2015–2016

SONOMA LAND TRUST REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

We’re celebrating 40 years!
Dear Friend of Sonoma Land Trust,

Our eye is on the future. We are profoundly aware of California’s growth and its pressures on Sonoma County — there’s not a moment to waste for conservation.

Two thirds of California’s salmon population and half of its migratory birds are dependent on a healthy San Francisco Bay for their survival. Sonoma Land Trust is committed to restoring historic tidal marsh and wetland areas. Working with a longtime Sonoma ranching family, we purchased Sears Point Ranch. Then, together with our partners, we accomplished a massive restoration project that has broken through the old levee, allowing tides to return to that area. With the marsh returning, we opened a new 2.5-mile extension of the Bay Trail and transferred the land to become part of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Your support and recent voter approval of Measure AA is enabling our work here to expand. The Sonoma Baylands is a sanctuary for everyone to enjoy.

Then there’s the magic of the Sonoma Coast. In this region, our goal is to protect key forest and open landscapes. We are working with property owners who want to save the land that they’ve come to know through a lifetime of memories living in a special place. One of those places includes the Middle Reach of Russian Gulch, a spectacular coastal stream that is vital to steelhead trout and coho salmon recovery.

“There are always flowers for those who want to see them.”
—Henri Matisse

Cover: At the Bay Trail Opening & Celebration this past May, hundreds of people turned out to walk along the brand new trail at Sears Point. Photo by Melania Mahoney. Below: Our On the Land program offers abundant wildflower hikes each spring. Photo by Corby Hines.
In Sonoma Valley, there’s a rich wildlife corridor essential for animals to pass from the Mayacamas, over Sonoma Mountain, and on to Marin. We have embarked on a multi-year project to keep the narrowest section of this passage open. Our goal is to protect a network of properties linking to the Sonoma Developmental Center and Jack London State Park. By protecting this corridor, we are preserving our natural heritage.

Sonoma Land Trust is listening to the community — and responding. We are putting our expertise in land conservation transactions to use by joining collaborative efforts on the Santa Rosa Greenway. Over the next year, we will be working with our conservation partners to develop a Russian River Program and the protection of a vital waterway.

We’re excited to preserve these special places of Sonoma County and it is your support that makes our work possible.

Denny Van Ness  Dave Koehler  
Chair, Board of Directors  Executive Director

Dave Koehler (left) and Denny Van Ness.

Making a Lasting Impact
Our work is about protecting the land for future generations. One of the ranches that became the Sears Point wetland restoration site used to belong to the Dickson Family. Here, celebrating the opening of the new Bay Trail, is Nancy Dickson Wiseman (right) with her daughter Lindsey Wiseman and Lindsey’s son Colton, who represents the seventh generation of this farming family in Sonoma County. Photo by Scott Hess Photography.
It’s hard to imagine that the forward-thinking individuals who founded Sonoma Land Trust 40 years ago could have envisioned the organization of today, a large, nationally respected land trust with 50,000 acres protected. A land trust that takes on massive projects, like the Sears Point Wetland Restoration. A land trust that fights to save an imperiled wildlife corridor and the developmental center within it. A land trust that understands how vital it is to connect people with natural lands, and also to keep some areas free for wildlife. A land trust that supports an urban greenway and a rural conservation ethic. A land trust that keeps in mind the big picture of climate change and water resources when choosing properties to protect and connect. A land trust that strives, every day, to be worthy of the trust of our supporters … and to deserve the gratitude of future generations.

In 2015, big projects dominated: purchasing a large, coastal ranch; re-creating a new 1,000-acre marsh; planning our five-year goals and strategies; preparing to celebrate our 40th Anniversary with you; advancing the vision for the Santa Rosa Greenway; and expanding our outreach in the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor. So far this year, we’ve taken a leadership role on Measure AA for a Clean and Healthy Bay, closed on a 162-acre property that will be added to Mt. Hood Regional Park and Open Space Preserve, and opened up the new Bay Trail segment at Sears Point. Here’s a quick rundown on many — but not all — of Sonoma Land Trust’s recent and current initiatives.
One property at a time, your land trust continues to protect our county’s incomparable coastline. We purchased the 547-acre Estero Ranch at the very end of 2015. A conservation target for more than 20 years, Estero Ranch protects the coastal prairie habitat located at the southwest corner of our county where the Estero Americano empties into the Pacific Ocean. This acquisition connects to our 127-acre Estero Americano Preserve and a network of other protected lands and marine areas. Upon close of escrow, Sonoma Land Trust transferred ownership to our good partner The Wildlands Conservancy, which will continue its use for agricultural production (currently a cow-calf operation), while planning for public recreation and caring for the natural resources. This key acquisition, two years in the making, was only possible thanks to the ongoing and dedicated support of our members.

