



FALL 2019

# CONSERVATOR

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BUCKEYE



## Stewart Ranch

Calvin and Wendy Stewart live near Kettenpom in Trinity County, California, on the Stewart Ranch. The Stewart family has been on the North Coast for many years. Stewarts Point in Sonoma County was named after Calvin's great, great grandfather, also a Calvin Stewart, who settled there in the 1850's. His son, Calvin, a great grandfather, was also in the timber business in Mendocino and Humboldt Counties. He was a partner in the first sawmill in Fort Bragg and later built a wharf near the Mattole River. Grandfather Calvin Stewart, was involved in shipping timber products by steamer from Needle Rock and Bear Harbor. He also raised sheep at the ranch at Needle Rock and later was a partner in the Fort Seward Ranch.

The current Calvin Stewart was born January 23, 1947, to Gerry and Clara Stewart. Gerry and Clara purchased the Ware Ranch, between Fort Seward

## 2019 Stewardship Award Recipients Calvin and Wendy Stewart

and Alderpoint in 1950, where they raised sheep and cattle. Calvin has two sisters, Janice Tosten and Barbara Lindsay who still own the ranch with Calvin.

Calvin graduated from South Fork High School in 1965. He worked on his father's ranch for two years and Fort Seward Ranch for several years. Calvin and his father purchased much of the old White Ranch, South of Kettenpom, in 1974 from the Jameson Brothers. The White Ranch, in Trinity County was once owned by George and Pitt White of Covelo. Calvin and Wendy live on the ranch in a house built by Pitt White in 1879. Like most ranches in the area, they raise cattle and timber. They have gotten too old to raise Hell. They have developed a five-megawatt hydroelectric plant on the ranch. The hunting is leased to Jim and Tinamarie Shaafsma. Continued on Page 7.

**PROTECTING OPEN SPACE AND FAMILY RANCH LAND  
VALUES ON CALIFORNIA'S NORTH COAST**





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Rancher

STAFF-VALERIE ELDER  
Executive Director

We are dedicated to the promotion, communication and implementation of ideals and policies that support ecological and economic sustainability of natural resources and open space in family ownership.

## Buckeye Year in Review

The work of the Buckeye remains relevant nearly 20 years since our inception as an organization. Our method focuses on bringing people around a table and talking about issues, trying to come to common sense solutions. In 2020 we hope to go continue the work of bridging the gap between the neighbors and families caring for open space and producing food and fiber, with our rule makers, elected officials and the general public. (See Sarah's message on this on page 4. )

The Buckeye Board decided to focus efforts on three ongoing goals: increase our educational reach to youth, do more to engage with our members including the dairy industry, and elevate our profile as an organization.

Here is a summary of our efforts this year:

- Wrote letters to elected officials sharing the story of the impact to family ranching families for Measure F, TE and AE County Zoning Changes, to Redwood Coast Energy Authority in support of Biomass, to the Waterboard on general Waste Discharge Requirements for North Coast Dairies, and to the Board of Forestry on proposed changes to the Working Forest Management Plan.
- Held meetings with diverse groups to try to reach mutual understanding of issues and challenges.
- Hosted Cider for Non-Profit event at Humboldt Cider Co. to bring about some community awareness for the new Buckeye Seed Grant project.
- Collaborated with the Humboldt-Del Norte Cattlemen's Association on challenging Measure F, their Fall Meeting, and held a Livestock Training for law enforcement professionals.
- Supported 4-H youth rebuilding Paradise 4-H Clubs.
- Sarah Mora and Mike Downey shared several KINS radio Community Comments on issues important to the Buckeye.
- Participated in the North Coast Association of Non-Profit's "Know and Love Campaign", sharing the story of family ranches and The Buckeye Mission with a diverse group of people. (See picture and quote below.)



*NorCan Survey Response*

**What's something you wish people knew about why you work at your organization?**

"The care and heart put into family ownership is incredible. Landowners are creative, compassionate and forward thinking. Their land is the fabric of their lives, it's their livelihood and their identity."

