



#### Mission Statement

The mission of the California Native Grasslands Association is to promote, preserve, and restore the diversity of California's native grasses and grassland ecosystems through education, advocacy, research, and stewardship.

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Grasslands is published quarterly by CNGA. ©2021 CNGA ISSN No. 1540-6857 Layout design: Julie St. John



John with his beloved dogs.

# From the President's Keyboard

Dear CNGA Members, Friends, and Supporters,

As John Anderson left this earth in late summer of 2020, his memory and legacy remain and will endure. I cannot think of anyone involved with land management, restoration, and California native grassland ecosystems whose life has not been impacted or changed, directly or indirectly by John Anderson.

I remember when I was working for Sierra View Landscape dba Restoration Resources (now a part of Habitat Restoration Sciences) on a project around Winters in Yolo County. Our staging area was at Hedgerow Farms, and I remember looking around and being intrigued by all the grass production fields. I used to call it Hedgerow University as I often saw students, interns, or researchers out on the farm. At that time, most restoration sites I was involved in included removing invasive plants and installing trees and shrubs. Grasses were not part of those plans.

This is where I met John. He taught me the importance of native grass ecosystems and patience to restore or re-create them — lots of patience and observations. I can't remember how many times I called him to ask for input, and he was always available for a long lecture, an unprecedented knowledge-sharing experience.

John was a visionary. Over 30 years ago, he and a small group of passionate and enthusiastic professionals — including John Menke and David Amme (my apologies if your name is not mentioned here; this is to the best of my knowledge) — started to work with UC Davis faculty, land management specialists, and state and federal agencies on how to best elevate the value, protection, and conservation needs of this interesting, critical and largely overlooked California habitat. From their efforts, the California Native Grass Association was born. Their vision and mission at the time are still the same today, 30 years later: to promote, preserve, and restore the diversity of California's native grasses and grassland ecosystems through education, advocacy, research, and stewardship.

John is greatly missed, and CNGA will keep working towards that same mission for years to come.

On behalf of the CNGA Board of Directors, It is my honor and privilege, to present you this special issue dedicated to John Anderson.

IP Marié



The mission of the California Native Grasslands Association is to promote, preserve, and restore the diversity of California's native grasses and grassland ecosystems through education, advocacy, research, and stewardship.

For 30 years, the California Native Grasslands Association has represented people concerned with the continued loss and degradation of California's native grasslands, the most threatened ecosystem in California. Our dedicated Board of Directors volunteer their valuable time to educate and promote awareness of the beauty importance of healthy grassland ecosystems.

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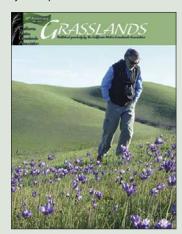
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Send written submissions, as email attachments, to grasslands@cnga.org. All submissions are reviewed by the Grasslands Editorial Committee for suitability for publication.

Written submissions include peer-reviewed research reports and non-refereed articles, such as progress reports, observations, field notes, interviews, book reviews, and opinions.

Also considered for publication are highresolution color photographs. For each issue, the Editorial Committee votes on photos that will be featured on our full-color covers. Send photo submissions (at least 300 dpi resolution), as email attachments, to the Editor at grasslands@cnga.org. Include a caption and credited photographer's name.



#### **Submission deadlines for articles:**

**Summer 2021**: 15 May 2021 **\* Fall 2021**: 15 Aug 2021 **\*** Winter 2022 15 Nov 2021 **Spring 2022**: 15 Feb 2022

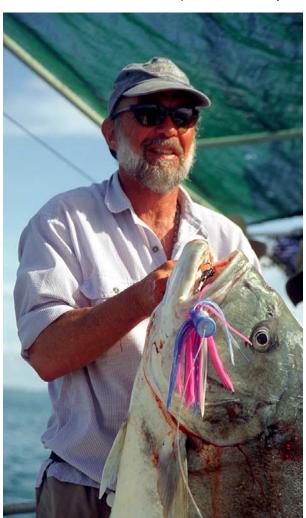
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John and Marsha on the sandy flats at low tide, looking for the elusive bone fish to catch using their fly rods...time in Paradise. Vamizi Island, Cabo del Gado, Northern Mozambique in 2003. Photo by Michael Kock



# Introduction

by Bryan Young, Natural Resource Supervisor, Regional San Bufferlands, and former Hedgerow Farms Student Intern and Emily Allen, independent consultant and CNGA Board Member

Welcome to this special edition of *Grasslands*. In this issue, we pay homage to John Anderson, a founding member of the California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) and profoundly influential champion of California native grassland conservation. John passed away in August 2020, but not before educating and inspiring thousands of people on the art, science, and myriad intricacies of restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat with native grassland species.

This audience likely strongly associates John with Hedgerow Farms. Perhaps it was through a visit to the farm or John A. slide show that you were first introduced to the nuances of grassland restoration. Yet, while John always wore the visage of a lifetime farmer, remarkably, farming was actually a second career. It is true that John held a passion for the outdoors throughout his entire life, but it was an interest that led him to veterinary science long before agriculture and grassland ecology. John received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1970. He worked in a small animal clinic in Sacramento for several years before becoming a primate specialist and going

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John with a Giant Trevally (Caranx ignobilis) caught trolling from a boat cruising between two islands, Ilha Vamizi and Ilha Rongui, Cabo del Gado, northern Mozambique in 2003. Photo by Michael Kock





Left: John had read somewhere about the Central Valley grasslands reaching the chest of the settlers' horses. He took this photo of his daughter Annie riding through a field of blue wildrye (Elymus glaucus) to illustrate that point, although Marsha and Jenny pointed out this mare, Danja, was probably a good 6-8 inches taller than any settlers' horses would have been. Right: Jenny remembers that her dad was "always dragging us out to take pictures of restoration projects and production fields for reference." He took this photo of her with an impressive snake shed for scale. Photos by John Anderson

### Introduction continued

to work for the University of California, Davis (UCD) Primate Research Center. At the Primate Center, he worked as a clinician and surgeon researching disease on thousands of monkeys. His primate work took him around the world. He spent time in Indonesia conserving rare monkeys. He worked in Panama to assist with the capture of howler monkeys infected with bots. At one point in the 1980s, he took a three-month leave of absence to work in Kenya setting up a health care and surgical facility at a primate center there. It was on the trip home from Kenya that he and his

family stopped in England and got a tour showcasing English farmland management for hunting and habitat. A key component of the management strategy was hedgerows. The proverbial seed was sown and John set out to improve the wildlife habitat on the farm in Winters, California, that he purchased with his wife, Marsha in 1973. In this endeavor, he recognized a need for local native plant materials, and Hedgerow Farms was born. When Marsha found out UCD was offering early retirement she suggested John retire if he was serious about farming native plants. John retired from the

> Primate Center in 1993, and over the next decade, he and Marsha grew the farm to 400 acres of active farmland with over 100 native species in production and over 100 acres of restored habitat. Since they were both in the business of growing native plants, John became friends with Victor Schaff at S&S Seeds. Victor offered to buy the farming business in 2013 and John continued to work on the farm until 2016 before officially retiring (again).

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John flyfishing for Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Grizzly country, Yellowstone National Park, in 2003. Grizzly, which Grizzly! Photo by Michael Kock

### Introduction continued

Of course, John never really stopped working. In March 2013, he, Marsha, and their neighbors, the Romingers, purchased a severely overgrazed ranch in the hills west of Hedgerow Farms known as the Yanci Ranch. They immediately set out to bring back the natives. John continued to contribute to the CNGA Field Day right up until the pandemic kept us from gathering in 2020.

Throughout his career, whether working on primates or grasses, John was never singularly focused on any one thing. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He enjoyed sports and travel. For more than

10 years, he trained champion Labrador dogs for field trials, even taking them to work with him at the Primate Center to train at lunchtime. He raised two wonderful daughters, Jenny and Anne, whose continued love and respect for the natural world is undoubtedly fueled by memories of fly fishing on Henry's Fork in Idaho and collecting on bounties paid by their dad on puncture vine collected across the farm.

John Anderson was a collector of many things including handfuls of seeds, notes on yellow notepads and sticky notes, photos, dirt, pin flags, stray animals, snakes, grass cuttings, and above all, people. Since we have not been able to have a memorial service due to the pandemic, we hope that this issue helps fill the need to share stories and memories of John and the impact he had on so many of us. While there are stories from over fifty people who knew and loved John included here, we recognize there are many more people who he impacted directly and indirectly. While reading the contributions people sent, several overarching themes became clear: his endless curiosity for the world around him, respect for others, hatred of weeds, and the drive to see his vision come to fruition of what restoration could be in California. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue.

In this edition of *Grasslands*, we remember the contributions John has made to promoting, preserving, and restoring California native grasslands. We think about the quail that call from the hedgerows in once intensively farmed fields of tomatoes and wheat. We consider the deer that now come down from the coast range to fawn in wooly farm edges that were previously scraped clean of anything but crop. We reminisce and become inspired once more to carry on the legacy of John Anderson to heal the habitat of the world.





John and Marsha Anderson enjoying John's retirement party from Hedgerow Farms in August 2016. Photo by Phil Hogan

"I met John at UC Davis when I started a postgraduate training program in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine. At the time, John was working at the California Primate Research Center (CPRC). We then started a Master's together, I finished mine, but John did not! There was a good reason for this as he left the CPRC and went full time into restoration ecology and founded Hedgerow Farms. We all shared a love of nature, wilderness and Africa. When I was about to turn 50, whilst at UC Davis, out of the blue I asked John and Marsha if they would like to join me on a trip to a remote place in Africa to celebrate my birthday. They readily agreed, soon packing their fly rods and I, 2 bottles of Champagne! We flew via Dar e Salaam to a remote island called Vamizi in Cabo del Gado province, in northern Mozambique. Wild and remote, we ate lobsters, John and Marsha fly fished, we followed turtle monitors and swam in azure waters with stunning coral reefs. John was pleased to see that a group of Samango monkeys had colonised the island. It was a truly idyllic trip with 2 of my favourite people, and in John a kindred soul. A man of the soil, a naturalist at heart, outdoorsman, family man, gentle and focused....on those flowers and grasses!" — Dr. Michael D. Kock is Wildlife Veterinarian based in the Western Cape, South Africa. John and several colleagues were associated with International Wildlife Veterinary Services (a non-profit) which was started on his porch. IWVS is still going 40+ years later. Dave Jessup and several others are members. John is sorely missed.



The Hedgerow Farms staff photo from 2012. Back row, left to right: Jim Mast, Isaac Fierros, Edgar De La Luz, Jorge Ayala, Everardo Reyes, and Juan Gomez. Front row, left to right: Emily Allen, Jeff Quiter, John Anderson, Marsha Anderson, and Liz Cieslak. Also included are Emily's black lab Darin and the farm dog, Rottie. Photo by John Anderson

# The University of Hedgerow Farms

by Bryan Young, Natural Resource Supervisor, Regional San Bufferlands, and former Hedgerow Farms Student Intern

Whenever occasioned to tout my education credentials, I generally state that I received my Bachelors of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology at the University of California at Davis and performed my graduate work at the University of Hedgerow Farms in Winters, California.

True, the U.S. Office of Postsecondary Education has not formally recognized Hedgerow Farms as an accredited institution of higher learning, but perhaps it should. Over the past 30 years, thousands of people have expanded their awareness and knowledge of California grasslands through tours and workshops hosted at Hedgerow Farms. The farm has been the site of hundreds of studies and scientific collaborations, some much more rigorous than others, but all yielding important information furthering the science of grassland ecology and restoration. And then there is the student body... the privileged apprentices, like myself, who had the opportunity to immerse themselves in the day-to-day workings of the farm and learn by doing under the tutelage of a one-of-a-kind instructor... John Anderson.

John A. had a profound influence on the careers of numerous individuals who had the opportunity to work on the farm. The reward for our efforts was far more than the measure of our paychecks. The true reward was in the development of our skills as scientists, ecologists, biologists, farmers, and advocates. John was a mentor to all of us in these areas.

I checked in with a number of John A. disciples and asked them to reflect on their experience on the farm and share some of the lessons learned that have influenced their careers.

### Roger Jones (Hedgerow Farms 1988–1992)

I met John in 1988 after he gave a lecture about pheasants and hedgerows. It was my first quarter at UCD. During our conversation, I told him about my life on a farm, raising cotton and hunting pheasants. A week later, I was at his farm, helping him to reconfigure old farm equipment to work with native seeds. I was the first intern at

### The University of Hedgerow Farms

continued

Hedgerow. During the next couple of years, we both learned to identify the native perennial grasses and find them in the local foothills. We collected seed and grew them in a makeshift greenhouse. We planted plugs all over his farm and then prayed for rain during the drought. I learned so much during this exciting time.

The help that John gave to me was deeper than my restoration experience. I was a farmboy out of my element at college. It was a tough time for me and I had a host of struggles. John took me under his wing as a friend. Each time I was ready to pack up and go home, John helped me find a way forward. So many years later, with a wonderful career, family, and success in my life, I am forever grateful to John and Marsha for the l time I spent learning and growing on Hedgerow Farms.

#### Bryan Young (1992-1993)

John was a student of the farm. He was always trying out new approaches, commemorating the ad hoc experiment with a pin flag, and carefully observing and photographing the results. He learned from every success and every failure. He generously shared his lessons learned with anyone who showed an interest (and perhaps a few that didn't). While people flocked to the farm to learn from the grass guru, it was seldom that John would not end up humbly learning something from the person seeking his wisdom. For all of his knowledge and experience, John was never afraid to ask questions. He continually learned from his neighbors, colleagues, researchers, workers, and customers. Forever learning. That is something I took from the farm and try to apply every day.

#### Chris Rose (1993-1996)

I was lucky that a childhood friend, Bryan Young, was working with this "interesting" man on his farm when I came to study at UC Davis. Bryan said he thought we would hit it off because we had similar outdoor interests. Bryan took me out to Hedgerow Farms to meet John and work on the farm for a day, which eventually turned into several years and a new life direction. Working at Hedgerow Farms became a career-defining period for me as well. I was studying Political Science, Public Service at UC Davis at the time Bryan Young introduced me to John and I knew I wanted to be involved with good people and a field that improved the environment and peoples' lives in some way, but I did not think I would fall in love with habitat restoration, conservation, and presenting to classrooms and the field as much as I have and still do to this day. John and his family not only took me in and taught me about farming and habitat restoration but also about bouncing back from mistakes, teaching others, and working and playing with a diverse group of people. For this reason, and more than this article can accommodate, I will always be grateful to John Anderson, the Anderson Family, and Bryan Young for taking me out to "Hedgerow".



John reunites with the first three Hedgerow Farms interns at a 2013 CNGA Field Day. Bryan Young, Chris Rose, and Roger Jones worked at the farm between 1988 and 1996.

#### Megan Lulow (1998-2000)

While I only spent a few years working for and being neighbors with John and his family, it was an experience that had a lifetime of meaning. John's passion for nature and capacity to learn, teach, and act was extremely contagious and productive. I am now grateful for not being accepted into graduate school at UC Davis the first time around, and instead having spent a year learning from John, his family, friends, and colleagues. That time solidified my interests and provided vision that enabled me to pursue my career confidently. Over 20 years has passed since my husband and I were neighbors with the Andersons, but our memories with them are very much alive and bring us much joy. Thank you, thank you, John, Marsha, Jen, and Anne — and Avery, your great Granddog Cooper has a ton of drive!

#### Tanya Meyer (1999-2003)

I was fortunate to work at Hedgerow Farms from 1999 to 2003. I met John as an intern at the Yolo County RCD in 1999 and he hired me because I was excited about restoration, could drive tomato trucks, and grew up with horses—so I could help Marsha with the horse farm that she owned and operated. I did everything from operating the harvester to invoicing and outreach. I took the Hedgerow Farms booth to many educational events and meetings, and remember that our table was always the most attractive and earthy, with wildflower and grass bouquets, trays of grass plugs, baskets of native seeds, and a mish-mash of wrinkled handouts. We always left behind a mess of potting soil, seeds, and spilled water.

I learned so very much at the farm, and in my later work with John, but what I still carry to this day is my rather infamous hatred of invasive plants. John had a rotating list of hated weeds depending on the season: plants that either infested the native production fields or wreaked havoc on a restoration project or just degraded a natural area.