Two years, and more than 50 critter cams, thousands of pictures, and a variety of other surveys and reports later, have revealed that the wildlife corridor between the Mayacamas and Sonoma Mountain, which narrows to a pinchpoint in the Valley, is still functioning as a critical passageway for wild animals — and it is highly imperiled. The main focus of this past year involved completing the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Project: Management and Monitoring Strategy, and conducting direct outreach to landowners about simple steps they can take to allow wildlife to pass through their properties (such as reducing fencing and night lighting, and minimizing the removal of vegetation). We are applying these same principles to our own properties in the corridor and throughout our preserves, as well. In the upcoming year, we are expanding our program management strategy to encourage a viable wildlife corridor connecting to the Marin and Napa County boundaries.

With 750 acres of wild and undeveloped land in the heart of the wildlife corridor pinchpoint, SDC remains a primary concern of Sonoma Land Trust. Last year, the State announced its intention to close SDC by 2018. The closure of this 125-year-old institution signals the end of an era of state residential care for people with developmental disabilities and leaves the future of the property in doubt. Fortunately, the SDC closure plan states, “… it is not the intention of the State to declare SDC’s property as surplus (to sell) … because of its incredible natural resources and historic importance ….” As the closure process continues, we are working closely with Sonoma County and the State to prepare a comprehensive site assessment and conceptual master plan for the property that will identify viable alternatives for reuse and land protection that honor community values for this irreplaceable Sonoma Valley treasure.

PROTECTING A COASTAL JEWEL > One property at a time, your land trust continues to protect our county’s incomparable coastline. We purchased the 547-acre Estero Ranch at the very end of 2015. A conservation target for more than 20 years, Estero Ranch protects the coastal prairie habitat located at the southwest corner of our county where the Estero Americano empties into the Pacific Ocean. This acquisition connects to our 127-acre Estero Americano Preserve and a network of other protected lands and marine areas. Upon close of escrow, Sonoma Land Trust transferred ownership to our good partner The Wildlands Conservancy, which will continue its use for agricultural production (currently a cow-calf operation), while planning for public recreation and caring for the natural resources. This key acquisition, two years in the making, was only possible thanks to the ongoing and dedicated support of our members.

SONOMA VALLEY WILDLIFE CORRIDOR > Two years, and more than 50 critter cams, thousands of pictures, and a variety of other surveys and reports later, have revealed that the wildlife corridor between the Mayacamas and Sonoma Mountain, which narrows to a pinchpoint in the Valley, is still functioning as a critical passageway for wild animals — and it is highly imperiled. The main focus of this past year involved completing the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor Project: Management and Monitoring Strategy, and conducting direct outreach to landowners about simple steps they can take to allow wildlife to pass through their properties (such as reducing fencing and night lighting, and minimizing the removal of vegetation). We are applying these same principles to our own properties in the corridor and throughout our preserves, as well. In the upcoming year, we are expanding our program management strategy to encourage a viable wildlife corridor connecting to the Marin and Napa County boundaries.

SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (SDC) > With 750 acres of wild and undeveloped land in the heart of the wildlife corridor pinchpoint, SDC remains a primary concern of Sonoma Land Trust. Last year, the State announced its intention to close SDC by 2018. The closure of this 125-year-old institution signals the end of an era of state residential care for people with developmental disabilities and leaves the future of the property in doubt. Fortunately, the SDC closure plan states, “… it is not the intention of the State to declare SDC’s property as surplus (to sell) … because of its incredible natural resources and historic importance ….” As the closure process continues, we are working closely with Sonoma County and the State to prepare a comprehensive site assessment and conceptual master plan for the property that will identify viable alternatives for reuse and land protection that honor community values for this irreplaceable Sonoma Valley treasure.
A SEA CHANGE AND EXTENDING THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL  >  “Five-four-three-two-one … splash!” On October 25, hundreds of SLT members and supporters counted down and welcomed back the tides to Sears Point as a giant excavator removed the last bit of barrier between San Pablo Bay and nearly 1,000 acres of former marshland. It was a rare and unforgettable moment watching the breach of the 140-year-old levee, one that underscored the profound truth of our tagline: “… for future generations.”

The Sears Point Tidal Marsh Restoration Project, a 12-year-long effort, from major acquisition to innovative restoration, pushed the boundaries of our organization far beyond what one would expect of a local land trust — and, yet, we never would have known all that Sonoma Land Trust and our supporters are capable of without having dived into this groundbreaking restoration project. Within three days of the breach, the empty 1.5-square-mile tidal basin had completely filled with water, with only the tops of the new marsh mounds showing at high tide. This is how a marsh starts, with sediment and seeds flowing in with each changing of the tides. Over the next few decades, this brand new wetland seascape will continue to evolve into a beautiful, functioning marsh that will do its part to protect Sonoma County’s southern shoreline from the impacts of sea level rise.

Sears Point’s story doesn’t end there. Completing the project entailed constructing a 2.5-mile extension of the San Francisco Bay Trail (named the Eliot Trail in honor of longtime conservation director Wendy Eliot) atop the new levee so that generations of people will get to enjoy watching the marsh grow and viewing the birds and other wildlife who are returning. In mid-May, we celebrated the opening of the new Bay Trail with our supporters and members of the public and, almost simultaneously, transferred title to the marsh and trail to the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. With dedicated support from a specialized volunteer force, we implemented a Baylands docent program to enhance visitors’ enjoyment and immersion into this unique tidal ecosystem. Sears Point’s new chapter has begun.

