



Central Valley Farmland Trust

Legacy

Summer 2012

Large Crowd Celebrates Farmland at A Taste of the Country



Martin Machado served as auctioneer for the dessert auction.

The weather was perfect, the museum was decorated, the beer was cold and the coals were hot when the community came together for A Taste of the Country. The fundraiser, held at the Merced County Ag Museum on April 28, helped support farmland conservation. The Merced County Events Committee, led by event chair Maxwell Norton, did a fantastic job and the night was a tremendous success.

Jean Okuye and Maria Giampaoli did a wonderful job decorating. The table settings and centerpieces in red, white and blue transformed the museum into a patriotic affair. Through the center of the room were tables filled with 54 silent auction items. One of the highlights of the evening was revealing who had

bid high enough to take home items. There were gift baskets, jackets, model tractors, beautiful farmland photographs, electronics, airplane rides – and much more!

Bob Kolburg from Greenleaf Farms did a superb job



Bill Martin, Tony Dosetti and Diana Westmoreland-Pedrozo

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Bill Martin

Executive Director Message

As many of you know, on a Saturday evening in late April we held an event at the Ag Museum in Merced. The event was sold out, with great food, lots of silent auction prizes, and a desert auction like nothing you've ever witnessed before (by the way, Tim Byrd, I don't recall being invited to share in a piece of Diedre Kelsey's world-renowned blackberry pie!).

Besides all of the above, I was profoundly struck by a couple of things that are sometimes overlooked or simply taken for granted.

First, putting something like this together and making it happen in such an impressive fashion is no accident. Maxwell Norton and his band of community organizers pulled it all together. And under the ever-watchful eye of Susan Hooper (CVFT associate director) keeping all the moving parts in proper synchronization, the event was a virtual masterpiece.

The second thing that struck me was that a good friend and colleague of mine, Ron Dolinsek, came up to me at the end of the event and said, "Bill, I now know what this is all about." I thought about that statement for a minute and realized he wasn't referring to the food or desert auction, how nice the venue was, or the silent auction. He was talking about how impressive it is to watch a community with a common passion come together in such a meaningful way to support something as important as farmland conservation. You are right, Ron, it is impressive! And I never want to take for granted the unselfish efforts by others and the community support that followed.

In keeping with that theme, I want to take this opportunity to thank Ken Oneto for his unselfish efforts in leading CVFT as board president over the last two years. His strong leadership and commitment to CVFT and its mission was exemplary. His knowledge, wisdom, and quick wit were well represented at every board meeting. Thank you Ken!!

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

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A TASTE OF THE COUNTRY continued from page 1

organizing and stocking the bar. The bartenders, including Supervisor Deidre Kelsey, were busy all evening providing a wide assortment of wine and beer.

The 230 guests enjoyed a delicious dinner that included tri-tip and locally grown sweet potatoes prepared by Mark Marchini and the Merced County Young Farmers and Ranchers. Following dinner, a serve yourself ice cream sundae bar was set up for those looking to top off the meal with something sweet.

Guests with a sweet tooth also had the opportunity to bid on a variety of scrumptious desserts provided by community members and members of California Women for Agriculture. Martin Machado did an outstanding job serving as auctioneer. There was a beautiful array of pies, cakes, cupcakes, cookies and even homemade ice cream. Deidre Kelsey contributed her famous boysenberry pie. After some furious bidding, the winner was Tim Byrd, who represented event sponsor E. & J. Gallo Winery.

Special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who did a fantastic job of putting together this memorable event. The event committee included Maxwell Norton, Lee Anderson, Loraine Bocks, Kenra Bragonier, Jim Cunningham, Richard Dodson, Mary Furey, Maria Giampaoli, Robert King, Rochelle Koch, Bob Kolberg, Les McCabe, Jean Okuye, Alan Schoff, Mike Van Horn, Susan Walsh and Diana Westmoreland-Pedrozo.



Top: Cathy Weber, Kendra and Don Bragonier

Left: Deidre Kelsey served as bartender.