Left: Megan Lulow out with John on one of his runs checking the fields for seed maturity and weeds. Right: John liked to have people in his photos of native grass fields. Here Tanya Meyer appreciates tomcat clover (Trifolium willdenovii) volunteering in a blue wildrye (Elymus glaucus) seed production field. Photos by John Anderson

### The University of Hedgerow Farms continued

Many of us writing in these pages would not be doing the work we do if not for John Anderson. He was thrilled when any bright young person joined the field of restoration, and was very supportive of women entering the once male-dominated field of ecology. Deep gratitude to John for his encouragement, passion and expertise, and for teaching all of us the skills to create a healthier ecosystem.

#### Sean Kenady (2004-2006)

I think the biggest impression I took from my time working for John at Hedgerow Farms was his commitment to providing a quality product. For example, I suggested harvesting all the ecotypes of a certain species in succession and then cleaning the combine once before moving onto the next species. Doing so would have saved 20 or more combine clean-outs annually. For those who have not had the pleasure, combine clean-outs were a lot of work, took two to three people about an hour, created a lot of fine itchy dust, were often done in the heat of the day, and were generally awful. However, John always insisted on clean-outs between each ecotype to better maintain the genetic integrity. There were several other examples such as this where John put quality ahead of efficiency or profitability, and that sort of ethic is admirable.

#### Rachel Cunningham (2006-2009)

The impact that John Anderson had on my life was immeasurable. I came to Hedgerow Farms fresh out of undergrad (and having never driven a tractor), but John was the best boss and teacher I could have asked for. Even a simple drive down the road resulted in him pulling over, grabbing samples, and giving an impromptu environmental lesson. John treated us like family — many a staff meeting was held at his dining room table. John showed by example the sense of joy, wonder, trust, and confidence that continues to inspire me to this day.

#### Liz (Goebel) Cieslak (2009-2013)

When I think of John A., I picture him sitting in our old trailer office, one arm across his body and one hand touching his chin, legs crossed. Thinking, listening, discussing, and thinking some more. John would inspect any plant or animal he could, spreading his kernels of knowledge everywhere he went. He was the most curious adult I've ever met and I pride myself in having left Hedgerow as a more curious person myself. For me, John A. lives on in my daily life as my three young daughters explore the world with me, turning over rocks, sprinkling native seeds, and identifying the plants and animals that we find each day.

#### Emily Allen (2009-2019)

I met John at the Internship & Career Fair at UC Davis in November 2008. I was looking for a restoration job in the Sacramento area and recognized that Hedgerow Farms was a unique hub in the restoration world of northern California. My first day, April 16, 2009, included a tour to look at an herbicide trial on the farm, and my second day was the second annual CNGA Field Day. Those two days introduced me to some of what John was passionate about: connecting people, learning, teaching, battling weeds, and always trying new things.

I was a part of the second generation of Hedgerow graduates. I had a written job description and mainly worked out of the office. I remember when I started I was hesitant about saying Latin names out loud, which was a big part of the job when talking on the phone. When we would go out into the fields so John could teach us what he knew about the plants he was growing he would make me say the Latin names repeatedly until I was comfortable with them. He was always bringing in things for show and tell: live rattlesnakes in a

### The University of Hedgerow Farms

continued

trashcan, interesting roadkill (including a mink!), fascinating plants, and more. There were always plants (weeds and natives) on any surface he could occupy.

He also helped me train my Labradors for rattlesnakes (one was bit anyways on the canal after going into a deergrass bunch after a turkey) and administered rattlesnake vaccines to them as well. While I don't hunt he taught me how to pluck and prepare turkey, ducks, quail, and pheasant that he shared when he had extra. He cared deeply for his staff and I permanently have his voice in my head.

#### Jeff Quiter (2009-present)

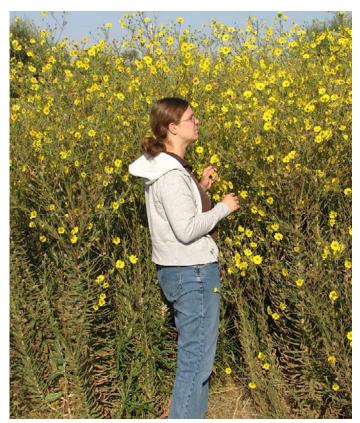
John taught us that in restoration and native seed production, one has to be stubborn. More stubborn than the weeds that one must hate with a passion. Stubborn, but also resilient, and willing to bounce back and try again after failures.

John took everything head-on and full speed and sometimes would think about the consequences later — "ask forgiveness, not

John used Hedgerow Farms as a classroom to teach what could be done to revegetate on-farm habitat with CA native plants. He was one of the "Henry Fords" of the California native plant industry. He saw an altered Central Valley and the need to bring back some of the "wild" to farming systems, recognizing the ecological benefits and need for native plant material, spreading his passion and knowledge to eventually create an industry and vast network of people to carry on his legacy forever.

#### Jim Mast (2012-present)

My sister-in-law Terry worked at the UCD Primate center with John, and she introduced him to my brother Bill. Bill, having a degree in wildlife biology, hit it off quite well with John. I first met John in the early 80s on a pheasant hunt on our family farm in the Esparto area north of Cache Creek and later on hunts on the Layton Knaggs Ranch east of Zamora where Bill and I grew rice. Now it's the Roosevelt Ranch preserve that John was instrumental in getting started. Bill and Terry moved in 1985 to the Tri-Cities area in south-central Washington where Terry pursued her research in chemical toxicology while Bill started Wildlands Inc., a wildlife habitat restoration company. He did so with the encouragement of John. I continued farming in Yolo County with interest in habitat restoration. I enjoyed going to talks at UCD where John would present on hedgerow establishment as well as tours of the Anderson farm with its newly built ponds which at the time did not have any vegetation. I would return to the farm over the years and enjoy watching the habitat that John established on his lands mature. In 2003, I got out of farming and moved to Washington and worked for Wildlands Inc. on many restoration projects. I moved back to Yolo County in 2010. In 2012, my brother Bill got a call from John inquiring if he knew anyone with



Rachel Cunningham remembers: "John loved taking photos, and he found beauty in absolutely everything. Countless times he would pull over the truck to take a look at something growing at the side of the road. John was very happy to find these *Madia elegans* (common maida), and took lots of photos that day!" Taken in August 2008 by John Anderson

farming/mechanical experience. His reply was yes, my brother Jim. I got a call from John and came to work at Hedgerow Farms shortly after. He definitely needed a mechanic, which is an ongoing need on a farm. It was great working for John over the years. It had its perks, like being invited to go hunting with John for things like dove, turkeys, and deer. Yes, John was a great person. I miss him sincerely.

#### Pat Reynolds (2017-2021)

I had the privilege of getting to know John after he had retired from Hedgerow Farms. To me, it was not so much his technical mastery of grassland habitat restoration but more the depth of his kindness and the generosity with his time, particularly as it related to teaching ecology or restoration, that stood out. I cannot recall him ever saying a bad word about anyone. In fact, it was just the opposite. He was constantly saying how colleagues and collaborators were "really good." One day he brought in a songbird that had died after hitting a window. He, being a veterinarian and forever curious, cut open the stomach of the bird to see what it had been eating. It was full of red maid seeds one of the native forbs being grown at Hedgerow. He delightfully showed everyone in the office the stomach contents as part of that day's little lesson.



John brought researchers from UC Davis and staff out to see what was happening in the back habitat area in the rolling hills. He almost always had his camera ready to document what he saw. Sheep had been grazing recently and eaten around the purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) bunches, and vinegarweed (Trichostema lanceolatum) and turkey mullein (Croton setiger) were coming in. July 2012. Photo by Emily Allen

# John Anderson's Living Legacy: On-farm habitat and native seed production at Hedgerow Farms

by Pat Reynolds, former General Manager, and Jeff Quiter, Farm Manager, at Hedgerow Farms

#### Introduction

John Anderson was an icon in the habitat restoration community. Starting in the 1980s, John began establishing habitat along farm field edges on lands that he and his wife, Marsha, owned that would eventually become Hedgerow Farms. He established high-value habitat features like hedgerows, tailwater ponds, bioswales, expanded riparian corridors, seasonal wetlands with a dual groundwater recharge and habitat enhancement goal, and vegetated the irrigation canals into Hedgerow Farms. He then used these highly successful habitat enhancement features as demonstration areas to show how these areas could substantially increase habitat values and add beauty to working lands. He next started on a quest to grow out native seed of known genetic origin on his farmland to service the habitat restoration industry. Determining how to do so successfully was exceedingly challenging as described in this article.

These efforts helped to move forward the science of habitat restoration which, when he started, was still in its infancy. The habitat restoration community owes much to John Anderson and it is why he was the first-ever recipient of the lifetime achievement award in habitat restoration from the California Society for Ecological Restoration.

#### **On-Farm Habitat**

Over the years, the habitat at Hedgerow Farms has provided a sanctuary for hundreds, probably thousands, of species ranging from Swainson's Hawks (Buteo swainsoni), Golden Eagles (Aquila chrysaetos), Roadrunners (Geococcyx californianus), a Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*) — never before sighted in Yolo Co., California Kingsnakes (Lampropeltis californiae), Black Bear (Ursus americanus californiensis), Mule Deer (Odocoileus hemionus

californicus), Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*), Pipevine Swallowtail Butterflies (*Battus philenor hirsuta*), Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), Mountain Lions (*Puma concolor*), to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) and many more.

"VELB action! Jaymee Marty and I were dating at the time around 1995-96 and her grad school professor was focusing on mapping VELB and viable elderberry stands throughout the Sacramento Valley of California. I told Jaymee there were some pretty good stands of elderberry along Union School Slough that John Anderson and Bryan Young had planted previously so we went out there looking for VELB sign. Jaymee was trying to show me what a VELB exit hole looked like and, no joke, while Jaymee was geeking out on the exit hole, I called out, "what's that?" She came over and identified it as a VELB. This was one of only two adult VELB that she and her professor had seen all season. We immediately told John. After a brief moment of concern about having endangered species on the property, John embraced the finding and said, 'that's exactly why I planted those elderberry.' Jaymee contacted her professor, and she was able to document the female VELB behavior for hours. I think her professor was a little irritated that the VELB was spied on a farm on a planted tree by a dufus out with his girlfriend at Hedgerow Farms. Soon after, many field trips were made to the elderberry tree to see the ever so elusive VELB and to inspect the habitat." — Chris Rose

In 1980, John and Marsha traveled to Kenya where John was consulting at a primate center in Tigoni. John was inspired by the rows of plants that separated each property in the Kenyan highlands. The cost of fencing was often prohibitive and the landowners would plant rows of hedges to delineate borders and as an inexpensive way to keep livestock contained. He was also in awe of the Kenyan's use of roadsides, which were gradual slopes that were farmed in some cases. On their way back from Kenya, John and Marsha stopped in Britain to visit a friend on sabbatical. They noticed hedgerows were common there as well, serving as estate boundaries while providing habitat and a place for the wealthy landowners to hunt.

A short time after returning home, John started collecting native plants and incorporating them into farm edge habitat to give quail and other birds shelter. He got his first purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) from Wapumne Nursery which was owned by Everett Butts, a founding member of the California Native Grasslands Associations (CNGA). There were also a couple of California native seed companies in existence at that time. In John's opinion, the price of the seed was too high, which is one of the reasons he started growing native seed himself. He quickly realized why it was so expensive.



This photo was taken the year of the cobalt beetle (*Chrysochus cobaltinus*) invasion at the farm, when John seemed both alarmed by the damage they were doing to the milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.), and fascinated by them all at the same time. This photo was taken in the aftermath, it was a moment when he seemed especially optimistic about what milkweed seed production could represent for the future of the business, and for the future of monarchs. August 2014. *Photo by Eric Lee-Mäder* 

Wetland Habitat. Union School Slough runs west of what are now Hedgerow Farms seed production fields. John and Marsha dedicated close to 100 acres of farmable land west of the slough to habitat in the early 1990s. A series of wetlands and ponds fed by the Winters canal was created simply by eyeball, by neighboring farmer Charlie Rominger. Water can still be let out from the south and west, to flow north and east filling the ponds, to eventually empty into Union School Slough. In 1992, native cottonwoods (Populus spp.) and willows (Salix spp.) were planted from cuttings. Valley oak (Quercus lobata) acorns and buckeyes (Aesculus californica) were direct-sown. Container stock from Cornflower Farms included blue elderberry (Sambucus nigra subsp. caerulea), button willow (Cephalanthus occidentalis), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), and mule fat (Baccharis salicifolia). Wetland plants were grown at Valley Transplants Nursery in Acampo and plugged into wet edges along with spike rush (Eleocharis macrostachya), saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), and slender sedge (Carex praegracilis) that were harvested from the Glide Tule Ranch.



The roots of the planted Santa Barbara sedge (Carex barbarae) along the Winters canal at Hedgerow Farms stabilized the banks very effectively and reduced the weeds along the banks dramatically. March 2004

A few years later, the acreage including the wetlands was put into a 30-year Wetland Restoration Program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to officially allow for the restoration of the marginal cropland back to seasonal marsh wetlands. The plan emphasized the re-establishment of wetland functions and values normally associated with California's Central Valley. Water control structures were added for facilitating water management to provide habitat for resident breeding and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, reptiles and amphibians, small and large mammals, and other local wildlife. Other achieved benefits included sediment/erosion control, flood abatement, improved water quality, and groundwater recharge. Management practices were to include weed control, prescribed burning, fire breaks, and prescribed grazing (NRCS 2001).

When conditions were right, the wetland area was good for duck hunting. Hunters were invited out to his farm, but John insisted that after hunting, everyone would have to help plant or collect natives. John would recruit anyone he could to help.

"I recall hand-collecting one of the first milkweed seed production fields with 3 or 4 of John's best friends," — Jeff Quiter

West of the wetlands in the rolling hills, the native grassland was first planted in the fall of 1991. This Corning gravelly loam soil type, common on the low foothills on the west side of the Sacramento Valley, was traditionally dryland grain farmed. Production on these soils was marginal at best. Much of the ground seeded with natives was in the Conservation Reserve Program. The purpose of the first seeding was to develop and test the techniques of California native prairie restoration, more specifically on the Corning gravelly loam soils (Anderson 1992). There have been multiple seeding/burning/ herbicide trials and learning experiences here over the years. Naturally occurring native tarweeds have taken advantage of the disturbances and give off their pungent aroma every summer and fall when disturbed by a vehicle or passer-by.

Hedgerows. Also in the early 1990s, farmland was acquired from the neighbors to the south. At first, the land was leased out for conventional farming — tomatoes, wheat, corn, alfalfa, etc. — but planting native habitat on farm edges was John's focus. His view was that field edges should be weed-free, but not vegetation-free and found that the self-sustaining perennial grasses and grass-like plants did a great job at outcompeting weeds in non-crop areas. The first hedgerows were installed north of the home site and around the equipment yard, originally with lots of non-native plants: Russian olives (Elaeagnus angustifolia), Australian casuarina (Casuarina equisetifolia), poplars (Populus spp.), and pines (Pinus spp.), while learning to include native trees and shrubs.



Dan Efseaff (left), John (center), and Phil Hogan (right), inspect plants along a canal at Hedgerow Farms. Photo by USDA NRCS

"The initial hedgerows were planted by his family and friends, almost always during hunting season. They were living by the mantra, 'if you plant it, they will come." — Jenny Anderson

Quail bush (Atriplex lentiformis) was suggested to be planted by the NRCS (at the time the Soil Conservation Service) as well as nonnative tall wheatgrass (*Elymus ponticus*). John quickly realized the value of native grasses over the tall wheatgrass, which seemed to dominate everything and compete for nutrients even with the valley oaks. John was the first in the area to use native plants in hedgerow designs and started collecting local species and ecotypes to include in his habitat plantings.

In 1992, native trees and shrubs like willows, cottonwoods, oaks, buckeyes, box elders (Acer negundo), coyotebrush, toyon, coffeeberry (Frangula spp.), and California lilac (Ceanothus spp.) were planted along the south side of the Winters Canal. More hedgerows were planted to break up the fields to the south into 30 to 40-acre pieces and also acted as windbreaks.