SANTA ROSA CREEK HEADWATERS  >  Very recently, we acquired a 162-acre inholding — the Santa Rosa Creek Headwaters property, owned by Margaret Spaulding — in the Hood Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve and Sugarloaf Ridge State Park complex. This strategic purchase connects more than 4,800 acres of wild, publicly accessible land less than 30 minutes from Santa Rosa. Upon close of escrow, we immediately donated the property to Sonoma County Regional Parks to expand Hood Mountain Regional Park — just as we did last year when we purchased and donated the Curreri property for Sonoma Valley Regional Park, and as we will be doing later this year when we transfer our 1,665-acre Tolay Creek Ranch to Tolay Lake Regional Park. Significantly, this property lies within the critical wildlife linkage between Napa County and the Marin Coast, and about a half mile of the South Fork of Santa Rosa Creek flows through it, providing water and riparian habitat for fish and wildlife.

SOUTHEAST SANTA ROSA GREENWAY  >  A two-mile linear stretch of 58 acres in the heart of the city that has been fenced and vacant for decades is in the process of being reborn as the Santa Rosa Greenway. It’s a major urban greening project that will restore a natural resource corridor linking to Spring Lake Regional Park and Annadel State Park, and connect communities through trails and outdoor recreation opportunities. It takes experience and expertise to undertake a significant land transaction like this with parallel community outreach and planning processes. That’s why Sonoma Land Trust became the Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway Committee’s fiscal sponsor and joined the Santa Rosa Greenway partnership, bringing our experience in purchasing and funding open space projects. Collectively, we made great strides last year: The property owner, Caltrans, inked an agreement giving us the right to buy the property and the Santa Rosa City Council agreed to begin the general plan amendment process for the 58-acre property. Once the City decides, through a public process, how it wishes to use the land, the Land Trust will be able to assist with raising the necessary funding and securing the land for a public greenway.
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SAVING LAND > We decided early in our anniversary year that the idea of several smaller celebrations appealed to us more than one big event — so we could celebrate Sonoma Land Trust all year long! In May, we offered a 40th Anniversary wildlife speaker series that took place in a different venue around the county each week, addressing full houses each time! — and each quarter, we’ve been offering special 40th Anniversary field trips that combine visits to exceptional, off-the-beaten-path properties with local, seasonal meals. This summer, a couple of well-known rural supporters are offering their stunning settings and working with topnotch local chefs to present farm-to-table dinners that benefit Sonoma Land Trust. We hope you will take the opportunity to celebrate with us in one or more of these extraordinary events this year.

AND THERE’S SO MUCH MORE > It’s impossible to cover in this report everything that your land trust is doing because there is always so much going on. New acquisitions are important, but clearly, they are just one part of our work. This year, we played a leading role in Sonoma County on behalf of passing Measure AA on the June 2016 ballot. Measure AA will generate $500 million in local funding over the next 20 years to help clean up and restore San Francisco Bay. Thank you for voting for Measure AA — we are very grateful to Sonoma County and our members for your willingness to invest in our region’s environment and to continue the work we started at Sears Point.

Our stewardship department continues to monitor conservation easements, build bridges, maintain landscapes, work with rural neighbors, involve kids in planting native trees, and so much more. Volunteers play a critical role in our stewardship efforts and our On the Land program team consistently comes up with new and fun activities for people of a wide range of ages and interests. The communications department launched the enchanting Mountains + Molehills blog and has been working with Bay Area favorite Doug McConnell to tell Sonoma Land Trust’s stories on his new Open Road TV series. Along with generating the funds to support our labor-intensive work, the development department is helping to raise the money needed to build the parking lot at the Jenner Headlands — the only remaining obstacle to unguided public access to this spectacular 5,630-acre property and our Pole Mountain Preserve. Our financial team is awarded clean audits every year, having carefully shepherded millions of dollars of government agency funding in compliance with myriad regulations. And our volunteer manager has been growing both the number and capacity of our dedicated volunteer crew, finding more and more niches where they can participate meaningfully in our mission.

WHAT’S NEXT? > Our executive director, Dave Koehler, came on board in April 2015 and, a few months later, the Land Trust board and staff began engaging in an intensive, half-year-long strategic planning process to build the path for the organization to follow from now until 2020. Earlier this year, our board voted to approve the new plan. In addition to continuing our current projects, the plan contains a number of exciting new initiatives, such as expanding protection of the critical wildlife corridor from Napa to Marin; building a Russian River watershed program; improving the cultural relevancy, diversity and inclusivity of our programs; developing a Preserve System program plan to integrate our restoration and outdoor program activities across the county; and launching an apprenticeship program to give recent college graduates practical natural resource stewardship experience — to help foster the next generation of land trust stewards. It’s an ambitious strategic plan — but we wouldn’t have it any other way.