Valerie Elder, The Buckeye

- Presented at Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club Meetings. Provided public comment at the Humboldt County Air Quality Control Board regarding the Fee Structure for prescribed burns, and signed on to a letter with many partners.
- Held an educational mixer on challenges and benefits of prescribed burning as a tool for our landowners. Special thanks to Lenya Quin-Davidson and Jeff Stackhouse (UCCE) and the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association.
- Hosted a leadership series in partnership with Akoniti Leadership, American Ag Credit and Western United Dairymen.
- Distributed four seasonal newsletters to membership, businesses, community leaders & elected officials.
- Assisted in reconvening the Humboldt County Working Lands Committee and directing more energy toward our relationship with the County General Plan.
- Increased community understanding of our organization by introducing the community to our board of directors through the new "Meet the Board" series in newsletters and social media.
- Tabled a booth at the Redwood Region Logging Conference.
- Distributed information about our organization through new social media channels such as Instagram and increased our sphere of influence through Facebook and participated in a podcast Talking Forests.
- Finally, Buckeye hats spark conversations like "Nice hat, what is the Buckeye? "

Before we turn the corner toward 2020 we will have a booth at the Humboldt History Symposium. We will distribute small grants to help youth learn about ranching and agriculture. (See page 8 for more details.) We will also partner with a diverse group to share the message that we, family owned farms, ranches and fields, are neighbors and community members who contribute economically and ecologically to our community.

Looking forward to what we can accomplish together in 2020.

*Valerie Elder*

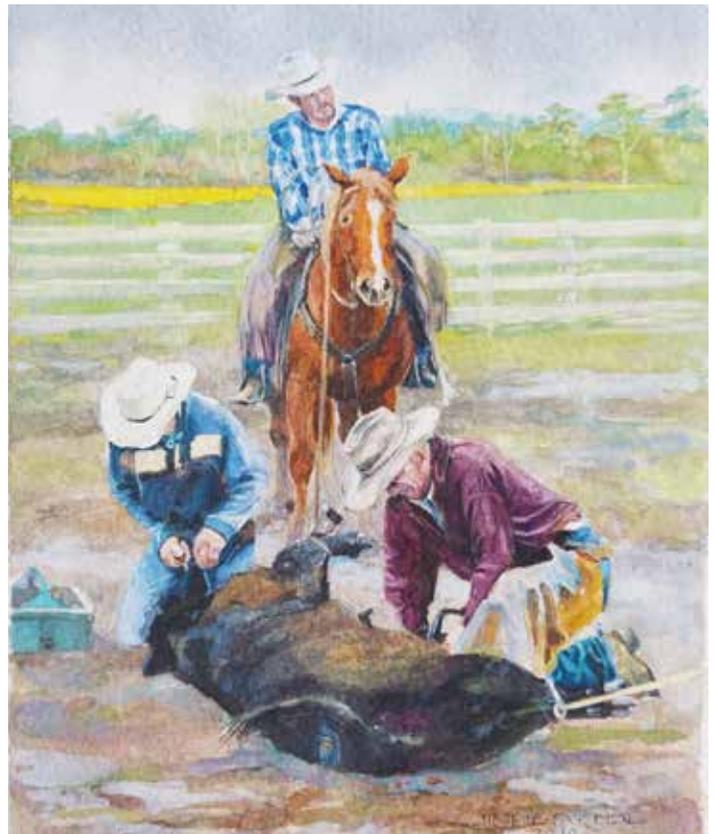
Valerie Elder, Executive Director

## Fall Mixer Gala

On October 18th we held our Fall Mixer in partnership with the Western Art and Gear in the Redwoods Gala. Approximately 150 people attended this first annual art show at Belotti Hall. The event featured live music, a historical museum exhibit of collected items celebrating our ranching heritage. Art vendors included several Buckeye members, wonderful local artists and out of town guests.