The trees and shrubs were installed on the existing 60-inch beds, as a conventional crop would be planted. They received furrow irrigation when the crops in the fields were watered, or separate temporary irrigation systems were moved into place. These rows of native plants created wildlife corridors for the numerous species that call the farm home.

Ponds, Canals, Roadsides. In addition to hedgerows, tailwater ponds were designed and installed at the low corners of farm fields to filter out sediment, fertilizers, and pesticides and also to help with groundwater recharge and capture runoff that would otherwise end up off-site. It turned out that they also provided great habitat when vegetated with native plants. These tailwater ponds in many cases today are surrounded by dense high-quality riparian habitat.

"At this point, he was fully committed to native species. All the field edges and corridors were first seeded with a native grass mix, allowed to establish for a year or two, then the trees and shrubs were planted." — Jenny Anderson

The irrigation canals running through the farm were planted with native sedges and rushes. A water quality grant through the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) was obtained to install one to three miles of canal bank and three miles of roadside habitat. John saw the value in using aggressive, warm-season, rhizomatous wetland native plants for these areas to take advantage of the summer water in the canals and reduce bank erosion, increase water quality and provide habitat. After a few years of management, the plants eventually filled in any space with potential for weeds to establish. The areas dominated by these rhizomatous wetland species are the most weed-free and easiest areas to manage of all of the habitats currently on the farm.

John also recognized the potential for roadsides on his farm, in Yolo County, and beyond. His vision was for the steep, erodible roadside ditches to be leveled out enough to be planted with natives and to be safe enough for a car to easily pull off to the side of the road, without rolling over into the ditch bottom. He also saw the potential for the native plants to choke out the bad roadside weeds. Purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) and creeping wildrye (Elymus triticoides) were established and are still helping to keep the weeds under control. Eventually, he saw the overflow of spring and summer irrigation water from the production fields as an opportunity to create a roadside wetland habitat and planted waterloving natives like Baltic rush (Juncus balticus), grey rush (Juncus patens), Santa Barbara sedge (Carex barbarae), spike rush (Eleocharis macrostachya), and deergrass (Muhlenbergia rigens) along the roadside to take full advantage of all of the moisture.

"John would often refer to the roadsides in Bear Valley (near highways 16 & 20) for inspiration. They were a mix of slender sedge, Baltic rush, and meadow barley (Hordeum brachyantherum subsp. brachyantherum), as well as a myriad of wildflowers." — Chris Rose

Goldfields (Lasthenia glabrata) were later planted along the roadside, which acts similar to a vernal pool in the spring — bright blooms after winter flooding following the hydrologic gradient.

**Pollinator Plants.** By the early 2000s, most of the on-farm habitat was intact and well established. While John had been growing and planting a variety of forbs it was in the mid-2000s that he started strongly promoting the benefits of planting pollinator plants and expanding what he grew. John was able to figure out how to establish additional native milkweeds (Asclepias spp.) and get them to produce seed. He continued to add new species for Hedgerow Farms including a few clarkias (Clarkia spp.), wooly sunflower (Eriophyllum lanatum), Madia sp. and coyote mint (Monardella villosa). These plants seemed to be some of John's favorites and were put into production and seeded on field edges and roadsides in mixes as pollinator plots. He started adding elegant clarkia (Clarkia unguiculata) leaves into his salads with dinner.

More work was done with the Xerces Society, the NRCS, the Kremen Lab at UC Berkeley, and the Williams Lab at UC Davis to manipulate pollinator seed mixes to proportions that would be successful over time, have a long bloom period, and attract a diverse mix of pollinators and beneficial insects. This group continued to adjust the mix after making observations and gaining experience. For example, if too much Phacelia (Phacelia californica) or Gum plant (Grindelia camporum) were in a mix, they would likely eventually take over the entire plot.

A special thanks to Marsha and Jenny Anderson, Tanya Meyer, Chris Rose, and Bryan Young for their recollections and contributions to this portion of the article.

#### **Native Seed Production**

John Anderson was a pioneer in the production of native seeds of known genetic origin for habitat restoration projects in California. He quickly realized that implementation of high-quality habitat restoration not only had to be done with native species whose natural range includes the particular restoration area but that the original wildland collection locations for the seed stock also needed to be within the general region of the restoration site to maximize the chances for success. John knew that ecotypes of the same species evolved from the selection pressures associated with climate, soils, insects, and diseases and as a result of that, in the majority of cases, the most appropriate ecotype for a given restoration site would be an ecotype that evolved under conditions similar to those present at the restoration site. Including the production of ecotypes into the already infinitely challenging task of growing out native seed added whole new layers of complexity to native seed production that John, as the visionary that he was, did not shy away from.

Stock Seed Collection. The process of growing out native seeds of known genetic origin is like building a complex machine with many integral parts that all need to function properly for the machine to work. This starts with finding appropriate stock seed collection sites, getting permission to collect that seed, collecting seed when it is ripe, and properly conditioning that seed so it can be effectively grown out and increased. Obtaining stock seed is often the primary limiting factor in growing out native species. John, the consummate hunter, and lover of all things wild, spent considerable time in wildland settings where he often discovered significant stands of native species that would ultimately be the source material for the seed that he would produce. John also developed many close relationships with landowners and resource agency personnel who put great trust in John and thus would allow him to collect on the lands they owned or managed. They knew John had good intentions and they often shared his goal of getting as many native species and ecotypes in production as reasonably possible to advance the quality and science of habitat restoration so they would readily give John access to their lands for collections.

*Planting.* The successful planting of native species requires the use of specialized native seed drills. These drills are specifically designed to allow proper flow of seed via the incorporation of features like picker wheels and agitators that prevent the non-uniformed sizes of native seed from otherwise getting stuck or "lodged" in their seedboxes. The seed then has to be planted at a very shallow depth, yet still have firm seed-soil contact, which makes for a very narrow range of seeding depth to ensure the highest level of success. There are very few manufactures of these specialty drills. To make things even more complicated, John understood that to maximize seed production and make it as efficient as possible with the equipment available to him, the seed needed to be produced on a bed as continued next page

opposed to flat ground, so John had to figure out how to plant native seed on a bed when the native seed drills at the time were built to seed on flat ground. As the story goes, John was explaining this dilemma to Jim Truax, the owner of Truax native seed drills, at a restoration conference, and he ultimately sketched out on a napkin his vision of what this custom-built native drill should look like. Mr. Truax took this "design" and built a custom drill that to this day is used for all crops grown out by Hedgerow Farms from direct seeding. Innovations like these were the kinds of things that John Anderson had to come up with to produce the native seed that is used on so many restoration projects in California today.

Field Maintenance. As most restorationists that are attempting to restore native herbaceous vegetation know, extensive weed control is one of the primary keys to success. In a native seed production setting, where high-quality and mostly weed-free native seed is expected, proper weed control is critical and can be the difference between crop success and failure. John very quickly realized that effective weed control was a necessary, yet exceedingly difficult, part of growing natives. John, who ultimately came to hate weeds with a passion, would try almost anything to control them. He often

John examines the windrows of a freshly cut purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) production field. April 2014. Photo by Jeff Quiter

dreamed of weeds in his fields and different ways to control them. As part of his continuous quest to learn and teach others, he would often collect weed samples from fields and wildland locations and put them in jars with water, like a bouquet of flowers, to facilitate a better understanding of these competitors and he hoped the familiarity gained by staring at these weeds would lead to better control methods. These weed bouquets would grow on the porch in front of the office until there was no room for more, or until they smelled so bad they needed to be thrown away. His dedication to controlling weeds pushed him to develop innovative control techniques that ranged from controlled burns, cultivation, mowing, to various herbicide applications. Trial and lots of error helped with the evolution of weed control approaches that are still evolving today at Hedgerow Farms.

Properly timed and appropriately applied irrigation is also an important component of the production of high-quality native seed. However, early on, "innovative" irrigation methods were needed while irrigation techniques were being developed. He would often annoy his wife Marsha, and daughter Annie, by keeping the hose from the house on all day, sometimes until the pump ran dry, cutting off water to the house. To keep an acre of wedgeleaf horkelia

(Horkelia cuneata) thriving, he once burned out a well-pump on a leased property after leaving it running for a week to furrow-irrigate the crop. At least the plants were happy which, of course, was the most important thing.

*Harvesting.* Seed harvest, like all of the many processes associated with growing out native seed, requires proper timing and precision to maximize the quality and quantity of the seed produced. For example, if you harvest seed that is not ripe, it will have low germination and if you harvest seed too late, most of it will have fallen to the ground. When you are trying to apply production agricultural techniques to native species, that in some cases have never been grown before, it often involves significant trial and error. Early on, John would use a flail-vac, a tractor-mounted harvesting implement (like an industrial vacuum with a brush) that is used to strip ripe seed from native grasses. However, as different species were tried, and as the desire to increase yields and quality increased, John started experimenting with cutting the crops with a swather and then picking up the windrowed material left behind with a combine. However, machinery like combines had to be adapted to native seed production with things like adding pick-up headers, an adaptation that is often used in grain production in Canada but is less common in California. In the process of learning how to use a combine, John would write extensive notes on the user's manual documenting how elements to these complex machines could be tweaked to improve outcomes.

### John Anderson's Living Legacy

continued

"By going back and reading some of the harvest notes he took, it's easy to see the passion he had and the attention to detail that was paid. 'Adjusted rotor, adjusted top screen slightly, closed bottom slightly. Last change was to air, which helped the most, beautiful." —Jeff Quiter

Cleaning. John quickly learned that efficient and effective seed cleaning was both essential for the successful production of natives and also very challenging. As with nearly all of the various processes associated with producing native seed, trial, error, and the "school of hard knocks" became the driver of innovation. Native seed, particularly when you are growing out more than 100 species, comes in various shapes, sizes, and weights (which are the primary attributes used to separate target live seed from everything else, including chaff, dead seed, weeds, dirt, etc.). John was able to cobble together an efficient and effective cleaning mill that (I noted at the 2017 National Native Seed Conference in Washington, DC) dwarfs the native seed cleaning mill at the National Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Center.

**Storage, Mixing, Bagging, and Tagging.** The effective production of native seed does not stop when the seed is cleaned. It needs to be properly bagged, tagged, stored, and mixed for individual customers. This process, like all of the other processes in native seed production, needs to be done correctly to ensure the seed remains viable and what is in the bag is accurately reflected on the tag. John put his mind to figuring out how to do this effectively just like he did with all of the processes.

Early on, Hedgerow Farms stored its seed in neighbor's barns. How you store seed impacts its longevity and quality. Native seed of known genetic origin is very valuable, so it needs to be stored properly. However, when building a new, narrow, and in this case "cutting edge" business, it was impossible to get all elements together at the same time so practical solutions are often required. This particular solution ended up not being so practical as a significant amount of seed was consumed by rats. John was a guy who generally kept his cool, but this particular discovery was followed by some swear words and throwing of his hat to the ground. This little lesson motivated John to build a proper seed storage facility at Hedgerow Farms.

Native Plugs Nursery Operation. John was always trying to find more effective ways to establish native herbaceous vegetation. He quickly realized that certain groups of plants like Carex, Juncus, and warm-season grasses did not establish well from seed but did exceedingly well from small container stock. He also realized that many restoration professionals preferred using containers instead of seed and that having container stock available offered more tools for the restoration practitioner's toolbox. Thus, back in the 1980s, he



John inspecting cleaned native barley (Hordeum sp.) seed at Hedgerow farms. John always had a hands-on approach and inspected most seed lots through the process of harvest, cleaning, testing, and storage. November 2009. Photo by Phil Hogan

began growing out native plugs. Early on he worked with Valley Transplants Nursery in Acampo who was accustomed to growing out plugs at a very large scale for agricultural producers and thus had to adjust both the size of the orders and of course figure out how to grow natives. He eventually settled on Escondido Nursery who was able to work at the scale of habitat restoration and had a talent to grow out high-quality native stock.

The following tributes were sent from colleagues in the native seed and nursery industry:

"Anybody driving down Interstate 5 in the southern San Joaquin Valley can see that industrial farming has removed all nonproductive landscaping so that every square inch of earth can be farmed. This has so many negative consequences including the destruction of natural areas that support native pollinators.

"With much concern and foresight about these disturbing trends, John boldly opened a new-age farm in a traditional agricultural neighborhood and named it "Hedgerow Farms." Over time, John's farm built a reputation for being on the cutting edge of native farming and local genetics. His legacy truly leaves behind big shoes to fill... and what a nice guy he was." — Ed Kleiner, Comstock Seed

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In January 2017, The Yolo County RCD, NRCS and Point Blue held a staff planting day at the Yanci Ranch riparian restoration site installed in 2016. We had a lovely time adding some pollinator forbs and replacing a few native plants that had died. Left to right, back row: Ha Truong (NRCS), Nick Gallagher (NRCS), Tanya Meyer (YCRCD), Heather Nichols (YCRCD), Sue McCloud (YCRCD), Corey Shake (Point Blue), Sheila Pratt (YCRCD), Fanny Ye (NRCS), Joanne Heraty (YCRCD), and Brandon Baker (YCRCD). Front row: Jeanette Wrysinski (YCRCD), and John Anderson. Photo by Phil Hogan

# Yanci Ranch

In March 2013, rangeland to the west (now called the Yanci Ranch) was purchased with neighboring farmers, the Romingers. The ranch was a bit messy with garbage and noxious weeds — medusa head (Elymus caput-medusae), barbed goat grass (Aegilops triuncialis), and yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis) in particular. These species were quickly addressed.

Hundreds of acres of weeds were burned in the first couple of years of ownership. Selective herbicide applications followed the burning, and what followed was an incredible super bloom of owl's clover (Castilleja sp.) and other native wildflowers not seen when previously choked out by weeds. A few of the species were collected and put into seed production — miniature lupine, (Lupinus bicolor), peppergrass (Lepidium nitidum), and dotseed plantain (Plantago erecta).

An NRCS grant provided funding for the Yolo RCD and Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program to install native riparian trees and shrubs along the slough in two separate phases to enhance the existing natural corridor already in place.

The existing pond was enhanced for tricolored blackbird (Agelaius tricolor) breeding habitat, with design help from UC Davis. The species had been observed on the property a number of times. An island was created in the pond and planted with cattails (Typha latifolia) to

provide shelter from mammal predators. The water in the pond had to be deep enough for predators to not be able to wade through. Willows and cottonwoods volunteered around the banks of the pond along with thick stands of upright burhead (Echinodorus berteroi).

Native grasses were seeded in areas thought to be suitable for success. Purple needlegrass blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), slender wheatgrass (Elymus trachycaulus subsp. trachycaulus), and California barley (Hordeum brachyantherum subsp. californicum) are still thriving and spreading in some areas. There is currently a grazing lease on the land for a portion of the year.

"The first six or seven years of my career as a conservation ecologist and restorationist on California's farms and ranches coincided with the last years of John's career and life pursuing a world with healthier ecosystems and abundant wildlife. For much of that time, I had the great fortune of working very closely with him to explore, experiment with, and restore a 500-acre ranch in the Yolo County foothill grasslands near his home and Hedgerow Farms.

