

From discussions and plans for the future, the board decided to have an annual fund raising event at the new Carnegie Arts Center in Turlock. Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 8, and watch your mail for more information. This will be an exciting gallery, featuring a never before seen Ansel Adams exhibit.

CVFT recently protected two beautiful working-farm properties. One is just north of Linden in San Joaquin County. This property produces walnuts and cherries. The second is east of Tracy, also in San Joaquin County, and produces tomatoes and alfalfa. There are four more projects that will be closing soon.

Recently the State Supreme Court upheld the Stanislaus County Farm Mitigation Ordinance. This court decision reinforces the work of the Central Valley Farmland Trust – farmland is a valuable and irreplaceable resource worth protecting.

Central Valley Farmland Trust

SAVE THE DATE!

A Celebration of
FARMS, FOOD and PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday, October 8, 2011
Carnegie Arts Center, Turlock, CA
Dinner in the Ferrari Gallery

Celebrating world-class farmland, local food
and iconic images of California
by Ansel Adams

A NEVER BEFORE SEEN EXHIBITION!

Stanislaus County Farmland Mitigation

In 2005, Stanislaus County began the process of updating its General Plan. At the same time, a broad range of citizens, including a County Supervisor, began a discussion of a way to protect farmland from being consumed by housing and commercial development. Stanislaus County is home to some of the richest farmland in the State, generating in excess of \$2.4 billion in annual farm gate revenue, and approximately 10% of its work force is employed within the ag sector. Unfortunately, developing the fertile farmland into sprawling housing developments was a less expensive alternative than trying to develop within the high priced coastal region. And seemingly there was, until the housing bubble burst, plenty of demand for housing in Stanislaus County.

From that discussion, a committee was formed and a two year process of fact finding, public input, and language crafting took place. The result was a definitive farmland mitigation program (FMP) contained within the Ag Element of the County's General Plan. The requirement states, in part, that when farmland is taken out of production for development an equal number of acres of productive farmland must be protected with an ag conservation easement (1:1 ratio). It is important to recognize with this scenario (and simple mathematics) only 50% of the county's farmland would be protected.

The ink had barely dried on the FMP when the Building Industry Association (BIA) filed a lawsuit arguing the program was inherently discriminatory. The lower court's decision supported the BIA. That decision was ultimately overturned by the Court of Appeal. The BIA was then impelled to take the matter to the California Supreme Court. In mid-February 2011, the high court refused to take up the matter and directed the appeals court's ruling to become a legal precedent. Prior to this ruling there was no legal precedent for farmland mitigation programs. This was a significant affirmation of the validity of farmland mitigation programs in California and paves the way for many jurisdictions to consider such programs.



*Front row, l to r ; Ken Vogel, Supervisor, San Joaquin County; Rene Becker, Landowner; Jeani Ferrari, CVFT Board Member; Denny Jackman, CVFT Board Member; Monica Bianchi, CVFT Board Member (with Audrey)
Back row, l to r: Dave Stagnero, City of Stockton; Garrett Becker, Landowner; Maxwell Norton, CVFT Board Member*

Conserving Becker Farm

Farmland conservation in the Central Valley took a step forward with the placement of an agricultural conservation easement (ACE) on Becker Farm in San Joaquin County. The farm, located 2 miles north of the town of Linden is 49 acres of prime farmland producing walnuts and cherries. The Becker Farm ACE is the second held by the Central Valley Farmland Trust in San Joaquin County, the first was placed in 2006 on 928 acres near Tracy.

The Becker family, along with friends, CVFT board members, city and county officials, celebrated this accomplishment at the farm in December 2010. "Through the Central Valley Farmland Trust, our family has made a commitment to protect and preserve this agricultural land for generations to come, stated Garrett."

Funding for this project was provided by funds specifically set aside for farmland conservation by Raymus Homes of Manteca and the City of Stockton. The Central Valley Farmland Trust will hold the ACE and the Becker family retains full

control of the farming operation.

"The opportunity to work with landowners like Garrett & Renee Becker, who understand and appreciate the need to protect one of our most precious resources, truly makes my job enjoyable and most rewarding," said Bill Martin, Executive Director of the Central Valley Farmland Trust.