Save the Date for the third weekend in October if you are intested in attending next years event. Contact Sharylene Rayl 707-407-8081 for more information about vending. Great work Ani Knight, Sharylene, all the artists and sponsors for a great event

**Buckeye Board Member Jimmie-Faye Beal won the People's Choice award for her watercolor of "The Bar Over F Crew"(right).**





## **Meet the Board: Sarah Mora**

Many of us recognize Sarah Mora's smiling face at the Humboldt Auction Yard. When I arrived at the yard, she was finishing up with a few tasks' leftover from the regularly held Wednesday Auction. People were coming in to pay bills, or pick up their cattle.

"There are probably a lot of people in Fortuna that don't understand the commerce that happens on a weekly basis at this little auction yard," Sarah said.

We headed South to their Alton Ranch to talk to me about her role with Humboldt Grassfed Beef. Lee Mora was out working on various projects and lent us one of the quads to head out to the pasture.

Sarah Mora is our current Board Chair ending her two-year term in 2020. She has been on The Buckeye Board for roughly 8 years, and the Buckeye Executive Committee for 5 years. Sarah is active in the community, and serves as a mentor for many.

"We were taught from a young age, and our parents certainly modeled this, that community and civic involvement especially in a small community like ours was important. It was something that was engrained in us, from the time we were little,

**"We were taught from a young age, and our parents certainly modeled this that community and civic involvement especially in a small community like ours was important."**

that you gave back to your community. I was on the Cattlewomen's boards, I still do the Beef Ambassador Contest, and I just retired as an active 4-H leader, well I will still be a 4-H leader just not an active project leader. I am on the Cattle Council, and help with the Junior Livestock Auction at the Humboldt County Fair, and various other auctions. I was in the Inaugural class of Leadership Fortuna."

Sarah was the Executive Director for the Farm Bureau in the Contra Costa Area, and was a Program Director for California Farm Bureau before returning to Humboldt and is the marketing manager for Humboldt Grass Fed Beef.

"Where we are in the Eel River Delta, the "Napa Valley" of what we can do with grass fed. We have as much as a 325-day growing season here in the valley. The difference is that we have that long growing season and because of that we are able to meet the 365 days a year demand. Even Sonoma or Mendocino, which doesn't seem that far away, their growing season is closer to 125 days. More supplementation has to be done to maintain the cattle on that pasture. I tell people we compete for shelf space. My job is to make sure we maintain that shelf space; the only way to do that is have a consistent flow for our partners and ourselves. I'm not worried about the cattle for this week, but the ones in three weeks."

Sarah shared with me her understanding and vision of the Buckeye's mission. She said, "We are in our 20th year, and people recognize the longevity of that and what we have tried to accomplish. It's hard to be tangible with what we do. We can't say we stopped Senate Bill X, or we fought against Assembly Bill X. It's a different mentality and the successes are different. I think the times and things we have been successful at are when we have an agency person, or a legislator, or even an advocate from the "other side" say to us, 'I didn't realize that's actually what happens on the ground.' I think those are intangible successes. They are the successes, that hopefully stop the next SB whatever from being there."

The mission of the Buckeye is to promote family ranch land values through education. Sarah shared, "We spend time chasing bills and policies that challenge our way of life, but the Buckeye's main focus is Education of that day-to-day, on the ground life. We forget that these guys really don't know what's happening on the ground. That's why I got involved. The Buckeye sometimes walks a real fine tightrope. And it's something that some of our members and our even board get frustrated with because our job is not to be the gung-ho advocate rallying against every piece of legislation that comes through, but the more boots on the ground understanding of what is actually taking place on the landscape... or on any of our members lands. It's a balance at times to keep us on that path. Our role is much different. Buckeye's motto "ranching for good", any of our organizations out there have that as part of their motto. Our job is to show what that good is. Not necessarily be the one saying this won't work, it's more of a this is why this doesn't work. "

We spent some time in the pasture looking at the cattle grazing on a sunny September day. Then we headed back to the barn, parked the quad and chatted about storytelling and the value of Buckeye membership.

