

Yolo Land Trust has 3 New Board Members

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The Yolo Land Trust recently welcomed three new members to its board of directors.

The Yolo Land Trust's mission is to conserve productive farmland and rangeland in Yolo County. It was founded in 1988 and has helped landowners place voluntary agricultural conservation easement agreements on over 60 farms countywide, permanently conserving this land for future generations.

New officers for the board were selected earlier this year, along with a new member. The newest members of the board, announced this week, are Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Dominic Bruno and Grant Davids.

The 2018 officers of the Land Trust are President Lynnel Pollock, Vice President Neal Van Alfen, Treasurer Chuck Moore and secretary Kathy Ward. The current board is made up of Casey Walsh Cady, Mark Harrison, Chris Sinclair, and the three new members Bruno, Davids, and Warmerdam. Chris Sinclair is leaving at the end of December, having served the maximum of nine years on the board.

Harrison, a fifth-generation Yolo County resident and UC Berkeley earned his Juris Doctorate degree from UC Davis, and is the most recent person to join the board before the recent selections. He is a partner in the Sacramento law firm of Harrison, Temblador, Hungerford and Johnson, LLP. Harrison was lead counsel for local governments in matters involving control over land use decisions and previously served as president of the Cache Creek Conservancy.

Michele Clark, the executive director for the Land Trust, reported that Warmerdam has worked on agricultural, natural resource and rural public policy issues for most of her career. Currently, she is a senior legislative advocate with the Rural County Representatives of California. She previously served in the California Environmental Protection Agency for Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown.

Warmerdam and her husband, Robert Falconer, own a small farm in northern Yolo County. She has a Master of Business Administration degree from Fresno State and completed the Kennedy School of Government's Executive Certification Program as well as the California Agricultural Leadership Program.

Bruno is also graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program and has spent much of his career farming and working on environmental projects in Yolo County. He works as the Assistant Manager for River Garden Farms Company in Knights Landing, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural science from Chico State. He and his wife Sarah live in Sacramento.

Davids is a California native, growing up on a Sonoma County family farm raising prunes and wine grapes. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Davids and his wife Joni, worked for five years on a major irrigation and rural development project in Sri Lanka. After returning to the United States, Grant spent ten years with a large consulting firm before starting his own firm in 1993, Davids Engineering, based in Davis, which is dedicated to sustainable agriculture and works primarily with irrigation water suppliers and the farmers they serve to build improved water management capacity.

“We are delighted to have three excellent community members join the Board of Directors of the Yolo Land Trust,” said Lynnel Pollock. “Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in multiple aspects of farming to our organization. We look forward to their contributions to the Yolo Land Trust’s work of conserving important farmland and rangeland in Yolo County.”

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