"Always with his eyes to the ground looking for new native plants or bad weeds, and his binoculars handy, John demonstrated the importance of observing closely. With a preference for doing over

### Yanci Ranch

musing and the persistence to move complicated projects forward like spring prescribed burning — he demonstrated the urgency of taking conservation action. And with his insistence on bringing many others to the ranch (Yanci) for consultation and sharing—including experts, early-career conservationists, and high school students—he demonstrated the importance of a conservation community to restoring the land." — Corey Shake, Partner Biologist, Point Blue Conservation Science and NRCS

"John was a mentor and a friend who had a profound impact on my life. He was a pioneer in the field of grassland restoration who inspired my work and that of many others. We first met back in 1996 when I had the good fortune to work as part of the AmeriCorps program on his farm in Winters. From the very first day, he seemed to have a level of confidence in me beyond what I had any right to engender. I did my best to live up to his expectations. We lost touch for a number of years, but I felt as though I had come full circle back in 2014 when I started collaborating with him again on grassland restoration projects on the Yanci Ranch in Winters. I have wonderful memories of John and the time I was lucky enough to spend with him. I miss his enthusiasm for nature and thirst for knowledge. I miss getting random pictures of plants from him to identify. I miss the walks around the Yanci Ranch with him poking patches of goatgrass, starthistle, and other weeds asking me what we were going to do about them. I will miss his smile and generous heart. John's passion and legacy live on in the restored grasslands of California." —Jaymee Marty

"One spring day in 2017, a new RCD director dropped by the office. We got to talking about our projects and decided to head out for an impromptu site tour of Yanci Ranch. John A. and I had been working on a number of projects out there since 2014 — primarily riparian and ranch pond improvements. Our staff had been prepping for a SLEWS planting day, so when we pulled up to the creek crossing, there was John with his flags! I made introductions. John was in one



"Here John is marking some plots for us to return to later after the sheep came through the area." Jaymee reminisces that "this photo reminds me of an angry John — mad about all of the starthistle that was coming up (in the same pasture as the clover actually!)." December 2015. Photo by Jaymee Marty

### Yanci Ranch continued

of those moods — focused, full of energy. In minutes, he had us in his truck (hop in honey!) and heading up the hill to check out a blue oak grove that he suspected was regenerating. On the way, we pulled up to the top of a hill full of biologists keying out lupines. We stopped and chatted about lupine, grassland, and acorns and then back in the truck and off we went — John pulling us with him, sharing his thoughts, his worries, asking questions. Totally unplanned, yet fully engaged. I was lucky to have a couple of handfuls of time like this with John and I really won't ever forget those moments." — Heather Nichols, Executive Director, Yolo County Resource Conservation District

"I knew John Anderson for most of my career at UC Davis. As everyone knows, John was dedicated to the restoration of native lands and did something about it by both producing seed for a multitude of native species, both grasses and broadleaves, and by conducting several restoration projects. In fact, in many of our studies, we purchased native plant seed from John. In addition to his love of natives, John was nearly equally as committed to the management of invasive plants. He and Bruce Rominger generously allowed many researchers to use their land at no cost for a variety of studies. I was fortunate enough to be able to use over 20 acres of their Yanci Ranch property to study the hydrological impacts of yellow starthistle in California grasslands. They were simply the best collaborators I have had in my career. What is most remarkable about John is that neither of these two areas of passion, native plant restoration and invasive plant management, were his area of training.





Jaymee Marty remembers that "this area was burned and then sprayed for goatgrass. The result the following spring was this lovely carpet of owl's clover that had just been hiding in the seed bank waiting for these conditions. When I think of John, this is how I picture him—enjoying the results of his efforts." March 2015. Photo by Jaymee Marty

The lesson to learn from John is that with commitment and passion, you can accomplish many things that you would never conceive of in your youth. The measure of success of any life is to make a contribution that outlives you, and John Anderson has certainly done that. We are all grateful for his involvement in our lives and careers." — Joe DiTomaso, Professor and Extension Specialist Emeritus, UC Davis

"I first met John in 2011 when my wife and I moved to Davis for my postdoctoral position at UC Davis studying grassland restoration

in the Central Valley. John ended up being an important collaborator, helping me identify field sites and better understanding native seed production and grassland restoration approaches. I always enjoyed my time with him in the field, and often visited Hedgerow Farms when passing between nearby study areas. I also had the pleasure of working with John during my time serving on CNGA's Board of Directors. In 2013, John invited me to participate in the large-scale prescribed burn at his Yanci Ranch property. The burn was very successful and John was excited that the long-term restoration of the property was off to such a good start." - Drew Rayburn, Director of Conservation Science for the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

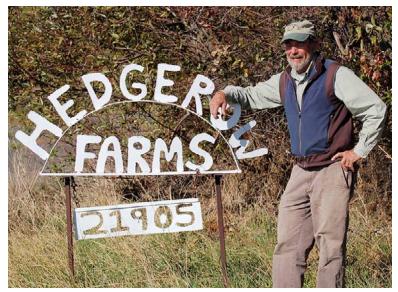


John was thrilled with a controlled burn targeting weeds including barbed goatgrass at Yanci Ranch in late June, 2013. Photo by Drew Rayburn

### John Anderson's Living Legacy continued from page 16

"While I was never an employee of Hedgerow Farms, I did have plenty of learning experiences while working with John. These lessons arrived in fits and starts over 30 years. Such as conversations during the early CNGA days, walks through his fields as sunset approached, or sitting together through talks at SERCAL or other professional meetings. Of course, the field walks were the most entertaining as John and I were often slowed to pull the hated weeds, stood quietly to let a doe and her fawn pass, or paused to admire an oncoming raptor that John saw because he was still looking up as I was looking down. John always had an upwardlooking perspective that emphasized that what was right for the animals was right for the farm, the county, state, and beyond. The lessons were about being human and how as humans we can make the environment a better one. He was always taking in the grand view and hating the weeds. His higher view helped me expand my horizons and hate the weeds too." — David Gilpin, Pacific Coast Seed

"John was a visionary. When I first got to know John back in the 1980s, he was planting hedgerows around his fields. Nobody else was planting hedgerows. I served on the Yolo RCD Board with him back then and soon understood what he was trying to do. But I just watched until he came to me and said that we could plant certain native plants in these hedgerows that will attract beneficial insects to help pollinate and protect our crops from other pests. Now that was interesting. Not only would we reduce the weeds around our field edges but we might be helping our crop also. I've been planting hedgerows ever since!



John poses with the metal Hedgerow Farms sign at the corner of County Rd 89 and County Rd 27. November 2009. Photo by Phil Hogan

"My brothers, Rick and Charlie, and I partnered with John for decades on numerous projects. He taught us about native plants and we taught him how to irrigate and cultivate as he started his Hedgerow Farms seed business.

John didn't really care what others thought of his ideas. He was convinced of the virtues of hedgerows and native plants and he was going to figure out how to get them back in the California agricultural landscape. Through the RCD, CNGA, and hundreds of farm tours and presentations, John was an evangelist for native plants and returning them to their rightful places." — Bruce Rominger, Rominger Brothers Farms, Winters, California

"When we started our restoration nursery in 2001, John came on our radar quickly, even though we were pursuing container rather than seed production, because he helped to organize a 'Restoration Nursery' conference at UC Davis. At that conference Kevin Rice presented the work he and John had been doing together determining the length of time that a particular ecotype of grass could be in production before it lost the characteristics of the parent population. I was impressed by John's integration and contribution to the science of restoration and my admiration just grew from there. I was working on a CALFED project in the early days of our nursery and so I was attending those and other scientific conferences and Hedgerow Farms, with John Anderson's kind eyes and woven baskets of seeds, was always there. In addition to outreach and communication about the Hedgerow mission, he was also there in the presentations of researchers, working with them on the challenge of restoring native grasslands in California, a feat that many restorationists had just thrown up their hands to. As the

years and conferences passed and John began to recognize me at my Watershed Nursery booth, he also noticed that I was in new territory, traveling solo and he would extend an invitation to join he and his colleagues and friends for a lunch or dinner. It was clear that his attention to care and quality permeated through his personal relationships as well as his work endeavors. He set a high bar for the industry of restoration, encouraging us to always strive to do what we do better and better, and also was a model of a quality human being, kind, caring, and conscientious. His presence is greatly missed but his impacts persist." — Diana Benner, The Watershed Nursery

"I first met John and Marsha when he was a monkey doctor at the UCD Primate Center in 1976. I was a recent graduate in Horticulture landing in Davis. We started a friendship and our interest in natives grew side by side. continued next page

I began Cornflower Farms, a wholesale native plant nursery, in 1981 and John began to work with us on farm hedgerows for his farm in Winters and then with the Yolo RCD. He got the native bug, left the Primate Center and became a voice and force in restoration of farmlands. He taught by example, showing what could be done, using his farm as an example through his field days. His knowledge of native grasses and cultivation of native seed opened up the availability of native grass seeds and the knowledge to pass on to others. John has left quite a legacy and will be missed in the native world but never forgotten. Proud to have been a Native Pioneer with him and Marsha." — Ann Chandler, Cornflower Farms

"John was certainly ahead of his time, he practiced what he preached, and he persevered for 40 years in trying to work with California farmers, not always a progressive group, to get them to incorporate native species, vegetative buffers, and planting of ditches and drainages instead of Rounduping them. I know of nobody else, not even my dear ex Ann Fisher-Chandler, who did so much in those early days for basic boots-on-the-ground ecological recovery of California.

"I have many fond memories of John but what I remember most is how his face would just light up when he was happy." — Dave Jessup

"The southwest corner of county roads 88 and 27 is one of my favorite places in Yolo County. Facing west are Hedgerow native perennial grasses and along the Yolo Central Canal are deergrass and massive cottonwoods. Just across the road is a tailwater pond teeming with native vegetation, buzzing dragonflies and singing birds. Facing east there's a gorgeous hedgerow on the north roadside contrasted with bare canal to the south. The spot showed what is possible when balancing agriculture and habitat restoration. It came to be because a vision that John and Marsha had when they began the farm. Hedgerows, canals, and tailwater ponds influenced many of the farmers throughout the region and beyond even the Imperial Valley for habitat AND agronomic benefits." — Vance Russell, Conservation Consultant

"I first met John when one of his employees at a native plant conference invited me out to visit the farm and chat with him about genetics and seed sourcing, one of my obsessions. Little did I know my life was about to change. John and I hit it off immediately and I was very impressed with his commitment to tracking seed provenance and his vast experience bringing wild species into production and ultimately to successful establishment in restoration plantings. We talked for hours, walking around the farm and the seed cleaning equipment, and he ended up offering me a job on the spot! I wasn't in a position to take him up on the offer, but I will never forget that instant connection. It influenced my decision later to take a job with Neal Williams testing wildflower plantings for their support of wild bees on farms because one of our research sites was at Hedgerow Farms. John welcomed me to California with open arms, always wanting to talk bees and flowers, sharing the company of his wonderful dogs, and even offering me the opportunity to housesit and stay out at the farm once." — Kimiora Ward, who worked for many years developing establishment methods for wildflower plantings on farms and testing their ability to support diverse wild bee communities. She is now the Plant Ecology Program Manager at Yosemite National Park.





"I recall John as a sweet man. When I was just a young restoration ecologist, he took time to answer my general questions and give advice on seed mixes and seed sourcing. He even followed up on questions I had about projects far from areas he worked in and collected from. I'm not alone in these recollections, as everyone in his orbit has good things to say about him. I imagine the California native seed industry would look very different without his leadership. Wishing peace onto his family and his beloved property." — Will Spangler, Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency

"John was a humble, determined, persevering hero in the world of habitat restoration. I believe he must have understood extremely well the importance of the agricultural community in fostering benefits both to farm practices and to biological diversity. I first met John when I studied at UC Davis in 1990 and he was cultivating native plants and grasses. My wife, Petra, and I, then ecology graduate students, went out with him to collect native sunflower seeds. I noticed that he was humble and ever learning from his own efforts. Over the years he persistently worked to establish and promote native plant hedgerows on farms for beneficial pollinators. He diligently collected, tracked, and grew native grasses and taught countless people how to establish them, including the use of specialized farm equipment. The California Native Grasslands Association and the re-establishment of native grasses in California are a wonderful legacy that has resulted in large measure from John's positive action and determination." — Ron Unger, CDFW retired



John Anderson with Paul Lake, Soil Scientist with the NRCS, at Winters Putah Creek Coast and Creek cleanup event coordinated by Jeanne Wirka with Winters Friends of Putah Creek and Putah Creek Council. Fall of 1998 or 1999. Photo by Ron Unger



John holding a rattlesnake with a snake hook. He frequently would bring snakes to the yard to show staff and then release them into the hills. June 2012. Photo by Hedgerow Farms

"When I picture John, I think of his bright smiling eyes, his upbeat tone of voice, seeing him in his suspenders that he always wore, and am reminded of everything else that he carried around with him on a daily basis at all times — his camera, binoculars, dog whistle, glasses and/or sunglasses hanging around his neck, and hat with flip focal magnifying lens. He always carried a hoe for weeds in his car or truck, along with the scent of dead animals from hunting, or from the specimen of roadkill he would bring into the office to share. He's greatly missed." — Jeff Quiter

"For me the essence of John was the fact that he could stand in one of his seed crop fields and be infinitely fascinated by the insect herbivores that would show up, in some cases decimating the plants. He of course knew he might need to figure out how to keep their numbers down, and of course he knew that they were costing him money. But he was also constantly interested in just observing them.

"I remember watching TV with him once in his living room, during which he seemed bored, and not really interested. Only a few hours earlier we had been standing in a ditch looking at some commonplace species of bumblebees and butterflies, and John was completely immersed in their comings and goings.



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# John Anderson's Living Legacy continued

"He was a man who I always knew to have kind words for others, and those kind words always extended to the creatures that inhabited his world and imagination, from African lions to the smallest California sweat bees." — Eric Lee-Mäder, The Xerces Society

of Yolo County. I met John back in 2007 when I worked for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Xerces, Dr. Claire Kremen (UC Berkeley), and Hedgerow Farms were developing and testing forb mixes intended to support pollinators and crop pollination. We were especially interested in providing pollen and nectar for the 1,600+ species of native bees in California. John helped guide the research by providing guidance on seeding rates, species composition, site preparation, plant establishment and management, and later, working with Dr. Neal Williams (UC Davis), providing space at Hedgerow to run a trial. At that time there had been quite a bit of work in the region adding hedgerows and native grasses to field edges, but adding wildflowers was still new. That work in 2007 greatly improved our understanding of how to add pollinator habitat to field edges. As time went on, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service added incentives for landowners to put in wildflower strips and other pollinator habitat on farms. Moreover, there's scientific evidence now that wildflower strips increase wild bee numbers and sometimes the fruit set of adjacent crops. I learned a number of things from John including that sometimes you just need to think through things and then make your besteducated guess. And, if it doesn't work, rethink it and try again. I also got to see, in action, how one person's vision, passion, ability to bring people together, curiosity, and drive can help shape a landscape and grow a restoration community. — Katharina Ullmann, Director of the Student Farm at UC Davis



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John speaking at a habitat enhancements workshop that the Xerces Society, UC Davis and the UC Cooperative Extension put on in Yolo County in April 2015. Photo By Katharina Ullmann

## The Field as the Classroom

by Emily Allen, Independent Consultant and CNGA Board Member

It was not uncommon at Hedgerow Farms to look out in the seed production fields and habitat edges and see individuals or groups looking intently at something. John and Marsha Anderson encouraged researchers, educators, and people with general curiosity, to come out to the fields and explore, observe, and learn. Among the groups who used Hedgerow Farms fields and restoration borders as an outdoor classroom were college classes, boy scouts, home school groups, artists, graduate students, University of California (UC) Extension researchers, land managers, homeowners, master gardeners, government agencies, farmers, ranchers, consultants, and many others.

John was always hungry for more information and hearing the experiences of others. One of the places he was happiest was in a field with someone or a group of people sharing experiences and knowledge. He actively sought out and collaborated with researchers in diverse fields who he thought might be interested in native grasslands. He was not formally trained in any of the fields involved in

restoration so he made friends with botanists, farmers, weed scientists, ranchers, entomologists, wildlife biologists, plant pathologists, and more. John also had a drive to instill an appreciation for grasslands in the younger generations and recognized that the more people familiar with them and who loved them, the better they would be protected. He loved doing hands-on activities with younger groups that would come out for a tour.

John shared his knowledge and love for grasslands whenever and wherever he could. He would lead tours of various aspects of the farm every year, often with a bull horn to amplify his voice. The Natural Resources Conservation Service brought new employees out for a tour once a year so everyone on staff was familiar with what was going on at Hedgerow Farms. Conferences and events that were held close to the farm would often include tours of Hedgerow. PowerPoints and photos were also in John's toolbox for communicating the importance

### The Field as the Classroom continued

of planting natives and considering pollinators and habitat in every project. He always had a camera on him and was known for his wonderful (and prolific) photography. He often contrasted clean farm edges and weedy fields with beautiful shots of established native plantings. John's PowerPoints were shown at conferences, symposia, various workshops, and to anyone who came by the office and had questions that might be addressed in one of his PowerPoints. When his computer crashed one year, his main concern was saving his photos and PowerPoints. After that incident, he regularly backed up his computer, including his more than forty thousand photos.

