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## **Sonoma Land Trust Acquires Historic Glen Oaks Ranch in Sonoma Valley July 31, 2002**

Sonoma Land Trust is now the owner of Glen Oaks Ranch in Glen Ellen. Owner and long-time Trust member Joan Cochran passed away in March, 2002, leaving the 240-acre ranch to the Trust. Architectural historian Ann Bloomfield called the ranch “the most intact agricultural complex in the Valley of the Moon” when the National Register of Historic Places designation was obtained in 1994. In 2000, 46 acres were replanted in wine grapes, and the remaining land is oak woodland, chaparral, open meadows and a core area with historical buildings, living quarters and barns. The main house, built by Col. Charles V. Stuart in the 1860s, is a majestic two-story Italianate structure constructed with rusticated stone. An important steelhead stream, Stuarts Creek, flows through the property.

In 2000, Joan Cochran finalized her plans to leave the ranch to the Trust, sold a conservation easement to the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, and established an endowment with Community Foundation Sonoma County to help fund the Land Trust’s work managing the Ranch. “Joan carefully made provisions for Glen Oaks Ranch to be protected in perpetuity and for it to be maintained as a historic and community resource,” says David Katz, Executive Director of the Trust. “Her foresight and commitment in making these preparations demonstrated great generosity, and reflected her love for this beautiful land and the rich history of our community.”

Kay M. Marquet, president and CEO of the Community Foundation added, "We are so pleased to be able to play an important role in the preservation of this wonderful property and look forward to continuing our partnership with the Land Trust."

Katz also emphasized the coming role of groups like LandPaths, the Glen Ellen Historical Society, Audubon Bouverie Preserve, and community volunteers in helping develop Glen Oaks as an educational, historical, and agricultural resource. “It’s great to see such strong community interest and support for shaping Glen Oaks into a model of land management that will illustrate farming, natural history and historic preservation.”



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The Trust is in the beginning phase of a planning process to develop ideas and strategies for managing Glen Oaks Ranch. A full-time ranch manager has been hired, and work to restore the main house and grounds has already begun. Glen Ellen Historical Society member Pat Mazzini, a close friend of Joan Cochran, is archiving Glen Oaks historical resources. The Trust will also create an advisory group of technical professionals (restoration experts, historians, architects, engineers, etc.) to inform planning and decision-making.