"No different than any of the other organizations that people belong too, the more voices we have

**"I think the times and things we have been successful at are when we have an agency person, or a legislator, or even an advocate from the "other side" say to us, 'I didn't realize that's actually what happens on the ground.' "**

the better. I think the more people telling their stories the better. And that's such a cliché. We always say telling our story, telling our story. It's not necessarily me saying I am a fourth-generation rancher and...I don't think people want that. I think they want to understand what we're doing on the landscape and why. And that's different on every operation. We have to have those voices out there from the Green Diamond perspective to the small 40 acres of timber. We need those members to tell us what they are dealing with on a daily basis."

As Sarah ends her two-year term as Buckeye Chairman I ask her to reflect back on her leadership in our organization.

"In the last few years we have brought some new faces on the board, new perspectives. I hope we've continued to raise the profile of Buckeye and share who Buckeye is, and want to be part of the organization. I hope that we have honored the people that came before us and have done so in a way that we have honored their legacy but continued to move the organization forward to keep doing the job we started this organization to do, and we continue to be successful at it. We have been successful at it. In order to continue to do that it takes an active board."

"Anyone that knows me knows I am passionate about agriculture in general and the lifestyle. I hope that we are doing our job to keep that passion going. We are families. We are messy, diverse but at the end of the day we are family and we try and remember that. At the Buckeye we have to remember that too. It's messy, diverse, it's crazy but at the end of the day it's family, that's what it's all about.

# Community Comment on Biomass

Mike Downey for Community Comment  
October 7, 2019 | KINS 106.3 Radio

Energy and the production of energy continues to be a topic of discussion, especially in California. There are many sources, such as fossil fuel, coal, wind, sun and natural gas to name a few. There are also pros and cons with each. One may produce energy cleaner or cheaper than the other, or it may come down to something as simple as the source of the fuel that is used to create the energy.

One source that is developing and sometimes overlooked is biomass. You wonder what biomass fuel is! The US Energy Information Administration states

“Biomass is organic material that comes from plants and animals, and it is a renewable source of energy. Biomass contains stored energy from the sun. Plants absorb the sun’s energy in a process called photosynthesis. When biomass is burned, the chemical energy in biomass is released as heat. Biomass can be burned directly or converted to liquid biofuels or biogas that can be burned as fuels.

Examples of biomass and their uses for energy are

- Wood and wood processing wastes—burned to heat buildings, to produce process heat in industry, and to generate electricity
- Agricultural crops and waste materials—burned as a fuel or converted to liquid biofuels
- Food, yard, and wood waste in garbage—burned to generate electricity in power plants or converted to biogas in landfills
- Animal manure and human sewage—converted to biogas, which can be burned as a fuel”

Sounds simple enough, a fuel produced by the sun and then converted to energy for our use. There are currently two biomass production facilities in Humboldt County one in Scotia and the other in Fairhaven. Both burn wood waste products, which we have an abundant and sustainable supply of.

Biomass fuel production in Humboldt County provides a source of “clean or carbon neutral” energy as opposed to gas or oil and unlike solar or wind power is available 24/7 “rain or shine”. Another positive component of biomass fuel for California is that it assists in eliminating forest fuels that have contributed to many devastating fires in the state over the past few years.



**Biomass power is currently the only utility-scale (i.e. multi-megawatt) source of renewable electricity in the county. Biomass power plants primarily use mill waste that would otherwise need to be disposed of by an alternative means. [redwoodenergy.org](http://redwoodenergy.org)**

In 2016 Governor Jerry Brown signed California Senate Bill 859, which supports biomass plants within the state by calling on electricity retailers to enter into five-year contracts for 125 Mega Watts of biomass capacity with facilities that generate energy from wood harvested from high-fire-hazard zones.

The legislation responds to the issues we have lived with in California for many years the lack of reduction of forest fuels that lead to large woodland fires. Under this legislation the fuel is now converted to usable energy and not just burned up in the latest woodland fire. It will also greatly reduce the emissions created by the woodland wild fires by burning the fuels in a controlled standard driven manner.