Writing didn't come as easy as talking to John but he did contribute to several foundational documents that are still referenced. He wrote six articles in the revolutionary Bringing Farm Edges Back to Life! Landowner Conservation Handbook that the Yolo Resource Conservation District first published in 2001. In 2010 he coauthored the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources publication Establishing Hedgerows on Farms in California with Rachael Long, the Yolo County Farm Advisor who was greatly inspired by John's work. John was also often a valued contributor to restoration research projects and was on many occasions asked to informally review publications. He was never a gatekeeper of information. I remember John saying "you need to share what you know, you know more than you think." He believed everyone had something to contribute to the conversation and was always complimentary of individuals that shared his passion for using natives and creating habitat.

The knowledge that he shared, and the generous and enthusiastic way that he did so, inspired countless researchers and educators who worked with John over the years...

"I don't actually remember the date when John Anderson came into the herbarium at UC Davis for the first time, but I think it was around 2005. I didn't know anything about Hedgerow Farms and what a great resource for native seeds it had become. I did know about John's connection to the California Native Grassland Association and his leadership in using native grasses for restoration. And then one day, he just wandered into the herbarium and introduced himself to me. He knew that I had a lot of experience doing plant identifications for the general public, and he asked if I would be willing to begin a relationship with Hedgerow Farms, confirming plant identifications of native plants collected from the wild as seed sources as well as confirming the identity of plants already being grown for seed at Hedgerow Farms. I agreed enthusiastically to this arrangement, because I thought it was unusual and wonderful that he wanted confirmation of their identifications, since these plants were to be used as seed sources for so many projects. John praised the herbarium and our programs, and his faith in me was equally generous and appreciated. Hedgerow Farms became the only Institutional Member of our support group, The Davis Botanical Society, and he and Marsha also became individual supporters and donors. Whenever we



John wrote several articles in the Bringing Farm Edges Back to Life! Landowner Conservation Handbook that the Yolo Resource Conservation first published in 2001. Whenever he was giving a tour of the farm he made sure to tell folks about this, and other publications that he felt everyone should read and keep as a reference. March 2013. Photo by Phil Hogan

ran into each other, he was always kind, praising others for their work, and generous with his knowledge. He raised everyone's appreciation of California grasslands and championed the practice of using locally sourced seeds for restoration. I will always appreciate the gentle way he did this and his encouragement of my efforts in my little corner in the herbarium." — Ellen Dean, Curator Emerita, UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity

"When John contacted me for help with a disease in one of his fields, I always knew our interaction was going to be interesting. I was quick to offer support because I enjoyed walking his fields with him. He could see subtle but meaningful differences in the way some plants were growing. With a little input from my lab, we often came up with a diagnosis, even if control measures remained elusive given the nature of his unique crops. But more than that, walks in his field visits were like a visit to a living museum — John would point out an unusual insect, an industrious flock of birds in the hedgerows, a king snake under a piece of wood, and on and on. John truly appreciated the living world." — Mike Davis, retired Professor, Plant Pathology, **UC** Davis continued next page

### The Field as the Classroom continued

 $m ^{st}I$  owe my wonderful career to John. When I first came to Yolo County in 1992, I was trying to find my way. John called and invited me to visit his farm. Bob Bugg, from UC Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education, joined us and we took a walk on John's farm where he shared his wonderful hedgerows. We stopped at a flowering Ceanothus (California lilac) and looked at all the insects visiting the flowers. I marveled at all the natural enemies including lacewings, syrphid flies, and ladybugs, plus all the bees. Questions poured out. Could these plants be supporting natural enemies that move into adjacent crops to help control insect pests? Could the native bees help with crop pollination? It was the beginning of a life-long passion for evaluating hedgerows of flowering plants for benefits of pest control and pollination in adjacent crops. After nearly 30-years of research and countless wonderful collaborations with colleagues like John, we documented economic benefits of hedgerows from beneficial insects, including natural enemies and bees. Hedgerows are now going mainstream thanks to John's passion for wildlife conservation on farms. He leaves behind an incredible legacy. I feel incredibly honored and lucky to have known such an amazing man who inspired me to work on hedgerows." — Rachael Long, Yolo County Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

"Curiously, I first met John Anderson at a meeting of the Digit Fund (for mountain gorillas, now The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International) in Africa back in the 1980s. He was a wildlife vet, I was a tropical plant ecologist, and we were thrown together almost by accident (or was it fate?). A couple decades later, when I was trying to figure out if and how I would become a restoration ecologist at UC Davis, I rediscovered John and he became my mentor and guide. His knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment to restoration, combined with his gentle generosity in helping out all of us just entering the field, laid the groundwork for ecological restoration in Yolo County, in northern California in general, and through many pathways, the entire world. He hosted all of my graduate students at different times, and always opened the doors of Hedgerow Farms to our undergraduate classes in restoration. But mostly, he was the beacon that I followed into my new career. I am forever indebted to him." — Truman Young, retired Professor, Plant Sciences, UC Davis

"For 20 years, every other October I brought my Conservation Biology class to Hedgerow Farms. John always met us with great enthusiasm and proceeded to show my students how one could run a profitable business that illustrated sustainable principles. The hedgerows, production of native grasses, stream restoration, soil and water recovery techniques John showed my students both impressed them with their efficacy and gave them hope that agriculture did not have to result in destruction of biodiversity. I will miss John, but my students will sadly not even realize how much they missed by not getting to meet John and benefit from his knowledge and his enthusiasm for functional sustainability." — Carla Bossard, Professor, Biology, St. Mary's College of California



John and Rachael Long listening to talks at an event. September 2011. Photo by Phil Hogan

"I met John when I first arrived at UC Davis as a new faculty member in the fall of 2009. John was excited to move Hedgerow Farms into producing more California native forb seed for restoration and I was keen to assess those forb's ability to support native pollinators. John was a wise mentor to everyone in my group. He taught us how to grow and manage native wildflowers. Over the next decade he was a constant collaborator, sharing his insights — of which there were many — and really moving us all forward in the areas of grassland restoration and establishing habitat to support biodiversity and ecosystem services. The unwavering advocate for locally sourced seed, the innovator on how to produce and use native forbs and grasses, the champion of alternative ways to manage working lands to promote diverse plants and animals, he taught us all by doing and through his selfless, enthusiastic sharing of his knowledge and philosophy." — Neal M. Williams, Professor and Chancellor's Fellow, Entomology and Nematology, UC Davis

"I found out about John Anderson while studying tarweeds in grad school at UC Davis. I was working with a population at Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve, adding small dead flies to the sticky plants and then counting the scavenging arthropods that would show up to eat them. Multiple people encouraged me to reach out to John when they realized I was becoming a tarweed enthusiast. It turns out that John had long recognized tarweed as a fascinating plant.

"I reached out to John for the first time in February 2011 — it was nice looking back at these emails in preparing to write this short piece. I told John I was studying tarweed and shared with him my initial findings and thoughts. He immediately encouraged me and shared his enthusiasm with tarweed. "We really like Madia and would like to see it used more. Great plant for birds, insects, and small mammals. Your work is important.' At that point John was the only person I'd met who thought tarweed was interesting and it was encouraging being told my

### The Field as the Classroom continued

research was important from someone involved in propagating the plant. It made me feel like my work had functional relevance. Plus, I had no idea at that time that it was also important for mammals and birds.

"I visited Hedgerow Farms a number of times and rode around with John in his truck, exchanging stories about tarweed and each of our favorite benefits of it ecologically. I went home with some seeds John had grown and planted them in my backyard. Soon I was observing the interactions I had seen at Cold Canyon without needing to drive anywhere. I could easily photograph the arthropods and monitor them day and night. In many ways I credit these encounters with leading me in the new direction my career went: designing and building native landscapes to engage people with nature.

"John was a generous, brilliant man whose influence was broad. He made time for people, encouraged them, and shaped many careers."— Billy Krimmel, PhD Ecology, Founder and Ecologist, Miridae

"I admire and respect John for so many reason, but what stands out the most is the community he created to carry out his ambitious vision. John's decades of experimentation provided the template for successful restoration approaches, but also established the cuttingedge of restoration research. John recognized that restoration success relied on integration across multiple research disciplines long before most researchers did, and he carried out trials and recruited diverse researchers to address issues such as which ecotypes to plant, how to achieve diversity on the landscape, and how to restore multiple ecosystem services. John created a community of curiosity, experimentation, collaboration, support, and passion for our grassland systems. That community, with John's leadership, has provided the training, resources, and continual innovation for widescale restoration of native plants. I am ever so grateful for John's mentorship and for being invited into his vision and community."— Valerie Eviner, Professor of Ecosystem Management and Restoration, Plant Sciences, UC Davis

"John was, above all, a champion of using the very best science in restoration practice. For me, this dedication to scientific excellence was most clearly demonstrated to me in our work on the importance of genetics and adaptation in native grass restoration. When I asked John if we could conduct research at Hedgerow Farms on potential genetic shifts under cultivation, he did not hesitate to say yes, in fact he was enthusiastic about the research and provided free land and labor! A lesser human might have been reluctant to conduct this kind of research at his own operation, but not John. His openness to new ideas and absolute intellectual fearlessness made him a true leader in the field of native grass restoration. Saying that he will be missed is a huge understatement; losing John is more like the creation of a black hole in the world of native grass restoration." — Dr. Kevin Rice, Professor Emeritus, Plant Sciences UC Davis



John loved to lead tours and talk to a variety of people about what he was doing at Hedgerow Farms.

"Rooted deep in tradition with a caring heart and a helping hand...that's John Anderson.

"When I moved my family to California 19 years ago, John Anderson was one of the first professionals I met at a local winter trade show. He had such a different approach with his big storyboard of successful ecological restoration projects and his live native grass samples. Everyone at that time was all charged up with controlling noxious weeds as Cal-IPC had secured state funding with SB 1740 for local weed management areas across the state. I vividly remember his questions at several local meetings I attended in that first year being 'after you control these noxious weeds, what is your management plan to restore these native grass stands?' What a visionary he was to educate the attendees first and then provide a solution with his various native grass species.

"He also learned quickly that he needed lots of local sources from across the state since perennial grass seedlings respond much better to local seed sources. I attended my first Hedgerow Farms field day and was star-struck by his knowledge and passion for what he believed in and immediately set up an appointment to meet with him on the farm to learn more. We spent a day meeting with the local Yolo County Flood Control personal who managed the irrigation ditches that cut through his ranch, toured several hedgerows that have turned into his legacy, and got down on our hands and knees and dug up various native grass seedlings as he showed me how different herbicides affected them at different rates. As an Agricultural Pest Control Advisor and farmer myself this just made my antennas all wiggly, but that was the effect John would have on you that would move you and make you thirst for more knowledge.

"The next week I was back at his farm doing strip trials with various herbicides at different rates. Our goal was to find the right products at the right rate and at the right time as to release seedling native grasses and have minimal injury. One of his biggest challenges in growing clean native grass seed was managing all the annual weeds in the spring. One of his other loves that I learned later which was also close to my heart was his passion for hunting. This was a way he rewarded

### The Field as the Classroom

continued

me for my time investment on helping him unlock these herbicide response questions. Let's just say after several winters in the duck blind or turkey blind we had found our solution. I still miss those days and look at John as my best mentor ever." — Beau Miller

"When I was working on my doctorate at UC Davis I naively thought that something as wonderful as John Anderson's pioneering work with native grasses, propagation would be so loved and needed that it would be very lucrative. I remember John saying something to the effect of native grass seed sales and two bucks would buy you a cup of coffee. I now realize the dedication, vision, and commitment that pioneered John's work with

native grass seed and germination. I am so deeply thankful for the gift of his knowledge of California's native grassland-forbland prairies and how to restore them. What a legacy!

"As a graduate student, I also naively was anti-herbicide. I was talking to John about someone who said a tablespoon of Roundup is no more toxic than a tablespoon of salt. I said 'a tablespoon of salt is pretty toxic' and we laughed.

"John is one of those people who had deep knowledge of the land and restoration from hard work, dirty hands, and sweat. I really admired John and looked up to him. I'm grateful I got to know him early in his work, and see it take hold, flourish, and set seed in the imagination of California restorationists." — Dr. Michelle Stevens, Professor, Environmental Studies Department, CSUS

"Looking back, we can all identify pivotal times in our lives. We don't always know we are at a fork in the road at the time, but in retrospect it is easy to recognize. Working with John Anderson at Hedgerow Farms when I was a graduate student at UC Davis was one such critical juncture for me. John was a pioneer in habitat restoration and native grass seed production with infectious enthusiasm for this work. He was making a real difference, which inspired me to pursue my interest in the restoration of California's native prairies and he allowed me to conduct my doctoral research on his farm at no cost. He sometimes came by when I was working in the field to see how things were going and willingly contributed advice and the use of seeding and irrigation equipment. He also provided opportunities for me to present my research at field days. I am forever indebted to him for the support he provided. I remember stopping by his house occasionally for one reason or another and having the chance to visit with him and Marsha. And when I did, I had to be careful of their 'watch turkey', a wild turkey they had raised from an egg after its mother was killed. It was the closest living thing to a velociraptor. John and Marsha welcomed plants, animals, and people of all kinds to their farm. I was fortunate to be part of the menagerie and to benefit from their





From left:

John with deergrass (Muhlenbergia rigens). Photo by Michelle Stevens For a lot of tours John used a portable microphone to ensure everyone could hear. Here he is talking about a needlegrass (Stipa sp.) production field during a walking tour at the 2011 CNGA Field Day at Hedgerow Farms. April 2011. Photo by Phil Hogan

generosity and support, which set me on the course that brought me to where I am today. I am eternally grateful for that." — Cynthia (Cini) S. Brown, Professor and Associate Head, Department of Agricultural Biology, Colorado State University

"What would it have been like starting a new business growing native grass and forb seeds in the late 1980s when many in California were just beginning to rediscover our state's perennial grasslands? Doing so required finding and operating specialized machinery, bringing on a dedicated, hard-working team of people to manage many acres of ripening grass and forb fields, and much, much more. Therefore, it's even more remarkable that John also made time to open portions of Hedgerow Farms to UC Davis students and scientists to do experimental research with hedgerows, restoring grasslands, and pollinator plantings. John could also innovate and act on a large scale. I remember a CNGA Field Day spent walking on the foothills of the nearby Vaca Mountains. He and other collaborators had already conducted a large controlled burn and then drill-seeded the surrounding pasture land with native perennials. During our visit to the site they were replanting a big pond for wildlife and an experiment was underway to manage for the resident annual wildflowers. I recall how John walked and talked in a focused manner. He also had a great smile and whether it was being transported in open-air wagons on Field Days, or simply seeing bowls of live seed in a hotel conference room, there were so many ways he seemed to share the natural beauty he saw and worked with to bring it closer to us." — Jim Hanson, Bay Area landscape architect, past CNGA board member





John brought together native grassland restoration practitioners to visit and discuss restoration sites in the spring for several years. This photo is from a trip to Russell Ranch in Davis to see how successful drill seeding forbs into an established grassland after one year was. On the left is Joe Silveira (USFWS, retired), John A. is in the center, and Andrew Fulks (UC Davis) is on the right. May 2012. Photo by Emily Allen

# John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration in California by Emily Allen, Independent Consultant and CNGA Board Member

John Anderson's vision for where the native grassland species should be planted was ambitious. When he looked at weedy roadsides, steep and bare canals, compacted levees, overworked pastures, and agricultural land, flood gravel beds, old mine tailings, serpentine slopes, and other overlooked areas he saw the potential for them to support a diverse suite of native grassland plant species. With every project he worked on, he used past successes and failures as learning opportunities and continued to broaden his vision of what could be done in grassland restoration in California. John was willing and eager to work with anyone interested in natives, from homeowners and landowners to large multiagency floodplain and levee projects. He stayed up-to-date with the latest research but also valued feedback from land managers and restoration practitioners, and he saw both types of knowledge as interconnected and necessary to make projects successful.

When I began working at Hedgerow Farms I was amazed at the broad range of customers who came not just to buy seed but for assistance in creating custom seed mixes and, more importantly, assistance with how to prepare, install, and manage their projects. John never saw himself as only a seed and nursery supplier. Hedgerow Farms operates as a central hub of grassland restoration where people come with questions, observations, and to learn. When advising on projects, for which John rarely charged money, he frequently began by ensuring that weeds were respected for what they could be: the downfall of a project. When he designed seed mixes he used a base of science and mixed in a bit of intuition and magic. The live seeds per square foot of each species, generated in Excel using the live seeds per pound from the seed tests, were the base for almost every seed mix we designed. Once he could see the live seeds per square foot, he manipulated the

### John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

mix with his knowledge of seed dormancy, seedling vigor, site goals and conditions, the age of the seed, seedling competition, and other less tangible factors that were hard to put into words, even for him.