Thank you for being part of Sonoma Land Trust — and for helping to make the impossible possible.
**Anchor Preserve**

1. Estero Americano
2. Glen Oaks Ranch
3. Laufenburg Ranch
4. Little Black Mountain
5. Sears Point Ranch

**Owned in Fee**

6. Cedars Gateway
7. Freezeout Redwoods
8. Leonard Ranch
9. Live Oaks Ranch
10. Lower Pitkin Marsh
11. Pole Mountain
12. Secret Pasture
13. Sonoma Creek
14. Stuart Creek Hill
15. Stuart Creek Run
16. Tolay Creek Ranch
17. White Rock Preserve

**Conservation Easement**

18. Airport Boulevard
19. Bald Mountain Ranch
20. Bear Canyon
21. Blucher Creek
22. Bohemia Ecological Preserve
23. Bohemia Ranch
24. Canelis Old-Growth Redwoods
25. Cuffey's Cove
26. Dimbat Tree Farm
27. Drake Family
28. Elarra
29. Enchanted Wood
30. Finley Creek
31. Fish Rock Ranch
32. Gird Creek
33. Griffin Wildlife Sanctuary
34. John Holden
35. Knaus Forest at Nuns Canyon
36. Little Creek
37. Lower Ranch
38. Mason
39. Mill Creek Old Growth
40. Morgan Hill
41. Mother Gardens at OAEC
42. Nefertierra
43. Oak Hill Farm
44. OGA Annapolis
45. Old Hill Ranch
46. Quail Hill
47. Rancheria Creek Recesses

**Conservation Easement—Acquisition**

48. River Bend
49. Rock Fall Woods
50. Rocky Point
51. Santa Rosa Creek Headwaters
52. Sassin
53. Summerfield Waldorf School
54. Sunrise Redwoods
55. Tolay Creek Riparian
56. Van Winkle Redwoods
57. Ward Creek
58. Watson Ranch
59. Westridge Knolls
60. Wild Turkey Hill

**Technical Assistance—Acquisition**

61. Buckeye Forest
62. Cloudy Bend
63. Hopp-Moses
64. Harrison Grade Serpentine
65. Laguna de Santa Rosa
66. McCord Ranch
67. Rigler Preserve
68. Sonoma Mountain Ranch

**Technical Assistance—Stewardship**

69. Bel Marin Keys
70. Petaluma River Marsh

**Transfer**

71. Curreri
72. Estero Ranch
73. Halperin Baylands
74. Jenner Headlands Preserve
75. Red Hill
76. San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

**Total Acres Protected:** 48,588.4
THANK YOU

Sonoma Land Trust’s strength depends on the extraordinary generosity of those who are committed to the urgent work of permanently protecting the beautiful, agricultural and open lands that define Sonoma County. Our donors ensure that the innate beauty of our region is protected today and for generations to come. We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, foundations and businesses that made gifts or pledges from January 1 through December 31, 2015.

The Summit Leadership Circle
$50,000+
Anonymous (2)
Hal and Katherine Hinkle
Peter and Patty Mattson
Bill and Jeanne Osterland
Richard and Sharon Shlegeris
Zia E. Taberi
P. Lynn Woodward

$20,000−$49,999
Drew and Ellen Bradley
Fran Conley
Joanne Dow
Patrick W. Emery and Allison Sanford
Robert and Michelle Friend
Judith and Paul R. Gray
Scott Hintz and Michael Petersen
Carolyn Johnson and Rick Thames
Harry and Dee Richardson
George Sardina, MD
Peter and Marian Van Alyea
Jake Warner and Toni Ishii

$10,000−$19,999
Anonymous (4)
Tom and Julie Atwood
Dianne Brinson and Mark Radcliffe
Frank and Pat Carrubba
Anthony Crabb and Barbara Grasseschi
Cressman Family Foundation
Ethel and Eugene Daly
Caroline Daniels
Lynne Deegan-McGraw
Erickson Family Charitable Foundation
Virginia Fitfield
Gala Fund
Fred and Lynne Groverman
Mary and Dick Hafner
Hanford ARC
Troy and Steven Highstower
Phoebe Lang and Sanjay Bagai
Jim Lauber and Tim Portwood

$5,000−$9,999
Anonymous (2)
Toni and Julie Atwood
Dianne Brinson and Mark Radcliffe
Fred and Lynne Groverman
Mary and Dick Hafner
Hanford ARC
Troy and Steven Highstower
Phoebe Lang and Sanjay Bagai
Jim Lauber and Tim Portwood

$2,500−$4,999
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Artifex Software, Inc.
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Magnus Pacific Corporation
Maple Hill Foundation
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John L. Moulton
Ann and Michael Parker
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John and Liz Sheela
Thomas and Shirley Simone
Jean Simpson
Hans and Gay Stern
Chris Stover and Lorraine Bazan