Biomass energy production is good for the environment, with an abundance of biomass fuel here in Humboldt County. The technology is continuing to advance with innovative solutions to any energy crisis or shortfall. Biomass energy production will provide jobs, protect the forest lands and supply energy in a very economical and sustainable manner, something we can all agree with.

Steward Ranch continued from Page 1.

Calvin married Wendy Watkins from Sonoma, California in 1978. They met at Peggy Satterlee's wedding in Garberville and dated for seven years while Wendy was teaching in the Bay Area. They have one son, Christopher, various foundlings, and one grandchild, Charlie. Wendy also has a lodging business in Sonoma County Wine Country. Christopher and his wife Kaala are currently managing that business.

Calvin is a past president of the Humboldt-Del Norte Cattlemen's Association (1983-1984). He also served as State Director of the Wildlife Committee for the California Cattlemen Association.

Calvin is a steady presence in the agriculture community; he is quiet, listens and absorbs information, and then brings it up and communicates thoughtfully. He finds ways to bridge gaps between people in the Buckeye way.

As a true steward of the land, he was completing conservation projects before it was required. For example his logging roads were always better than required, because he understood things from growing up on the land. He understands the water and soil, the value of not taking shortcuts. The stewardship of the land has always mattered, the "critters" matter.

Calvin and Wendy are volunteers in their community, particularly Southern Humboldt. They show up when they are needed to

voice concerns on issues related to private landownership rights and tax/family inheritance, in Sacramento and even traveling to Washington DC for permitting a hydroelectric project. One of the largest ranches in the county they have done whatever it takes to keep it in the family while managing for timber and cattle.



Save the Date for a Ranch Tour at the Stewart Ranch, the first weekend in June 2020.

## 2020 Stewardship Award Call for Nominations

The Buckeye is accepting Nomination for the 2020 Stewardship Award. The Buckeye's Stewardship award was established in 2004 to acknowledge leadership in conservation of natural resources. Because high-quality stewardship is key to sustaining the quality of life for all, the annual award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exemplary care and management of natural resources while balancing the ecologic health of our region's wild lands, a healthy, stable economy, and preserving open space in family ownership.

### General Guidelines:

- Nominations are open to individuals, families, businesses and organizations.
- Only members of The Buckeye are eligible to make nominations
- Nominations must be received by **November 30th, 2019** and include the following:
  - Name of Nominee
  - Address of Individual(s) to be recognized
  - 1000 words or less describing the nominees' specific stewardship practices and achievements. Tell us how their stewardship practices tie into the goals of The Buckeye.
  - Photos may be submitted, but are not required.

The Stewardship award will be presented at The Buckeye's Annual Meeting **Sunday, March 1st 2020**. The recipient will be recognized in The Buckeye's Newsletter, Buckeye's website, and in local media.

info@thebuckeye.org | PO Box 5607 Eureka, CA 95502



WE ARE FAMILIES...  
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## New this Fall: Student Project “Buckeye Seed” Grants

### What are the Buckeye Seed Grants?

The Student Project Grant provides start-up funds and mentorship for students interested in sustainable agriculture like learning to grow vegetables or beekeeping.

**Project Grant Funds:** Students are awarded money based on their budget and goals for their project. We will distribute student project grants in increments up to \$200 to approximately 10-20 students.

**Mentorship:** A part of this Student Project Grant program is mentorship from Buckeye volunteers. We will pair awardees with agricultural producers who have some experience in agriculture business or the students project interest area.

**Applications:** Students can download applications from [buckeyeconservancy.org](http://buckeyeconservancy.org). Completed applications must be postmarked or emailed by December 13th. Awardees will be notified by February 1 and awards will be presented at our Annual Meeting on March 1.



**Encourage a student to apply today!**

**Why offer these grants?** The Buckeye is committed to the long-term viability of ranches and private forests throughout our region. Our efforts are intended not only to serve landowners today, but also to serve the generations of private landowners that follow. Ranchers have, for generations, fulfilled a critical role of preserving open spaces, and producing food and fiber. Through meetings with Ag Education Professionals we learned many of our agriculture students are not connected with producers, ranchers or forest landowners. We think these student project grants could be a seed that helps grow the spirit of collaboration and agricultural understanding in the youth of our community. We want them to be successful!