I learned to always ask for feedback from customers to help continue to improve mixes. How did higher rates of annuals (which we used as nurse crops) work for various projects? How did drill seeding compare to hydroseeding? What level of forb seed was needed for them to establish without overwhelming grasses? How did drought impact a project? What survived flooding and at what stage were the plants when they flooded? What weeds were a problem before and after planting? Did they know the history of the site? Every project was a unique puzzle that John was eager to tackle and his end goal was restoring native grasslands to a complex ecosystem. He was always thinking about things beyond the plants — to the soil, hydrology, birds, invertebrates (including monarch butterflies), snakes, rodents, grazing, and the people that would use it.

The list of projects John provided technical expertise and materials to over the years, and the diversity of agencies and companies he worked with, is remarkable. Just a few of the many projects he was involved in included some of the first restoration efforts in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, the City of Davis Park that is now known as the South Fork Preserve, several National Wildlife Refuges including the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, the Cosumnes River Preserve, the Davis Wetlands, UC Davis Putah Creek Reserve, Napa-Sonoma Marsh Grassland, the Natomas Levee Improvement Program, various California Department of Transportation roadside projects and more. He also worked with a variety of groups, including Resource Conservation Districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, erosion control contractors, restoration firms, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Waterfowl Association, University of California Reserves, PG&E, water agencies, air force bases, vineyard, ranchers, and so many more. John's impact was widespread and it improved the outcomes of countless habitat restoration projects.

The following stories are from folks whom John impacted in the field of grassland restoration over the last 30-plus years.

"I met John in the early nineties while working in habitat restoration. We were one of his biggest customers for many years at a time when the use of native grasses and forbs wasn't yet accepted as necessary or cost-effective. Through the years we developed a friendship and he was a great mentor to me. His devotion and understanding of the value of cover crops and native grasslands and prairie was inspiring and was integral to my continued involvement with sustainable conservation. He motivated me to become involved in CNGA, to join the board and to become president. He was a great teacher and desired only to bring understanding of native habitats

to others for the benefit of all. He will be missed but his work will carry on."

'OUR ABILITY TO PERCEIVE QUALITY IN NATURE BEGINS, AS IN ART, WITH THE PRETTY. IT EXPANDS THROUGH SUCCESSIVE STAGES OF THE BEAUTIFUL TO VALUES AS YET UNCAPTURED BY LANGUAGE.' — ALDO

— Erik Gantenbein, Preserve Manager at Center for Natural Lands Management

"This work was also through John's dogged determination to bring farm edges back to agriculture. I'll never forget going through yellowed files at the Audubon CA Landowner Stewardship Program when I just started there in 2002. I came across a mimeographed (yeah for mimeographs!) copy of an article on hedgerows John wrote for the RCD newsletter. I read on. The article had great advice and insight on how to install a hedgerow, maintenance and species selection. Then I came to the end where it was dated 1983! I was astonished that John had been at this type of work from at least the year I graduated from high school.

"So many people did graduate from Hedgerow Farm and John's school of restoration. I was the director of the Landowner Stewardship Program for the National Audubon Society from 2002 to 2010. John and Marsha generously contributed to The Bobcat Ranch, in Winters, shortly after we purchased it and made a lot of what happened there in the early years possible. John will be greatly missed as the grandfather of California restoration but his legacy in training and influencing this generation and succeeding generations of restoration professionals is unparalleled and will live on for many decades to come. Thank you, John, for inspiring all of us." — Vance Russell, Conservation, Natural Resources and Climate Change Adaptation Consultant

"One of John's lasting legacies is people, not just grasslands. There are now scores of professionals who got their career starts working with him. His passion for grasslands was just as much a passion for people and for learning. John treated everyone as a friend, and his sense of wonder and curiosity engaged all of us to join him in trying to understand the natural world. When I was newly hired at the University of California, Davis, as Manager of the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve, one of the first projects I was tasked with implementing was a massive grassland mitigation project at the Russell Ranch. I had known John before, but it was this project where I really got to spend time with John and see him as the mentor that he was. While we had a general idea of what to do, John was there, filling in the gaps, giving advice on how to proceed, and even more importantly, telling us when we just needed to be patient and listen to the land. As a direct result of my work with John, there is now a gorgeous 380-acre grassland teeming with wildlife, and a young

## John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

professional who is now an older professional with deeper knowledge, and memories of a good friend." — Andrew Fulks, Assistant Director, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

"My first memory of John Anderson is of him standing in a field of poppies talking about pollinators with infectious enthusiasm. It was 2008 and I had just started working for The Xerces Society, and my trip to Hedgerow Farms was my first time out in the field in my new position. As I toured Hedgerow Farms and listened to John talk, it became clear to me that this man was not only a wealth of knowledge, but also an absolute inspiration. I loved how he described the different bees he saw visiting his fields of native California wildflowers - minute details such as

the shape of their bodies, the sound of their buzzing and the way they carried their pollen. I will never forget standing along the irrigation canal on his property and looking at the restoration work he had done there. The juxtaposition between the rushes, sedges, and wildflowers that proliferated on his side of the ditch and the raw barren bank of his neighbor's property was striking. John talked about the value of bringing wildlife onto farms and the importance of looking at agricultural production as a complete ecosystem in a way that no one else could. Listening to him strengthened my resolve and dedication to conservation while also providing me with the technical knowledge to persevere. And John was also unfailingly kind. He always made me feel welcome when I visited Hedgerow Farms, he always took the time to show me his latest project or ask my opinion about pollinator conservation, even though I think he probably knew more than I did about the subject. He was a natural mentor to so many of us who tried to follow in his footsteps. It is my hope that before he passed he came to realize the incredible impact he had on the world of conservation and the critical role he played in preparing so many of us for our lifelong careers in that field. I will always remember John in the way I saw him that first time — surrounded by flowers in a field teeming with life and bursting with color." - Jessa Kay Cruz, Senior Pollinator Conservation Specialist, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

"John Anderson left a big imprint on this world, and if my life is any example he left a multitude of small ones, too. His love for wild plants and animals, and for providing the building blocks they need to thrive, started with his transformation of barren field edges and roadsides to vibrant hedgerows and wildflower patches teeming with life on his own land, and ultimately expanded to all the fields, roadsides and grassland restorations where seed from his production fields has been sown over the years throughout the county and the state.

"I have so many beautiful memories of sampling bees at Hedgerow Farms. Even now, I can see in my mind's eye the slanted morning light catching on the green trees of his windbreaks and the kaleidoscope of



JP Marié, John Anderson, and Andrew Fulks looking at harvested production fields at Hedgerow Farms in June 2005.

colors in his production fields. I remember many a time at the end of a long day of sampling bees when John would come over to see how it was going. I can still hear his gentle chuckle and see the twinkle in his eyes from those many conversations. I learned so much from John about forb establishment and I am so proud to have known him and to have seen how big an influence one life can have. Similar to the seeds he caused to be sown far and wide, John's influence on the many lives he touched started small, but rippled out into the world as people still carry with them the reverence and care for the natural world he inspired." — Kimiora Ward, who worked for many years developing establishment methods for wildflower plantings on farms and testing their ability to support diverse wild bee communities. She is now the Plant Ecology Program Manager at Yosemite National Park.

"The traits that made John persistent and successful were his interest in every detail of the subject at hand. This made him wellversed in the complex business of plants and propagation and site conversion. It also made him difficult to satisfy, since every aspect of my interest area, soils, led him to wonder about every other interaction that plants may have with soils or how soils over here or over there may influence this plant or that. The questions and possibilities, as they say, were endless. He would be a lifetime friend because there was always something else amazing to wonder about." — Vic Claassen, soils and revegetation

"Meeting and working with John Anderson has had a lasting impact on me and my career. I could write a small book about the stories of interaction with John Anderson for over twenty-five years. My time with John Anderson is just a bit of his story related to his huge impact on ecosystem restoration and habitat creation in California over the past thirty years. John Anderson not only had an impact on me, but I feel that he gave energy to a conservation

## John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

movement for over thirty years that continues today. He brought people together and led with passion and energy and not only changed how conservation practitioners think about how we conduct restoration and habitat creation projects, but also added a sense of urgency, optimism, and purpose to the movement. To me, it is that energy and urgency of purpose about moving conservation forward that has helped shape my career about how we felt and still feel about field and how it defines us. Everyone wanted to be on the John Anderson habitat restoration train." — Chris Rose, Executive Director, Solano Resource Conservation District

"  $\boldsymbol{I}$  remember I was in the hospital because I had just given birth to my daughter and the phone rang. I wouldn't normally answer a call from a colleague in those circumstances, but it was John. I didn't think twice. I let him know where I was and he congratulated me and of course said some kind words before telling me how excited he was about some site he had just seen. The thoughts that come to mind when I think of John are warm, humble, passionate, and full of knowledge. Every time I saw him, he would immediately start sharing excitedly about something he had just learned or discovered or some connection that he wanted me to make with someone. Words can't describe the contribution and influence he made as a person and practitioner in conservation and restoration of California grasslands." — Cathy Little, Regional Preserve Manager, N. California for The Center for Natural Lands Management

"John was one of those rare birds — someone who leaves a lasting impression. I first met John in the early 1990s — maybe at a CNGA event, perhaps a SERCAL meeting. John was so attentive and eager to learn, eager to share ideas, hear other's experiences and perspectives, and push for a greater understanding of the complexities and peculiarities in native flora and fauna. He was immersed in the mysteries, the challenges of the soil, the interchange of plants and their environment. John's enthusiasm and optimism was largely unbridled — his biggest disappointment seemed to lie in that there wasn't even more time to explore this realm of native plant ecosystems.

"I recall one particular project that John had asked me to help on. A wealthy client in the Santa Barbara Region had seen a picture of a striking meadow in an upscale magazine and wanted to re-create her many acres of Oak Woodland into something similar; John had seen her property, promoted the encouragement and protection of what existing native grassland she already had, and then would supplement some of the more up close landscape into the more "ornamental" native grasses — deergrass and some of the other more striking large native grasses that fit her site. I went to meet the client and provided some guidance to her ranch manager who was in charge. It was a very big challenge to say the least, with considerable weed competition and



U.S. Bureau of Land Management Carrizo Plain National Monument Grassland Restoration Field Trip. Kern & San Luis Obispo counties, March 2012. Pictured left to right: Darcee Guttilla, Abi Convery, Ken Convery (former USFWS), Joe Silveira (USFWS, retired), BLM botanist, John Anderson (Hedgerow Farms, deceased), Jessica Hammond (former River Partners), Emily Allen (former Hedgerow Farms), Tom Griggs (River Partners, retired). Photo by Larry Saslaw, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, retired.

a large fire that also struck the region. John had a vision, and a passion that was contagious.

"In my experience with John, he had great respect and kindness for his colleagues in this field of native plant ecology. He understood that we were all in our shared pursuit of a greater understanding. Taking a walk or a drive with him was always entertaining, and the conversation would vary, and change, just as unexpected and delightful as the wind or the bird or other animal came to be...

"RIP John Anderson. I appreciate the time and contributions you shared with us all." — Bruce Berlin, founder of CaliFlora Resources

"I had the pleasure of knowing and working with John since I met him in 1986 and eventually started a firm that specializes in restoring native ecosystems. I wrote down, or wrote to memory, every single thing that came out of that man's mouth regarding native grasses/forbs and every single bit of that knowledge made me a better restoration ecologist. I treasured every bit of knowledge he gave me but treasure it even more now since I can no longer go to him for advice. RIP John." — Jeff Souza, Tehama Environmental Solutions

"Doesn't this make sense?' –John A.

"As I converse with UC Davis students out in the field about ecological restoration and habitat implementation practices, it is only a matter of time before a "John-ism" pops out. We excitedly explore the ideas of wildlife-friendly farming, bringing farm edges back to life, landowner stewardship, working waterways, farmers as conservationists, and the whole while paying very close attention to those 'damn weeds...'



John and Miles DaPrato at CNGA's Field Day at Hedgerow Farms in 2017. Photo by Phil Hogan

### Iohn's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

"John's impact on this landscape has been tremendous. Creating wildlife habitat demonstration projects at Hedgerow Farms allowed me and many other restoration practitioners to see firsthand what is possible as we set out to assist farmers and landowners in conserving our natural resources. Take a drive through Yolo County and you can see how infectious this energy and vision is. Transforming field edges and margins, ditches and sloughs, and any other parts of the weed-prone landscape into functional habitat spaces. This is the task at hand and John and his team gave us both the ingredients and their recipes.

"John's impact on the conservation community has been even bigger. Perhaps more impactful than the physical hedgerows and native plant corridors that stretch through the working waterway network of Yolo and beyond has been the number of people he has inspired to take this sense of stewardship and run with it. His involvement and close collaboration with local conservation and environmental education nonprofits, Resource Conservation Districts, and agencies, have paved the way for a positive change in the land and those that inhabit it. This has been my journey professionally, and I am grateful for John's mentorship, passion, and vision that has helped me and so many others in following his lead to leave this place better than we found it.

"The jewel of Hedgerow Farms and the conservation legacy John has left will continue to be part of the ecological landscape model for a long time to come...indeed, my friend, it does make sense." — Miles DaPrato, Environmental Steward, UC Davis

"John's influence has been both deep and wide. I share this from the perspective of a person who entered the restoration field in 2005 as the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS)









## John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

Program Coordinator at the Center for Land-Based Learning. I see the depth of his influence in the exceptionally collaborative community of restoration practitioners, researchers, and educators that welcomed me. I also saw the breadth of his influence in the many classes of high school students he welcomed to his own property, as well as the restoration projects around the region that were supported in some way by his work. Envision the boisterous energy of a class of teenagers pouring out of a school bus into the oak savanna of Yolo County. Then imagine the sense of discovery, purpose and connection these students carried with them after their series of field trips to the ranch. The SLEWS Program has been running for 20 years, and each year hundreds of students have these kinds of experiences. John and Marsha, and Hedgerow Farms, facilitated the restoration groundwork that made many of these experiences possible. Most of all, John fostered a community of continuous learning for which I will always be grateful." - Nina Suzuki, Waterway Steward at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

"My first chance to work with John Anderson and Hedgerow Farms was in 2010 when, as directors of the McLaughlin Reserve, my wife Cathy and I convinced on-site partner Homestake Mining Company to begin seeding mine-disturbed land with local native species, replacing their largely non-native erosion control mix that had been in use for two decades during their operation of an industrial-scale gold mine on the site. Cathy and I had already been developing control methods for barbed goatgrass and other invasive grasses on three hundred acres of serpentine meadow and grassland, and were planning a large-scale collaborative floodplain restoration in the Eticuera Creek watershed that would require large quantities of local seed.

"More than 10 years earlier, I first learned of John from colleagues studying restoration and native plant conservation while I was a PhD student at UC Riverside. Like John, land management was not the focus my academic journey; I started in wildlife management and for my PhD shifted to studying the evolution of plant-pollinator relationships. I never spoke to John about the events that shaped his passion for land management, but it appears that, like those that shaped mine, they were more domestic than academic; John and Marsha bought a farm, Cathy and I bought a tract home on a 0.16-acre lot a few blocks from campus. I suspect that for both John and I, all it took was being confronted with a piece of land to manage to stir a passion for restoring native vegetation. Throughout my studies at Riverside I enjoyed my dissertation research, but I found my deepest satisfaction in ripping out lawn and installing a native plant garden.

"John was at least as interested in learning from us as we were from him. John had just started restoring a large area of foothill grassland adjacent to the farm and was keen to learn about our trials with graminicides to control weedy annual grasses in serpentine meadows. I took John on a tour of these meadows in June 2011. He expressed an astonishment and appreciation that can only come from someone who knows firsthand the determination and ingenuity it takes to restore and maintain the natural diversity of a California grassland. At that time, seven years into the serpentine restoration project, the scale of the commitment before me was just coming into focus. John's esteem and example inspired me to embrace it." — Paul Aigner, Land Stewardship Director, UC Davis, McLaughlin Reserve

"I first met John Anderson picking up a few bags of riparian grass seed at Hedgerow Farms. While he and his crew were frantically figuring out some new seed processing equipment, he could not pass up the opportunity to show me the operation and how they were solving things. It was the native grass equivalent of walking into the Wright Brothers barn as they figured out flight.