The Evergreen Circle
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Marc Benson and Charles Sullivan
The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation
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Pamela Laird and Mark Jacobsen
Martha Ann Langston
Sheila and Paul Leach
Sandra Martinsen and Alan Selby
Dennis Martin
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Stephen Vallarino and Raini Sugg
Michael and Janet Verlander

$1,000−$2,499
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Nabeel Al-Shamma and Hala Al-Shawwany
Tania Amochev
Menahem and Jennifer Anderman
Lindsay and Kirsten Austin
Jeffrey Baker and Diana Lee Craig
Sharon Band
Hallie Beacham and Paul Downey
Ralph Benson
JoAnn Berman
Virginia Bertrelsen
Hugh Black
Kathleen and Dennis Bloch
Douglas G. Boven
Berenice and Lawrence Brackett
Vina and Jon Breyfogle
Dr. and Mrs. David Brown
Peter C. Brown
Brenda Buckerfield and Tommy Messing
Ardan Bucklin and Karl Sporer
Kate Bucklin and Thomas Hegardt
California’s Artisan Cheese Festival
Glenn and Peggy Calkins
Mike Center and Marlene Russell
Susan M. Clark
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Kevin and Nancy Cooper
Ann and Robert Cormack
Valerie Cost
Ronald and Carol Cox
John and Mary Crockenberg
Patricia Cullinan
Ben Cushman and George Tuttle
Kirsten and Ed Cutler
Cindy Daniel and Doug Lipton
Anita F. Das
As our registered professional forester, erosion control specialist, author of the 2002 and 2013 Little Black Mountain Management plans, high-level volunteer and major donor, Harold has invested more than a decade of involvement in seeing these preserves thrive. Through Harold’s leadership, Sonoma Land Trust has implemented a multitude of projects addressing forest and wildland fuel management, property infrastructure, erosion control and trail development to ready the preserve for educational programs and recreational activities.

“It is absolutely inspiring the way we have been able to partner with groups like CalFire, FireSafe Sonoma, Conservation Corps North Bay, local contractors and our hearty volunteers to continue to implement the many needed projects identified in the stewardship plan,” remarks Harold. “I give a lot of credit to SLT’s Shanti Edwards for keeping it going and keeping me involved.”

Harold has recently turned his attention to the Pole Mountain property management plan, and is helping to identify forest management and fuel reduction priorities. He is taking his landscape-scale knowledge of forest management priorities and applying them to one of the most visible and significant properties in the region.

His understanding of the need for ongoing land stewardship runs deep. He focuses his philanthropy, like his volunteer efforts, on care of the land. “If we truly value these lands, we must proactively take care of them.”
Her passionate interest in dairy goats and artisanal foods led her to become an award-winning goat breeder and cheesemaker.

Nestled among majestic redwoods in western Sonoma County, Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery produces artisanal cheeses, yogurts, kefir, sour cream and other specialty dairy products. The farm and creamery were founded and are, to this day, operated by Jennifer Bice.

Excellence is a top priority. Redwood Hill takes pride in producing the best-tasting, least-processed products. They focus on supporting Sonoma county workers and community organizations, small-scale dairy farmers and the dietary needs of consumers.

When asked about supporting Sonoma Land Trust, Jennifer responded: “Sonoma Land Trust’s work to preserve open space and farmland in Sonoma County is very important to us as it completely aligns with our values. Organizations like the Land Trust nurture our community and protect its beauty — we feel an inherent responsibility as a company to do the same. I am so proud to have supported this great organization since 1994.”
Matthew Foehr
Margaret and Robert Foulks
Ann and Michelle Fouts-Reppun
Farida Fox
Linda Fraley and J. Geren Nichols
Donald H. and Ann Frazer
Donald Frediani and Renata Gasperi
Charles and Perry Freeman
Guy and Beverly French
Sabine and Harald Frey
Alex and Ann Frick
Eric and Heather Friedlander
Robert Friese
Walter and Josefine Frommel
Christine and Richard Frost
Gene Gallock
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Erica and Ken Gregory
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Parke and Sarah Hafner
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Karen Hales
Elana H. Hall
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Christine Hoex
Mary Hofmann
Hohum Conceo
Deindre Holbrook
Karen Holbrook
Laura Holms and Michael Martin
Andy and Jean Holroyd-Sills

PROTECT THE LAND YOU LOVE WHILE YOU WORK

From your desk to the wetlands at Sears Point, from the breakroom to the top of Pole Mountain — you can help us protect the beauty of Sonoma County while you work. Choose Sonoma Land Trust during your next workplace giving campaign and take advantage of your employer’s matching gift program. Visit sonomalandtrust.org/donate... to protect the land forever.
The Cressmans are passionate about wildlife and nature, reinforced by Victoria’s childhood horseback rides on Sonoma trails and Dan’s experience in the ‘70s as a Banff National Park warden in Canada. Since purchasing a house in Glen Ellen in 2001, the couple became familiar with our work to preserve the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor, and especially the work pertaining to the Sonoma Developmental Center. Inspired by our work (and the events that led to the formation of the GGNRA in their Marin backyard), the Cressmans became summit leadership supporters in 2015. Dan, who works in commercial real estate, recognizes the importance of developing urban areas — but also maintaining open spaces. “Sonoma County is such a sanctuary for wildlife,” says Dan. “Here, it’s all about creating and preserving open space.”
In the early ’80s, he started Commoncents to aid artists, designers and musicians (“those who are burdened by creativity”) with their finances. In 1994, he fell in love with a color consultant/fiber artist client named Lynn Kasuba; they bought a home in Occidental in 1998 and moved there full time in 2001. “It just got harder and harder to leave.”