Below: Sally and Charlie Magneson



Mark Seivert, Doug Parsons, Richard Mahacek



Tim Pellissier, Amy Pellissier, Jon Nunes, Kelly Nunes



President's Message



Ken Oneto, President

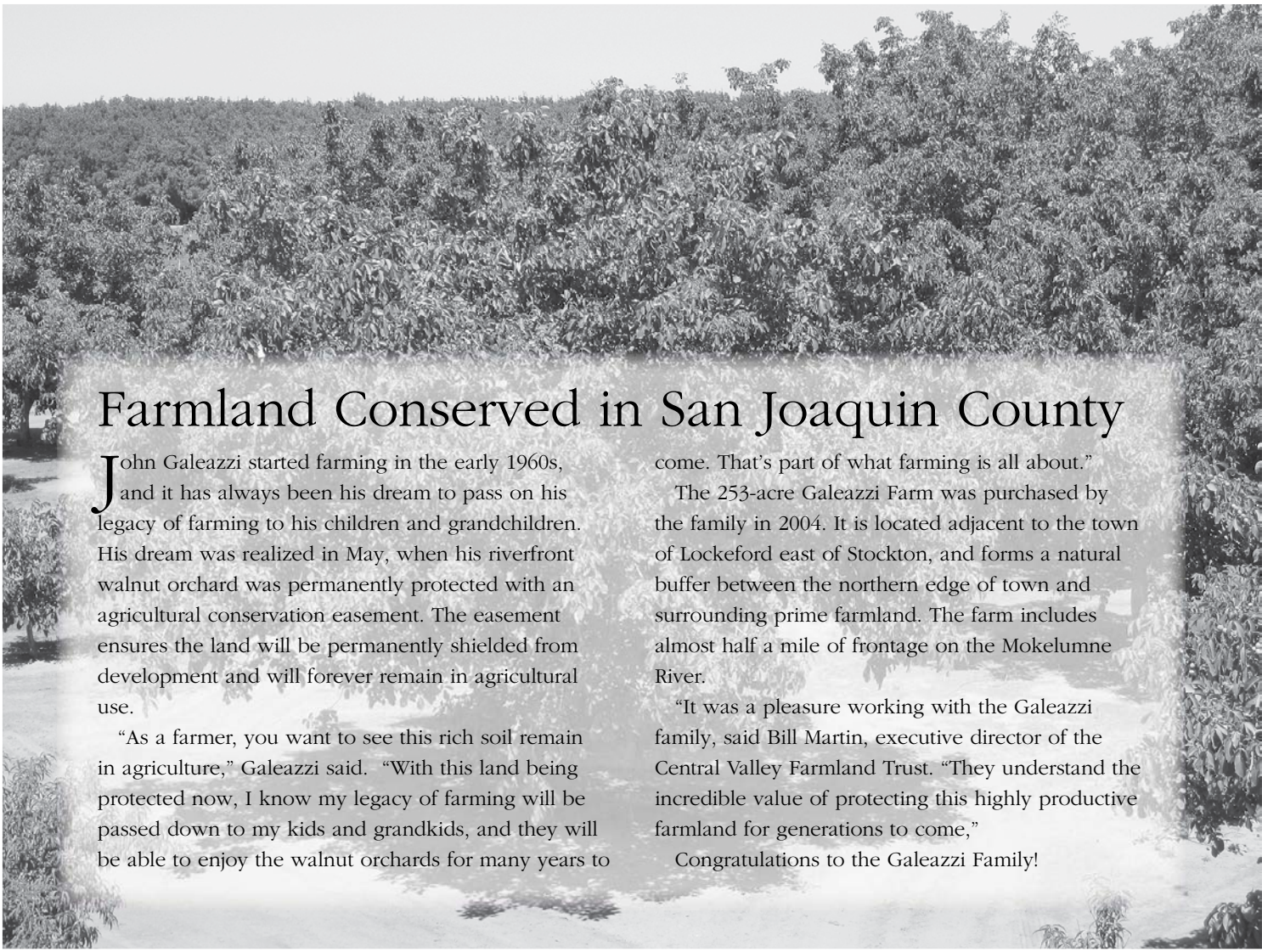
Time flies! It seems it was just last week that I was elected president of the Central Valley Farmland Trust. As a reminder of just how fast time goes, there is always the email from Susan about this message. It seems that I just wrote the last one, but this message actually is my last one.

By the end of June I will be stepping down from the office of president. Taking my place will be Denny Jackman. Of the original 12 directors, three will continue to serve: Maxwell Norton, Denny and me. We have been fortunate to replace retiring board members with great people. But don't get me wrong, we are always

looking for additional volunteers to serve on the board or committees.

It is always a delicate situation asking for someone's time; it's sometimes easier just to ask for money. Taking time away during the work week is tough. I know, because I leave my farm in the trusted hands of my employees. Many on the board are trusted employees who, through the kindness of their employers, are able to come and contribute.