If you are interested in supporting a project, or serving on the committee contact the Buckeye Office.

**For additional information:** Please contact Valerie Elder, Executive Director  
The Buckeye | c: 707-496-8073 | [info@thebuckeye.org](mailto:info@thebuckeye.org)

## **California department of food and agriculture (CDFA) awards nearly \$102 million for dairy methane reduction projects.**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has awarded nearly \$102 million in grant funding to dairy methane reduction projects across the state. These projects, part of the Dairy Digester Research and Development Program (DDRDP) and the Alternative Manure Management Program (AMMP), will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from manure on California dairy farms.

The projects will collectively reduce an estimated 789,536 metric tons of greenhouse gases (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year.

"The awards allow our dairy families to produce clean renewable energy," said CDFA Secretary Karen Ross. "These efforts promote energy-secure economies, which are long-lasting and important contributions to local rural communities and our planet's well-being."

**Susan Edinger Marshall invites the North Coast Ranching community to be her special guests at her talk titled:**

## **"Branding HSU" - the importance of a Rangeland Resources and Wildland Soils major for California and the West**

Wednesday Dec. 4, at 5 pm  
Kate Buchanan Room, University Center

This HSU program could not exist without rancher-provided access to private rangelands for our Range & Soils field trips. She would like ranchers to join her on Dec. 4 as a show of mutual support; the university's academic programs and the agricultural communities they aspire to serve. Susan Edinger Marshall is the recipient of HSU's 2018/19 Excellence In Teaching Award.

Call Susan at (707)826-4064 or sem11@humboldt.edu or more information

Since 2015, 213 dairy families in California have participated and contributed to methane reduction efforts through the AMMP and DDRDP programs. Together, all DDRDP and AMMP projects reduce an estimated 2.2 million metric tons of greenhouse gases (2.2 MMTCO<sub>2</sub>e) per year, which is equivalent to removing more 460,000 cars from the road. This is approximately 25 percent of the 2013 California inventory for dairy and livestock manure methane emissions.

These GHG reduction approaches collectively contribute to the state's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Strategy under Senate Bill 1383, which aims to reduce California's methane emissions from the dairy and livestock sector to 40 percent below 2013 levels by 2030.

Note: This year, In Humboldt County we have four dairies with guaranteed funding, and a dairy with potential funding (they're next on CDFA's ranking if someone drops out or is removed from the program). In addition, Humboldt county had four grants funded in previous years, bring the total to 8 or 9.

Adapted from CDFA Press Release



**Buckeye Board Member Ken Fulgham and HSU President Tom Jackson at the Cattlemen's Fall Meeting at the Barn at Fernbridge**

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**2020 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Ranch or Business \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you find out about The Buckeye (who referred you)? \_\_\_\_\_

General Member

Basic	\$ 100.00
Silver	\$ 125.00
Gold	\$ 150.00
Platinum	\$ 200.00

Business Member

Basic	\$ 250.00
Silver	\$ 500.00
Gold	\$ 750.00
Platinum	\$ 1000.00

I would like to give another amount not listed above \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You!**

The Buckeye Conservancy is a 501-C (3) non-profit California Corporation, Tax I.D. No. 94-3368651

Any amount above the basic general or basic business membership are considered charitable contributions



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FALL 2019  
NEWSLETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE:

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- Buckeye: A year in review.
- Meet the Board- Sarah Mora
- Introducing the Buckeye Seed Grant for Student Projects.

The Buckeye approaches its mission with an open and inclusive style. We are promoting our good stewardship and its public benefits to the community. We are raising awareness of the pressures that are forcing families off the land. And in a collaborative way, we are proactively seeking common sense solutions that will strengthen the economic and ecologic sustainability of these lands.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY  
MARCH 1ST, FORTUNA RIVER LODGE

We are - “families... ranching for good.”