

# Farmscape Architecture

## Applied 'working landscape' ecology

(LDA 191—fall 2007)

### Course Description

This course will explore the ecology and function of working agriculture, and landscape architect's role in water systems, field 'edges', and farm planning. We will use area farms and conservation/restoration projects to examine a variety of methods and techniques for planning and managing on-farm natural resources in the context of working agricultural operations.



### Course Topics include:

- Integrated vegetation management incorporating native plants for 'biocompetition'
- Wildlife and tailwater recovery ponds
- Riparian area management/enhancement on farms and ranches
- Farm field management techniques such as cover cropping and conservation tillage.
- Farm and ranch water management (including irrigation)
- Improving manual/computer graphic skills

This course includes three projects based on multiple field trips to area farms and projects, guest presentations, weekly reading from selected topical articles, and in-studio exercises. Also, two Saturday morning workshops will match each student with a local farmer and a conservation professional to develop farm conservation plans for those farmers. Besides providing the opportunity to develop a 'live' product (the farmers take these and *implement* them), this gives students extensive one-on-one exposure with those working and living in this field.

### Instructors

**Paul Robins** is Executive Director of the Yolo County Resource Conservation District and has managed on-farm demonstration and planning projects for the RCD since 1995. The focus of his work with the RCD has been on the interactions between agriculture, water quality, and wildlife habitat in Yolo County, with emphasis on the use of native vegetation systems.

**Jodie Salz** is District Manager of the Solano Resource Conservation District since 2005. Within this position she has managed multiple stream, wetland and upland restoration projects. Her educational background is in wildlife biology and habitat restoration.