In 2007, a client introduced Corky to Sonoma Land Trust. He started making regular gifts and was soon writing monthly checks to aid the Trust’s cash flow. While most monthly givers to the Land Trust give online, Corky enjoys writing that check. “It’s my favorite thing to do in the month because it’s about somebody else, not me,” he says. “And it’s easier than coming up with a big number at the end of the year for the tax deduction.” A finance professional, Corky knows the value of cash flow and tax deductions. As an artist, he knows the value of the landscapes surrounding us. “It’s stunning here. We’re in one of the most beautiful spots in the world and we need to keep it this way.”
Nancy and Steven Carpenter
Allan and Cathy Carstensen
Kara Caselas
David and Linda Cervantes
Janice and Paul Chaffee
Jean Chalmers
Patricia Chan
Kristoffer Chang
Tanya Charter and Greg Shore
Miranda Chatham
Catherine Chatton Cheney
Debbie Christianson
Lisa Clapper
Linda Clark
Suzanne Clarke
Romain Clerou
Joseph and Victoria Cochrane
Deborah Coe
Debi Coish
Gay Coleman Collins and Richard Collins
Dan and Janet Condon
Catherine Cook
Randall Cook
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JUDY SCOTCHMOOR AND ROLAND GANGLOFF

"THERE ARE SO MANY SPECIAL THINGS ABOUT SONOMA COUNTY. SOME ARE TRANSIENT, AND SOME ARE LONG LASTING. WE FEEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO INVEST IN SONOMA BY PROTECTING ITS DRAMATIC COASTLINE, ROLLING OAK WOODLANDS AND NESTLED VALLEYS."
An inveterate traveler and tinkerer, the Sebastopol resident and Santa Monica native had long given up the dragster refinement that led to his induction into the Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 1997. When he died suddenly on August 18, 2015, he was known more for catching up with friends over coffee, dancing enthusiastically, dispensing hundred-dollar bills to pals down in the dumps, volunteering for Ceres and practicing mindfulness. It was a complete surprise to Sonoma Land Trust that he had left the bulk of his estate to us in his will. (It wasn’t such a surprise to longtime SLT volunteer and hiking buddy Doug Wilcox.) As Roberto owned acreage with a home in Sebastopol and apartments in Venice, CA, his bequest will give the Trust a lot of wherewithal to protect more beautiful and beloved places in Sonoma County.
James and Amy Gray
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Bequests for the Land

We honor in memoriam the following supporters of Sonoma Land Trust.

Their foresight and generosity will preserve the landscapes of Sonoma.

County for future generations to behold and enjoy.

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Glenn and Tricia Melosh
Lois Miller
Celebrating, Honoring & Remembering

From November 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015, the following gifts honoring exceptional individuals and celebrating special events. As always, we are grateful that our work of protecting the land forever is chosen as a symbol of appreciation and continuity.

Anonymous in memory of Tom Falk
Edward E. Abramson, PhD in memory of Morris B. Abramson
Nancy Abreu in memory of Marie Del Bondio
Alla Acheff in memory of George C. Acheff
Janice Adams in loving memory of Norman L. Boling
Richard and Margo Addison in memory of Tom Barnett
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Suzanne Albin in memory of Bill Kortum
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Ted Andersen and Kat Gledhill in celebration of Bill and Jean Andersen
Irene Ange in celebration of Patrick Scott’s birthday
Steve and Valerie Arelt in memory of Kent Larson
Karen and Gerry Arrington in memory of Rachael Chambra; in honor of Faye Hansen
Stephen Ayala in memory of Anne Okada Ayala
Peter E. Babcock in memory of Carole Barbour
Suzanne Badenhoop and Guy Lampard in honor of the Verlanders
Schuyler and Susie Bailey in honor of Bryan and Diane Hichwa, Steve DePietro and Brenda Bullington
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Walter and Lu Benson in memory of Edith Hanna, Inez Oliva and Bill Kortum
James and Janice Berkland in memory of Gertrude Berkland
Jennifer Bice in memory of Steve Schack
Iris Borg in memory of Richard Borg, Gordon and Tamara Boulbee in memory of Frank T. Slavens
Yseult Bourbonnais in memory of William L. Blaine
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Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Broshe in honor of Reta Lockert; in honor of Harry and Dee Richardson