"I worked on some of the largest and most innovative riparian restoration projects on the Sacramento River, and while planting a variety of woody species were standard practices, we wanted to incorporate native grasses (and later forbs) to provide another dimension for wildlife habitat and as long-term, effective tool to insulate wildlands from the effects of invasive plants.

"John Anderson was an obvious stop to sound out concepts and ideas and the logistics of planting hundreds of acres of native grasses.

"Later, as I served as the Executive Director for the Yolo County Resource Conservation District, I had many reasons to visit Hedgerow

"While I enjoyed talking wildlife benefits or succession and natural histories of individual grasses with John and his staff, most of the time, John's field trips were most effective, he could walk a skeptical farmer to a hedgerow or a planting of native grass and let them see for themselves the benefits and how it could help them. John approached his work systematically like the well-trained scientist he was, but with also a zeal for problem-solving and getting things done.

"John was a pioneer in the native plant business, and his legacy can be found across the entire state. Perhaps more importantly, he was a mentor that fostered the careers of wonderful people that continue the work of restoring our California landscapes.

"John was a wealth of knowledge and fascinating to talk with and generous with his time to people that shared his passion for taking better care of the places we live. Marsha and John always made me feel welcome when I would visit and there was always something new to learn and share at Hedgerow Farms." — Dan Efseaff, District Manager, Paradise Recreation and Park District

"John Anderson was a true pioneer and a treasure of a man. A consummate professional who freely shared his wealth of knowledge, at all hours of the day — on vacation, at the farmers market and even taking the time to answer a call while visiting his grandchildren. He was an inspiration to many, and MANY follow the trail he blazed.

### John's Contribution to the Field of Grassland Restoration continued

"I am especially grateful to John for the invaluable guidance he provided the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency as we commenced a pioneering seeding method and technology on 19 miles of new levee in the Natomas Basin. John helped in multiple ways and gave his time freely as we developed our ideas and fine-tuned our methods. He joined us in the field at early hours, over breakfast burritos, and made multiple private field trips with one goal in mind, his desire to see projects through completion and success. His help allowed us to prove a fact to levee managers and the US Army Corps of Engineers — that it is possible to establish 'sod' on California levees.

"If you think about it, John's influence on the health and quality of California's abundant natural history and ecosystems was enormous. The tens, probably hundreds, of millions of seeds he and his staff at Hedgerow cultivated that turned into acres and acres of healthy grasslands, flowering plants and hedgerows — slowing erosion, increasing groundwater infiltration, providing cover and a rich source of food for pollinators.

"John cared and his loss is significant. I will miss his smile and energy. It was a privilege to know John, and I thank him for his vision and what he taught us. Rest in peace, Dear John..." — *Peter Buck, Consultant* 

"I remember meeting John for the first time at the 2004 Cal-IPC conference in Chico. I remember him talking about bristly ox-tongue, of all things.

"I have learned so much from him over the years. From habitat restoration projects with Audubon Landowner Stewardship Program, to the canal revegetation work I did for Yolo Flood Control. I called John many times over the years to ask his advice and to get feedback from him, especially in terms of native grassland restoration. And the



Testing the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency's Ridge Roller Seeder on the Natomas Cross Canal Levee with native seed in October 2010. *Photo by Peter Buck* 

canals that he revegetated were some of the best in the County, if not northern California.

"As some people work in a field for a time, they may feel that they know everything and are no longer curious to learn more. That was never the case for John. He stayed intensely curious as long as I knew him. I felt a special bond with him because he was so interested in weeds and weed eradication. But on top of all of this, he was a kind person, and always made time for me, regardless of how busy he was. I genuinely appreciate that, and hope I can pass that kindness to others.

"I miss John and his passion and interest in learning. He has trained many people in habitat restoration and weed management so his legacy will continue." — Jon M. O'Brien, OHMVR Division, California State Parks







Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge Pine Creek Unit Native Grassland Workshop Field Trip, Butte County, May 2006. Pictured left to right: Ryan Luster (TNC), Robert Sanders (TNC consultant, deceased), Tom Griggs (River Partners, retired), Fred Thomas (TNC consultant, retired), Mike Wolder (USFWS, deceased), Rich Reiner (TNC, retired), Mike Peters (USFWS, retired), Matt Hammon (USFWS), Joe Silveira (USFWS, retired), John Anderson (Hedgerow Farms, deceased). Photo by Mike Carpenter, USFWS

# John Anderson— California Native Grassland Restoration Pioneer and Champion of Native Grassland Restoration at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex

by Joe Silveira, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Wildlife Refuge Manager, retired

I recall receiving a call from John Anderson sometime around 1998. He suggested restoring native grasses at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Since most of the "uplands" in the Colusa Basin NWRs (Sacramento NWR, Delevan NWR, Colusa NWR) are seasonal wetlands (alkali meadow—vernal pool complexes) providing habitat for a unique natural diversity of native wildflowers, we decided the best location for restoring native grasses was Sacramento River NWR. Established in 1998, the purpose of this refuge was to provide habitat for endangered and threatened species, restore riparian and floodplain habitats for migratory birds and other native wildlife, and restore floodplain wetlands. Partnerships were developed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 1989, and River Partners in 1999, to acquire flood-prone orchards for habitat restoration. Restoration using local ecotypes of native indigenous trees, shrubs, and vines began in 1989; we began planting native grasses in the understory, large openings, and light-gaps in 1999; wildflower restoration began in 2009. We (TNC,

River Partners, and the Refuge) immediately began developing many partnerships for funding acquisition and restoration, monitoring and research, and public outreach. Our first monitoring partner was Point Blue Conservation Science, beginning with a 13year restoration monitoring program. It was a story of "build it and they will come."

In the early days of native grass restoration at Sacramento River NWR, River Partners and TNC established monitoring sites at the Ord Bend Unit and Pine Creek Unit. They did the same for native wildflower restoration at the Capay Unit and La Barranca Unit. They kept track of native grass and wildflower restoration implementation: the timing of site preparation (tillage; herbicide applications), seeding, and post-germination weed control. The Refuge also tracked post-restoration management (mowing, herbicide applications, prescribed fire, and grazing). All this information was shared at annual spring workshops held at TNC's

# **Champion of Native Grassland Restoration at Sacramento National** Wildlife Refuge Complex continued

Chico office and in the field at native grass restoration sites. John was a driving force in these workshops. The vast experience he shared and encouragement he gave was inspirational. The field trips would reveal causes for failures at the Sul Norte Unit—slugs, thousands of tiny slugs foraging on the tiny native grass sprouts. Scorched-earth was the remedy. Field trips also revealed great success, such as several male Grasshopper Sparrows (Ammodramus savannarum) establishing breeding territories in a sea of purple needlegrass (Stipa pulchra) at Llano Seco; these, the first of this species to nest in Butte County on the Valley floor. The great thing about these workshops was the outreach they provided since we invited other native grassland restoration practitioners to join us. This also included vegetation ecologists and soil scientists from UC Davis, who John had invited to Hedgerow Farms years earlier. John was very passionate about sharing information and knowledge gained through practice, to advance the art and science of grassland restoration. Around 2006, John, Tom Griggs, and I were asked to host a two-day workshop in Chico for State-wide Natural Resources Conservation Service range and vegetation ecologists, and wildlife biologists — funding and technical sources were taking notice of native grassland successes and John was eager to spread the word and lead by example.

John was a practitioner and a scholar. John supported research to advance the field of native grassland restoration, and this included local ecotypes of native wildflowers from the Refuge. He accompanied me and Abby Moore, a graduate student of Bruce Baldwin, University of California Integrative Biology, in a collection trip for Great Valley gumplant (Grindelia camporum) ecotypes at



John Anderson admires Sacramento River La Barranca unit ecotype of Grindelia camporum (Great Valley gumplant), Tehama County, July 2006.



John Anderson collecting wild native grass seed at Inks Creek Ranch, Tehama County. June 1991. Photo by Mary Ann McCrary

Sacramento NWR Complex. We collected mature plants with seeds from the saline-alkaline clay soils at Sacramento NWR near Willows, and from the sandy gravelly soils at the Sacramento River La Barranca Unit near Red Bluff. John loved collecting plants from their natural habitats and he would accommodate our restoration objectives of using local ecotypes by growing several ecotypes of various plant taxa from the Refuge at Hedgerow Farms. John and members of Hedgerow staff were always present at Northern California Botanist (NCB) Symposia. He often donated to the symposia, but clearly, he was there for more than the vendor displays. I recall sitting with John and Tom at many an NCB Keynote address where he often took notes of relevance to grassland restoration.

I will miss John's passion and intellect, his vast hands-on experience, his academic inquisitiveness, his serious yet lighthearted presentations, and reflections. Most of all, I will miss the April Saturday morning field trips to Bear Valley. We would meet at the corrals and load the ice chest into one of the vehicles so we could travel together. We were amazed by the intensity of the blooms covering the valley and stopped many times to take pictures. We would drive to a local rancher's house seeking

# Champion of Native Grassland Restoration at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex continued

permission for closer access, where he instructed me to remain in the vehicle — apparently, I looked a little too much the wild thing that day and John didn't want to frighten the manager. But we gained our access and were richly rewarded with blooms not observed from the main dirt road.

I was eager to plan our April 2019 field trip to Bear Valley and so asked Tom to join us. We met John at his home, greeted by a Wild Turkey and California Quail nearly at the Anderson doorstep! John had created a wildlife refuge at his residence over the years and this was a great joy to him that morning. Marsha had our sack lunches ready and we were off. We drove through the Capay Valley and Rumsey Canyon, a trip I always wanted to make. It was a wonderful day, under-promising rain clouds that would transform into whitegray-pink puffy clouds — it felt like springtime! John pointed out seed collection sites and told stories about them along the way. We arrived at Bear Valley and were a little disappointed at the lack of blooms. We made it to the Keegan Ranch near the top of the valley, left our donations, and walked onto the plain. To our surprise and joy, beneath our feet were thousands of smooth tidy tips (Layia chrysanthemoides) disc flowers, about 6 days from blooming! Eureka! Fantastic! Just what we were looking for — a seed source to replace the depleted stock at Hedgerow. I made sure to get a picture of John with Tom, because I had an image of them together, about 36 years earlier, collecting *Stipa pulchra* seeds at Llano Seco Ranch. We were planning another trip for April 2020, but the Covid-19 pandemic intervened. Now there are only memories, and pictures, but also the thousands of acres of native grasses and wildflowers planted at Sacramento NWR Complex, and the lasting impressions from the outreach John initiated and conducted all those years ago.







From left: Great Valley gumplant (Grindelia camporum) and California poppy (Eschscholzia californica) show through in a native floodplain planting in 2013 on the Capay unit of the Sacramento River NWR that John advised on. Photo by Ryan Luster John Anderson and Tom Griggs, Keegan Ranch, Bear Valley, Colusa County, April 2019. Photo by Joe Silveira



John was always stopping to inspect plants anywhere he went. Photo by USDA NRCS

# Truly a Man Outstanding in His Field: John Anderson's Service and Awards

by Tanya Meyer, Program Manager, Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Tanya started her conservation career in 1999 at Hedgerow Farms and currently works to control invasive plants and restore wildlife habitat.

#### Service

John Anderson will be remembered not only for his dedication to native grass and habitat restoration but for his service to many local and national conservation organizations.

John started off his restoration-related board service as a director at the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD), first in 1991-92 and again in 1998-99. He was a founding member of the California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA). He also served on the boards of the National Audubon Society, Audubon California, the Wildlife Heritage Foundation, and the Yolo Basin Foundation; on the Yolo County Parks, Recreation and Wildlife Advisory Committee in the early 1990s; and an advisory board member to the Wild Farm Alliance.

#### **Yolo County Resource Conservation District**

Katy Pye, Executive Director of the Yolo County RCD during John's Board service there, writes: "John was the Yolo County Resource Conservation District's guiding and driving force when I became the District's first executive director. It was John's passion for the environment, for identifying and solving site-specific and watershed problems and turning them into solutions that transformed our once sleepy RCD into one of the most successful in the nation. John showed us how agriculture, rather than contributing to the downslide of habitats and wildlife could, with knowledge, tools, and the will, enhance agricultural production and restore some of what California has lost from decades of 'clean farming.' His ideas, first honed on his farm and with RCD project partners, spread to other farms, ranches, and organizations across the state and beyond. A natural teacher, John never seemed to tire of giving presentations, farm tours, or engaging in 'plant talk' one-on-one.

"One of my favorite projects he designed was roadside re-vegetation: replacing graded, perpetual weed beds with native grass borders backed by hedgerows of native shrubs and small trees. Entire ecosystems of insects, birds, mammals, and reptiles continue to thrive in these oases. My coastal one-acre garden is full of native, pollinator, and critter-supportive plants, in part guided by what I learned from

### Truly a Man Outstanding in His Field continued

John. I will always admire John's brilliance, his dedication to a vision, and his unceasing hard work. John's life well-lived is the epitome of what it means to make a difference."

Paul Robins, currently the Executive Director of the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County, was also at the YCRCD during that time, and took over from Katy and worked with John for over ten years. He writes: "The refrain of John's I remember most clearly was 'it's better to ask for forgiveness than permission.' That's not exactly the mantra of a boy scout, although it was Boy Scouts that he cited as his inspiration as an outdoor enthusiast. I'm grateful for the chance I got to work with him in Yolo County and benefit from both his passion/fire and the knowledge flowing out of his work at Hedgerow Farms. He didn't miss any opportunity to learn and teach from his experience as a nascent, unique, and intellectual native grass seed farmer. His curiosity and thirst for knowledge seemed limitless, and that, I think, is perhaps his greatest inspiration for myself and others — he was always learning and always looking for ways to share from what he'd learned. What energy! What a blessing to have been able to spend time in the warmth of that fire — enough to ignite and share some of my own, I hope."

Another YCRCD staff member, Jeanette Wrysinski, recalls "During my early days with the YCRCD, John Anderson was pushing to get innovative practices like native hedgerows, native bunchgrasses, and ponds on our working landscape around the County.

"We have come so far since then. Hedgerows on field edges are no longer considered innovative but are almost common practices. Use of native, California bunchgrasses as foundational vegetation in restoration understories is expected, and thanks to him we have fourto five-fold more species available to plant than when we started. When we wonder how one person can ever really have an impact for the better and bring about change, all we have to do is think of John, the way his vision drove him, and how far we have come!"

#### Yolo Basin Foundation

Yolo Basin Foundation founder Robin Kulakow says: "John Anderson was an inspiration to me. The first field workshop I went to was at Hedgerow Farms in 1989. He served on the first board of the Yolo Basin Foundation beginning in 1990. I have a clear memory of calling him for some advice and he answered from an airport somewhere in Africa on his way to see gorillas. I was in awe of that kind of generosity. John took me out to the Glide Tule Ranch to see the native grass and forb prairie there. That trip inspired me ten years later to work with the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Wildlife Conservation Board to purchase the 12,000-acre Glide Tule Ranch to add to the then 3,700-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Hedgerow Farms provided hundreds of Santa Barbara sedge starts for elementary school students to plant at the Yolo Demonstration Wetlands. John led many Duck Days trips to Hedgerow Farms. Marsha and John were very generous

in supporting Yolo Basin Foundation for over 20 years. I'll always be grateful for the time John took to mentor me when I was first learning about wetland restoration and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area was just a dream."

#### **Audubon Society**

Not only did John support regional and state-wide organizations, but he also served on the National Board of the Audubon Society from 2002 to 2006. John and Marsha Anderson both served on the Audubon California Board of Directors, John from 1997 to 2007 and Marsha from 2007 to 2014. Marsha says that John was invited to join the National Board after meeting Audubon President John Flicker at a state board meeting, though because he was a farmer, he was "a little unusual," and different than most of the other wealthy and well-known members of that board.