Donor Recognition

Gifts received through March 31, 2011

Conservator (Gifts \$5,000 and above)

American AgCredit
Garrett and Renee Becker
Bokisch Vineyards/Markus and Elizabeth Bokisch
Community Foundation of Merced County
John and Jeani Ferrari
E & J Gallo Winery
Kyle Herbold
Vance Kennedy, Ph.D.
Lange Twins Partnership/Brad Lange
Richland Planned Communities, Inc.
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis Company

Steward (Gifts between \$1,500 and \$4,999)

Tim and Suzanne Byrd
Richard and Sharon Clauss
Garton Tractor, Inc.
Jeanne Gobalet
Hilmar Cheese Company
Mike Kooyman
Martin and Stacey Machado
Charles and Sally Magnuson
Scott and Pamela Magnuson
Merced County Farm Bureau
Vicki Morales
Maxwell and Diane Norton
Max Norton Enterprises
Ken and Florence Oneto
Thomas Scharffenberger & Victoria Simonds
Wolfsen Land and Cattle Company
Duncan and Barbara Smith
Michael and Cathy Tanner

Supporter (Gifts between \$500 and \$1,499)

Bank of America
Gene and Patricia Beach
Jon and Christine Brandstad
Britton-Konyonenburg Partners
Calone Law Group
Chad Ranch
Robert Chad and Patti Kishi
James Crecelius
Crop Production Services, Inc.
Diane Norton Insurance
Crop Production Services
Victor DiGiovanni
Bill Geyer
Dario and Josephine Giampaoli/Double G Farms
Jeanne Gobalet and Garth Norton
Denny and Patricia Jackman
James and Dianne Jorgensen
Janice Jorgensen
Kevin Knowles
Stanton Lange
John Ledbetter
John and Eleanor Lema
Dan Macedo
Charles & Sally Magnuson
Les and Elizabeth McCabe, Jr.
Peter and Kathleen Menghetti
Galen & Melba Miyamoto
Ken and Florence Oneto
Pacific Agrilands, Inc.
Pacific Coast Producers
Frank Ruhstaller
Saint Martin Vineyards

Scoto Brothers Farming, Inc./Joe & Auggie Scoto
Mark and Marsha Seivert
Tri-State Livestock Credit Corporation
Michael and Denise Van Horn
Winton-Ireland, Strom & Green Insurance Agency

Guardian (Gifts between \$100 and \$499)

Agro Insurance Agency of California, Inc.
Brad Alderson
Allied Grape Growers
Joe and Helen Amarant
Lee and Ann Anderson
Arbor Vineyards, Inc.
Frank and Marie Assali
John Aud
Louie and Karen Bandoni
Eric Benjamin
Monica and Ed Bianchi
Paul Bianchi
Michael Bliss Ranch/Michael Bliss
Don Bo
Eric and Lorraine Bocks
John and Robyn Brigham
John Carlisle
Tony Carr
Cederlind Farms/Dennis Cederlind
Cederlind Farms/Jeff Cederlind
Alicia Cochrane
Thomas Coultas, Ph. D.
Crivelli Ranch
Robert Curtis
Del Monte Foods
Fred and Cathy Denier
Mark and Deolinda Dent
Richard and Michelle Dodson
Ron and Georgetta Dolinsek
David Doll
Fred Donald Vineyards
Violet Ehlers
Arthur Engineering
Fagundes Farms
Favier Farms
Robin Floumoy
Dan and Donna Forster
Foster Farms
Ron Freitas
Ed Frey
Joseph Gallo Farms
Janie and Nick Gatzman
Bob and Jeanne Giampaoli
Gary and Julie Giampaoli
Raymond and Maris Giampaoli
Tara Gonzales
Greenleaf Farms, Inc./John Golbert
Jackson Gualco/The Gualco Group, Inc.
Brian Heller/Appraisal Associates of Merced
Lonnie and Lola Hendricks
Hilltop Ranch, Inc.
Brent Holtz
Timothy and Susan Hooper
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Dennis Kaufman
Theresa Keihn
Robert King
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Craig Ledbetter
Lodi-Lockeford Tractor Company, Inc.

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Mape's Ranch
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Mid Valley Agricultural
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Myers Ranch/Jeff Myers
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Doug and LuAnn Parson
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James and Judy Peterson
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Chuck and Rebecca Robinson
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Dale Sartor and Judy Winzeler
Tom Schmidt
Jake Schneider
Gayle Seoane
Randolph Siefkin
Paul Simmons
Scott and Denise Skidmore
Alvin Sokolow
Soluri Meserve, A Law Corporation
Stanislaus Community Foundation
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
R.C. Starn and Sons II
Claire Stone
Lloyd Stueve
Edward Thompson, Jr.
Evelyn Tolbert
Robert Tyler
Trincher Family Estates/Ron Larson
William Ulm
Valley Vineyard and Orchard Supply
Carel and Linda van Loben Sels
Carlos Vieira
Vista Livestock Company
John Voris
Paul and Teresa Ward
Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo
Vern and Mary Wickstrom
Cliff Wilcox/Cliffs Design Drafting
John Williams
Noah and Lorna Williams
Roger Wood
Art and Byerly Woodward
Donald and Charlene Wortley
Brian Sung Yoo
Dave and Kathy Zollinger