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Canyon Records in memory of Emily Evers
Sheri Cardo in memory of Erik Holbeck and Kirsten Lindquist; in memory and celebration of Bill Kortum, who inspired such a deep love of the land
Lyne and Dick Carlile in memory of Tim Temple and Davide Maronati
Carolyn Carpenter in celebration of Betsy Livingston
Padma Catell in memory of Benjamin Millstein
Catherine Chatton Cheney in memory of Moira Chatton Young
Theodore and Lynda Chenoweth in celebration of Barbara Kelley McLaughlin, a scholar of Roman and Greek history and a great binder
Cherrybrook Fund in memory of David Smith
Randal S. Churchill in memory of Bill Kortum
John and Lena Chyle in honor of Ralph Benson
Susan M. Clark in celebration of Bill and Marge Clark
Molly and Richard Cohen in celebration of the Wednesday Wanderers
Jim Cole in honor of his Airnb guests
Guy Conner in memory of Pat Wiggins
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Irene Ehret in honor of Steve Ehret
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Pat and Ted Eliot in memory of Jim Lyon; in memory of Anthony Arnold, Erik Holbeck, J.R. “Bob” Stone and Sidney Peters; in honor of Wendy Eliot, Emily Evers, Bill Kortum and Kirsten Lindquist; in honor of Teddy; in honor of Ralph Benson
Wendy Eliot and Michael Fitzgibbon in memory of Kirsten Lindquist and Erik Holbeck
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Janet Engelbrecht in memory of Arthur J. Engelbrecht
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Philip and Cheryl Genet in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Irvingrad and Heinz Gerstle commemorating their birthdays
David Gettsman in memory of Norm Boling
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Bruce Goldstein and Vicki Hill in memory of Steven James Loc; in memory of Frances Y. Ekart
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Joe and Susan Gorin in celebration of the incredible leadership of Ralph Benson
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Donald Gregory in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
Robert Gregory in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
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Nicolette and Marc Katano in memory of William A. Henkin, Jr.
Jean and Roy Knapp in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Lucy Kortum in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Cynthia and Hugo Landecker in celebration of Julie and Claire's new home in Sonoma County
Elizabeth Lane in memory of Sara Branch
Cynthia Langendorf in memory of Harold Ryan
Sean and Chris Lanham in celebration of Michael Lanham
Jack and Mary Lawrence in honor of Bill Kortum
Gaye LeBaron in memory of John LeBaron
Nelson Lee and Lia Rudnick Lee in honor of Ralph Benson
Enid Leff in memory of Irwin Leff
Sarah Cameron Lerner and Jim Lerner in celebration of Sonoma Land Trust's 40th anniversary
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Marjorie Lilenthal in memory of Philip Lilenthal
Liz Linde and Walt Hays in memory of Woody and Barni Linde
Reta Lockert in celebration of the incomparable Ralph Benson
Ruth Lombard and Trymon Hunter in celebration of Rhiannon's birthday
Bill and Tieli Long in honor of Ralph Benson
Rachel Long in honor of the generous and passionate Sheri Cardo
Andrew Macdonald and Anne Peterson in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Sue MacMillan in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Eileen Ann Maloy in memory of Bill Kortum
Thomas Martin in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Dennis Martino in memory of Lilli Andy and Sophie Mattson in honor of Peter Mattson
Robin and Jean Maybury in memory of William Lepley; in memory of Joan January, wonderful artist of Healdsburg, who died unnecesssarily in September 2014
Drew McCalley and Marilyn Green in memory of Tom Falk
Elizabeth McCarthy and Marko Castor in memory of Bill Kortum
Mrs. David McDaniel in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
Winton and Margaret McKibben in honor of Roland Brandel
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Dan Nuebel and Karen Thompson in memory of Frank Daniel Nuebel
Marcia and James Nybakken in memory of Tom Falk
Margie and Bruce Obendorf in honor of Art and Jill
Barbara Saarni Oddone and Pier Oddone in memory of Carolyn Saarni
Kenneth Ogren in memory of Marjorie Ogren; in memory of Ila Peterson
Richard and Susan Olness in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
Emily Oppenheimer in honor of Rudolf Oppenheimer
June and Darrell Osbourn in appreciation of Ralph Benson and his service to Sonoma Land Trust
Susanne Ottman and Myrna Goodman in honor of Ruth Lombard's birthday
Nancy and Kevin Padian in memory of Sibyl Ann Otter
Jean and Jim Palmer in honor of J. Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day; in memory of Carita Larsen
Jackie Parker in memory of Brad Parker
Leland E. Parker in memory of Gary Haag; in memory of Douglas Richardson
Donald and Joyce Parsons in memory of Deborah Lynn Parsons
Jill Pass in memory of Joseph Pass, longtime Sonoma County resident and founder of Redwood Aviation