Glenn Olson, the Donal O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy for the National Audubon Society, remembers: "John Anderson had a huge and positive impact on conservation in general, and specifically on Audubon. Thirty years ago if we were interacting with the California Cattlemen's Association or the CA Farm Bureau, there was a good chance that it was a hostile interaction. Today we realize that if there are healthy populations of grassland birds in California's Central Valley, it is probably on a private cattle ranching operation. And over 50% of our wetlands for the wintering birds of the Pacific Flyway are on flooded rice fields and in some years over 90% of the state's indigenous and endangered Tri-Colored Blackbirds nest in dairy silage fields. We have figured out partnerships with farmers and ranchers. It would be fair to say that John catalyzed this movement in the conservation arena: making farmers and ranchers part of the solution, not part of the problem.

"At first, John pulled together workshops for farmers and ranchers to attract more game birds to their ranches and farms. I helped John on several of these workshops at UC Davis nearly three decades ago. He had the formula — start at 6:00 am, serve coffee and donuts — and finish by 8:00 am so they could go to work. Later he added workshops for attracting pollinators and habitat for endangered elderberry beetles. The farmers and ranchers kept coming. John knew, and we learned, that farmers and ranchers wanted to be good stewards and do the right thing, and John helped them figure out what that was... it was the beginning of the California Working Lands Program.

"We now have the Audubon Conservation Ranching program certifying Bird-Friendly Beef on more than 2.5 million acres of cattle ranches. This program was built on the foundation that John laid and it is only growing. John and Marsha spearheaded Audubon's acquisition of the Bobcat Ranch in the coast range west of Winters and just north of Putah Creek. Bobcat is a working cattle ranch demonstrating how to run cattle and enhance grassland bird habitat.

# Truly a Man Outstanding in His Field continued

The Bobcat Ranch is an anchor in a network of private cattle ranches and other public conservation lands sustaining the Blue Oak woodlands of the Interior Coast Ranges.

"John was a great friend of our board chair, Donal O'Brien. They both loved bird hunting, fly fishing, training Labs, and doing landscape-scale conservation for birds. He was also a great friend of mine."

#### Wild Farm Alliance

Dan Imhoff, co-founder of the Wild Farm Alliance (WFA), recalls: "I met John Anderson around 2001 as I was beginning the work for my book, *Farming with the Wild*. This was the

beginning of a dialog that spanned nearly two decades, as John shared his ever-evolving dedication to move beyond 'clean farming' practices and bring back vital parts of Hedgerow Farm with natural habitats and threatened species. The transformation of his own farm would have been impressive enough, but it was John's leadership in setting a new standard and new practices of stewardship that truly defined his character. John was a good friend, an inspiration, and a real pioneer in the movement to bring nature back to the farm — one of the greatest challenges still facing us today. I only regret that he wasn't given the top post of a well-funded and expertly staffed USDA department empowered to reclaim and restore the edges, field breaks, and creek and canal banks across hundreds of millions of acres of the country's farmland. How much farther along on the task before us we would find ourselves today."

Sam Earnshaw, also of WFA and a hedgerow expert, adds: "John was a mentor to many of us in the field of habitat restoration, tirelessly offering his time and resources to help further the enhancement of biodiversity on farms and in the environment. He constantly worked to vegetate with native grasses and riparian vegetation the miles of herbicided and scraped ditches in Yolo County.

"His famous quote, 'The goal of 'clean farming' is weed-free, not vegetation-free' was a battle cry for those of us working to bring biodiversity and nature into agriculture. As we continue to integrate biological practices into farming, John Anderson's inspiration and legacy will always be present in our work."

#### And more...

Though he never served on the board or won an award from the Center for Land-Based Learning (CLBL), John was a key figure, and his ideas were crucial, in bringing all the pieces together to shape CLBL in the early years of the organization.

Mary Kimball, now Executive Director of CLBL, managed the hedgerow project at the Yolo County RCD when John was serving on the board and pushing for more habitat restoration. The Audubon Landowner Stewardship Program was also installing habitat projects



John Anderson with a friend. Photo by Sam Earnshaw

on private property in Yolo County. From this work, the idea for the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) Program was born, bringing students from nearby high schools to farms and ranches for a series of educational field days installing wildlife habitat. The first SLEWS day was in January 2001. SLEWS, celebrating its 20th anniversary, is still going strong, installing projects throughout Northern California — mostly hedgerows — on farms and ranches, including a large project on John and Marsha's Yanci Ranch.

Mary Burke, Director of Planning and Collections at UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, says "John Anderson, John Menke, and David Amme were part of the first team that pulled in UC Davis faculty, specialists (rangelands, extension), and state and federal agency folks, for a wider conversation about how best to elevate the value and protection/conservation needs of this equally interesting and critical California habitat. As I recall, that was the initial spark of conversations that led to the eventual founding of the California Native Grass (then) Association. Because I was employed at UCD, I stepped up to help with the easy but still essential organizational stuff: book the rooms, call and schedule meetings, help distribute agendas, notes, and newsletters, and so on.

"I remember a whole series of meetings in the Herbarium in Robbins Hall to talk about how 'under-represented the native grasslands were in the statewide conversations about conservation and protection. The issues around California grasslands always tended to come up as a bit of an ancillary off-the-main-topic conversation during other more spotlighted high-profile discussions and meetings about vernal pools and riparian forests and oak woodlands. But the native grasslands themselves were rarely the singular focus of whatever effort or public communication campaign was underway.

"John Anderson was absolutely the main engine of energy, enthusiasm, and ideas for this great initial effort that was focused on continued next page

## Truly a Man Outstanding in His Field continued

teaching about, promoting the use of, helping people identify, and creating public programs to share the value of native California grasses and grasslands."

#### **Awards**

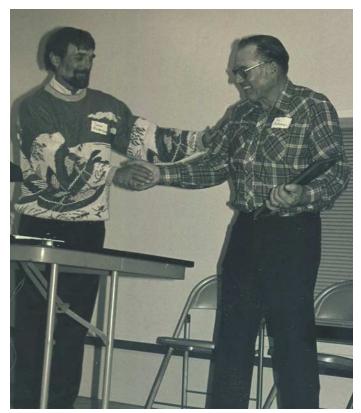
Many conservation organizations recognized John's vision and dedication, and he was presented with many well-deserved awards for his work, including Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperator of the Year in 1986, two awards from the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), 2014 Sacramento Tree Foundation's C.K. McClatchy Award, and the California Society for Ecological Restoration's (SERCAL) first-ever Lifetime Achievement award in 2017.

#### California Invasive Plant Council

Phil Hogan, District Conservationist at the NRCS office in Woodland, remembers: "I first met John back in the mid-1980s when he gave a presentation at a Kiwanis Club luncheon when he was still a veterinarian at the UC Davis Primate Center. Those were the very early days of John's ecological restoration... I went up to him after his presentation and introduced myself as a soil conservationist. John invited me out to tour his farm... and we spent some Saturdays working with the Boy Scouts to plant perennial grasses on the banks of the Winters Canal. We also put on quite a few wildlife habitat establishment workshops through the YCRCD. As a result of John's work on the board, Yolo County became known as a leader in the establishment of hedgerows and native grasses on rural properties. John and Marsha even attended my wedding in September 1989, and he was always very kind towards me. A couple of years ago at a workshop, John thanked me for my contributions to wildlife habitat development in Yolo County. That meant quite a bit to me. I have, and will continue, to miss John very much."

In 2010, Phil Hogan worked with Mary Kimball to nominate John and Marsha for the Leopold Conservation Award, given by Sustainable Conservation. Phil did the nomination paperwork, and Mary put out a call to the restoration community for letters of support and received almost 30 letters praising Hedgerow Farms and John's work. John didn't win the award, but after reading the packet of letters that Mary gave him, he told her that was just as good — or better.

John's passion for restoration was equally matched by his passion to kill weeds, and he loved Cal-IPC, which honored John twice. In 2008, John won the "Ryan Jones Catalyst Award" for creatively spearheading actions or creating partnerships that make exceptional progress in protecting California from invasive plants, and in 2014 he was the recipient of Cal-IPC's highest honor, the "Jake Sigg Award for Vision and Dedicated Service." The award is presented in recognition of years of tireless service and leadership on invasive plant issues in California.



Joe Corcoran presented John Anderson with the Cooperator of the Year Award from the Yolo County RCD in the spring of 1986. Photo by Phil Hogan

Doug Johnson, Executive Director of Cal-IPC remembers, "John was a stalwart in the early 2000s at the annual Weeds Awareness Day at the Capitol. He provided a deep level of knowledge and an authenticity when speaking to Capitol leaders about the need to invest in invasive plant management at the state level. John was somebody that I, like many others, learned so much from. He has affected so many people that his legacy is sure to live on.

"I also attended a meeting —there were 6 or 8 of us— to talk about improving roadside management to reduce the spread of weeds... We met at a picnic table under the big shady trees at John's place, with the bunchgrass lawn. It was beautiful. We didn't solve the problem that day, but I gained a deeper understanding of the challenges. John was the host. I remember him as an elder who worked to connect on-theground know-how to broader systemic change. That's still meaningful to me."

Mike Kelly calls John a visionary pioneer, and recalls..."Don't remember when I first met John: a tour of Hedgerow Farms, a training, or at a Cal-IPC meeting? As a co-founder and past president of Cal-IPC, I remember standing at the back of one of our meetings with John and Jake Sigg, president of CNPS. Already of a 'certain' age, we joked about being three 'old men' in our organizations.

"We crossed paths again when CNGA held a training in San Diego. I presented and led a field trip where we observed native grass species,

## Truly a Man Outstanding in His Field continued

including one new to John and others I believe: Bothriochloa barbinodis (Plumed beard grass). I believe it was that meeting that led to that species entering the nursery trade locally. I include it in my restoration plantings to this day."

#### California Society for Ecological Restoration

Harry Oakes, with ICF and a SERCAL Past-President and Board Member, and Julie St. John, SERCAL Administrative Director, shared this remembrance: "On May 11, 2017, John Anderson became the first recipient of the SERCAL Lifetime Achievement Award. John received the award during SERCAL's 24th annual conference held on the UC Davis campus - a fitting

location for a person who had spent much of his pre-ecological restoration career working for UC Davis. SERCAL selected John to receive our first Lifetime Achievement Award because he was truly a pioneer in the field of ecological restoration, a field that was also in the early pioneering stage when he first started to break ground on his first hedgerows in the 1980s, and when he again broke ground in the 1990s to propagate native seeds.

"SERCAL was also in its fledgling stage in the 1990s. John first appeared in a conference program for the 4th annual meeting held in Santa Cruz in September 1995. John was a co-presenter, along with Brea McGrew, D.V.M., and Robert McGrew, 'Using Sheep for Weed Control in Native Grass Restoration Sites and Seed Production Fields'. The conference agenda listed him as 'John H. Anderson, D.V.M.' In 1998, SERCAL and the San Joaquin Chapter of The Wildlife Society co-hosted a two-day conference, Practical Applications for Wildlife and Habitat Management on Farms and Ranches. John presented 'Restoring Habitat and Watershed Function to California Farmland: Working Solutions and a Vision for the Future' in the 'Wildlife and Habitat Management: Ecological, Political, and Economic Considerations' panel. For this presentation, John had changed his handle to 'John Anderson, Hedgerow Farms.'

"And thus began SERCAL's 'it's-not-a-conference-without-John-Anderson' era. In 1999, Hedgerow Farms was an Exhibitor at the joint SERCAL/SER conference in San Francisco, he presented a paper in





John received the SERCAL Lifetime Achievement Award in May 2017. Harry Oakes (left) and Ralph Vigil (hugging John) presented the award. Also pictured seated at the table in the foreground are Pat Reynolds and Julie St John.

2002 and led a workshop in 2006. From 2000 on, Hedgerow Farms was a favorite exhibitor/sponsor at our conferences and John was a contributing member.

"During project design meetings and at SERCAL conferences, I recall people saying, 'We should reach out to John Anderson and get his thoughts.' John was a fountain of knowledge and willingly shared his experience and perspective. On behalf of SERCAL — thank you John and Hedgerow Farms for helping us all become better ecological stewards."

Ralph Vigil, of Hanford ARC and a Past President of SERCAL, sums it up best: "John has created a legacy that we can all only hope to aspire to. His years of dedication as a steward of the environment and our restoration industry have been paramount. John was an incredible mentor, not just for the people he developed within the Hedgerow community, but for all who came in contact with him. His dedication to SERCAL, CNGA, Cal-IPC, UC Davis, and many more organizations provided the platform for his mentorship. It seemed after each session during a conference of any discretion, he would always engage in a conversation with whoever was within earshot about the presentation. Not devaluing the project or presenter, but inquiring, 'What would you have done in that situation,' then listen intently. Allowing you to express yourself, then with the most eloquent approach, help you see the vision of your next step in the work you were currently involved in. You cannot buy love, nor can you buy that level of dedication, all you can do is live it. Live it for John, live it for your family, live it for our environment."





Online Program: 8:30 am-3:30 pm \* Login begins at 8am Registered attendees will be able to view a recording after the event

CNGA and Hedgerow Farms are partnering for the 14th year to offer this opportunity to learn about new perspectives on grassland restoration, current research, and best practices in California's spectacular native grasslands. We'll take you through the restoration process: from wildland seed collection through farm production to tours of restored field sites.

#### Follow the life of a seed from wildland seed collection to farm production

Seed collection at Hedgerow Farms and Pacific Coast Seed with Jeff Quiter, Hedgerow Farms; Grant Aitken, Pacific Coast Seed; and Tanya Meyer, Yolo Co. RCD

Farm production: Planting, harvesting, and processing with Pat Reynolds, CNGA, and Bryan Young, Sacramento Regional Co. Sanitation District

### Seeds of restoration: Where are they now? Tour the state with virtual "show and tell" site visits and presentations

San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, with Stephen Sheppard, River Partners

Southern California with Robert Freese, Irvine Ranch Conservancy/Orange County Parks; Megan Lulow, UC Irvine; and Collin Raff, Irvine Ranch Conservancy

Russell Ranch, UC Davis, Yolo County with JP Marié, Manager, UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve

Urban Landscaping for Wildlife Habitat with Billy Krimmel, Owner, Miridae,

Vic Claassen, Soil Scientist, UC Davis Department of Land, Air and Water Resources

Valerie Eviner, Associate Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, UC Davis

Pepperwood Preserve, Sonoma County with Michelle Halbur, Preserve Ecologist

#### Lightning talks with CNGA Leaders, past & present

Perspectives on the past and future of grasslands conservation and restoration

\*Pay online or mail to: CNGA, P.O. Box 485, Davis, CA 95617 Questions? Contact Diana Jeffery at (530) 902-6009, or admin@cnga.org

**Register online:** cnga.org\* or call 530.902.6009 \$50 CNGA Members \$65 Non-members \$25 Students w/valid ID



# **Ongoing Recorded Workshop:**

Landscaping with Nature: Engaging with Evolutionary **Ecology in Your Native Garden** 

Recorded talks & supporting materials available online

This highly acclaimed workshop from August 2020, is suitable for landscape professionals and anyone interested in maximizing habitat values in their landscaping. Expert instructors present cutting-edge methods of design, installation, management, and maintenance including Get the latest evaluation, plant selection, evolutionary interactions. habitat

Register online and watch at your own pace. https://cnga.org/Events/

features, and planting best practices to

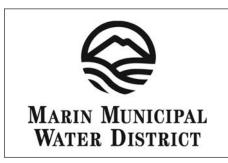
create a wildlife-friendly landscape.

workshop info at: cnga.org

Register online or contact Diana Jeffery at admin@cnga.org or 530.902.6009













# CNGA's Bunchgrass Circle

## A Special Thank You to our Bunchgrass Circle Members!

As a nonprofit organization, CNGA depends on the generous support of our Corporate and Associate members. Ads throughout the issue showcase levels of Corporate membership (\$1,000, \$500, \$250). Associate members (\$125) are listed below. Visit www.cnga.org for more information on joining at the Corporate or Associate level.

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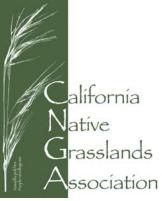
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CNGA's **14th Annual Field Day** goes online June 11:

See page 44 for details.

John was eager to show off the amazing blooms at Yanci Ranch in March 2015. Here he strolls through a field of blue dips (*Dipterostemon capitatus*, formerly *Dichelostemma capitatum*). *Photo by Emily Allen* 

John loved to have a cold IPA after a long day of teaching and learning. Here he walks through a grass field after an event, with his binoculars still around his neck. *Photo by Phil Hogan* 