Friend (Gifts up to \$99)

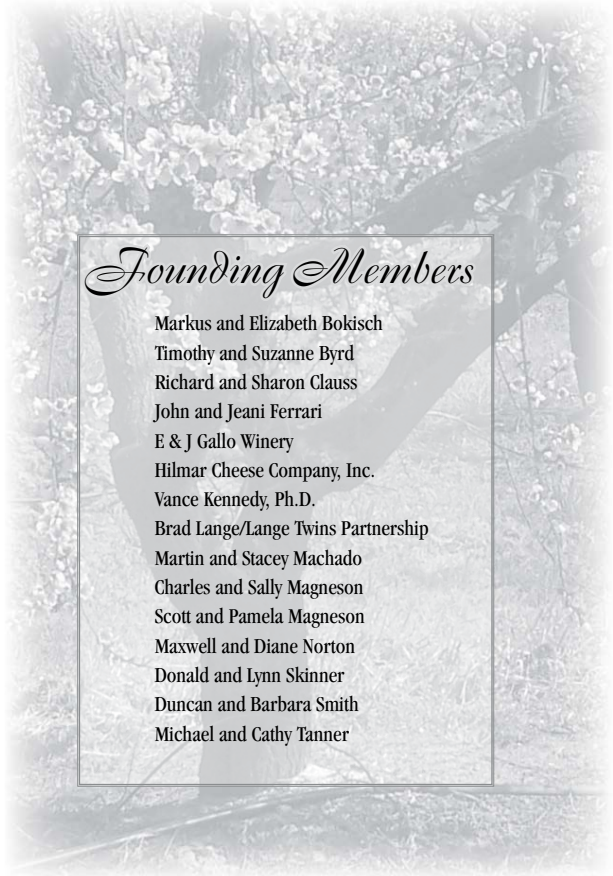
A & A Aulakh Farms
Lawrence and Susan Avelar
Gloria Barrett
Thomas Bianchi
James Brannan

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Richard Brown
The Burchell Nursery, Inc.
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June Vaughn
Joseph Vieira/Cressey Holsteins Rubber Belting
Eric Vink
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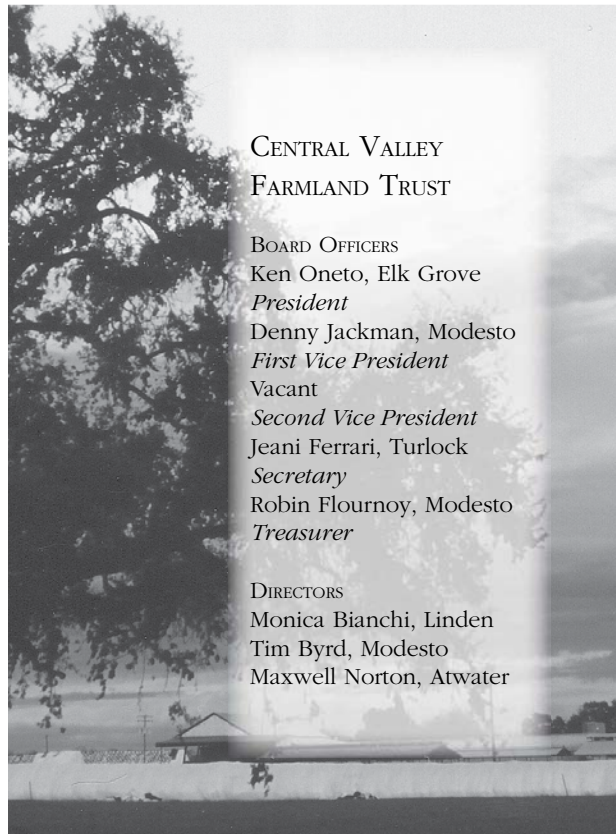
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– Ken Oneto



Founding Members

Markus and Elizabeth Bokisch
 Timothy and Suzanne Byrd
 Richard and Sharon Clauss
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 Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.
 Vance Kennedy, Ph.D.
 Brad Lange/Lange Twins Partnership
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