I would like to thank all the board and committee members who have given their time over the last two years. Everyone's time is valuable, and it goes so fast. I extend additional thanks to the families, employers and friends who support farmland conservation and our dedicated volunteers. Remember, time is valuable. That's why it's called the "present."



Farmland Conserved in San Joaquin County

John Galeazzi started farming in the early 1960s, and it has always been his dream to pass on his legacy of farming to his children and grandchildren. His dream was realized in May, when his riverfront walnut orchard was permanently protected with an agricultural conservation easement. The easement ensures the land will be permanently shielded from development and will forever remain in agricultural use.

"As a farmer, you want to see this rich soil remain in agriculture," Galeazzi said. "With this land being protected now, I know my legacy of farming will be passed down to my kids and grandkids, and they will be able to enjoy the walnut orchards for many years to

come. That's part of what farming is all about."

The 253-acre Galeazzi Farm was purchased by the family in 2004. It is located adjacent to the town of Lockeford east of Stockton, and forms a natural buffer between the northern edge of town and surrounding prime farmland. The farm includes almost half a mile of frontage on the Mokelumne River.

"It was a pleasure working with the Galeazzi family, said Bill Martin, executive director of the Central Valley Farmland Trust. "They understand the incredible value of protecting this highly productive farmland for generations to come,"

Congratulations to the Galeazzi Family!



CVFT Welcomes Ron Dolinsek

We are very pleased to announce that on July 1, 2012, Ron Dolinsek will become CVFT's newest board member. Ron's lifelong experience in the ag finance field, sound understanding of corporate governance, and a passion for farmland conservation makes him uniquely qualified to serve on the board.

Ron graduated from California State University, Fresno with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. Following college he worked as a cotton gin manager in the San Joaquin Valley. This early experience introduced him to multiple facets of the agricultural industry and allowed him to work closely with valley farmers and ranchers. This served to help build his passion for and dedication to the agricultural industry and ultimately his interest in the preservation of agricultural land.

Ron's passion and commitment continued to grow during his 34 years with the Farm Credit System. During his highly successful career with Farm Credit, Ron served in multiple executive level positions. He is retiring on June 30 of this year. Armed with this lifetime of experience, knowledge and wisdom, Ron will help lead CVFT to the next level.

"I have known Ron for over 35 years, and I can say

without reservation that his dedication, commitment and integrity are exceptional," says Bill Martin

Ron's previous volunteer activities include serving on CSUF Alumni Association and Endowment Boards, Rocklin General Plan Advisory Board and Police Chief Selection Committees, and he was founder of S P & P Endowment Trust Council. He is also a past member of Kiwanis of Lemoore and Woodland and has served on several CVFT committees.

We welcome Ron to our board and look forward to utilizing his wealth of knowledge and experience to further strengthen the organization and enhance our farmland conservation efforts.

Founding Members

Markus and Elizabeth Bokisch
Timothy and Suzanne Byrd
Richard and Sharon Clauss
John and Jeani Ferrari
E & J Gallo Winery
Hilmar Cheese Company, Inc.
Vance Kennedy, Ph.D.
Brad Lange/Lange Twins Partnership
Martin and Stacey Machado
Charles and Sally Magnuson
Scott and Pamela Magnuson
Maxwell and Diane Norton
Donald and Lynn Skinner
Duncan and Barbara Smith
Michael and Cathy Tanner



Farmlands Legacy Society

KEN AND FLORENCE ONETO

You can join the Farmlands Legacy Society by leaving a planned gift to the Central Valley Farmlands Trust in your will or family trust. For information on this program call Susan at (916) 687-3178



Save The Date!

Saturday, October 20, 2012

For dinner with

Degas

Dinner and an exclusive tour of

Edgar Degas: The Private Impressionist

Works on Paper by the Artist and his Circle

Carnegie Arts Center | 250 North Broadway | Downtown Turlock

We are celebrating world-class farmland, local food, wine and the intimate drawings, prints, pastels and photographs by Edgar Degas, one of the founders of Impressionism.

Presented by the Central Valley Farmland Trust in partnership with our Corporate Sponsors



6 PM Gallery Tour | 7 PM Dinner
\$100 per person | \$175 per couple
Table Sponsorships \$1,000

For information and reservations:
Susan at (916) 687-3178
shooper@valleyfarmland.org