Ellen Gill Pastore in honor of Lizanne Pastore and Will Bucklin; in celebration of Elizabeth Anne Pastore's birthday
Johanna Patri in celebration of Reta Lockert's birthday; in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Anne and Robert Pedrozo in honor of Ken Freeman
Kathy Pedroni in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
Stephen Max Perr and Holly Christman in memory of Patricia Lorentz
Richard Peters in memory of Donald B. Rice, Jr.
Ervand and Jackie Peterson in memory of Marilda E. Peterson
David Petritz in honor of Bill Kortum
Linda Petrujilas in memory of Sandra Rooklin Paillon
Mary Piasta in celebration of clients of Piasta Valluzzo Law Group LLP
Linda Pichci in memory of Anna Pichci
Sharon Ponsford and Chris Jones in memory of Doug Tompkins
John and Polly Post in memory of John Howard Mansfield
Linda and Alan Proulx in memory of Richard Yahner, PhD, who dedicated his life and career to wildlife conservation
Miles Raines in memory of Norm Boling
Josephine and Uhland Redd in honor of Web and Elizabeth Marquez
Art and Elaine Reichert in memory of Lorna Gilmer
Elaine Reichert in celebration of Art Reichert
Katherine and Alan Reinko in honor of Mirka Knastra and Larry Jacobs
Amanda Jane Reynolds in memory of Carita Larsen
Willard and Nancy Richards in honor of Ralph Benson and all he has done for Sonoma Land Trust and for Sonoma County
Harry and Dee Richardson in memory of Rudolph Oppenheimer, MD; in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Kenneth Roberts in honor of Bill Kortum
Bernice H. Rosenthal in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Annette and Craig Roth in memory of Gary Haag
William Roth in celebration of Anne Hotz
Robert Rottmayer in memory of Norm Boling
Helen Rudee in memory of Bill Kortum
Robin Doerr Russell in memory of John George Doerr and Howard George Harvey
Philip Sales in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Stephen and Jean Schapp in honor of Earle and Susie Cummings
Jean Schutz in memory of Rudy Oppenheimer
Steve and Georgia Schwartz in celebration of Oliver and Dylan Deal
Chere and Eric Sechrist in celebration of Cassie Gillespie
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Shan in memory of Erica Demarest Shan
Sandi Shannonhouse and Arthur Schade in memory of Bill Kortum
Greig Shepard and Constance Sharpe in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Stephen and Betty Sherer in memory of Kirsten Lindquist; in celebration of the marriage of Julia Beaufait and Dave Sherer
Tina Shone in memory of Kirsten
Lindquist
Patrice and Julie Sicaud in honor of Alfred A. Stone
Mercy Sidbury in memory of Alice and James Sidbury, Jr.
Alan Siegle and Shelley Brown in memory of Bill Kortum
Jill Silvas in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Steve and Wendy Smit in honor of Pauline Secor Elliott
Daphne Smith in honor of Ralph Benson
David L. Smith and Bonnie Martin in celebration of the anniversary of Rich and Bev
Susan Manuel Smith in honor of Ralph Benson
Denise Sobel and Tom Oczkowski in memory of Kirsten Lindquist and Eric Holbeck
The Solem Family in memory of Kirsten Lindquist and Eric Holbeck
Barbara Spain in memory of Gary Spain
Katherine Speas in memory of Manette Hollingsworth Speas and R. Dixon Speas
Max Stein and Jean Kenna in memory of Helen Stein
Helen Stevens in celebration of Lise’s 94 years
Michael Stone in memory of Carol A. Stone
John P. Strebel in memory of Ralph Benson, Sr. “Chief of the Fire”
Sandra Stribolt in memory of Bernice Lee
Lisa Sugarman in memory of Mary Williams and Peter Elias
Jack and Marilyn Swire in memory of James Hegarty
Lory and Dana Teicheira in memory of Satchel Gladys Thacher in honor of Anne Teller
Samantha Thomas in memory of Viola Schott; in memory of Ross J. and Bonnye Thomas
Winnie Tierney in memory of David Tierney
Andrea and Jeff Tobias in honor of Malcolm Lubliner
Christina Toms in memory of Art ‘Toms’ Dale and Elaine Trowbridge in memory of Denis Rex Trowbridge
Kathleen Trux in honor of Ralph Benson’s fine work and retirement
Arlene Ulmer in memory of Joseph W. Ulmer
Pamela Vanderbilt in memory of Connie and Norman Beckley
Elizabeth R. Vaughn in celebration of Ralph Benson
Maria Sarah Vella in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Sally Vella in celebration of Lorraine Wedekind’s 94th birthday; in memory of Ignazio Vella
Michael J. Vellutini in memory of Caroline “Carita” Larsen
The Viking House at Jenner in memory of Matt Solem and Allen Ray
Eileen Walsh in memory of John and Maureen Walsh
Nola Watson in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Shane and Sally Weare in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Linda and Jim Weathers in memory of Jonathan Glass
Anne and Putney Westerfield in memory of Caroline Martin Larsen
Jeffrey and Line Westman in honor of Julia Grant
Cy Wilcox in memory of Billie Blumenthal
Carol Williams in memory of Bill Kortum; in memory of Kirsten Lindquist
Peter Elias and Mary Williams in memory of Mabre Krueger
Andrea Selieita Williamson in memory of Allison Scott
Colleen and Mark Wilson in memory of William Henry Canthers
Camilla Wilson and Leigh Wilson-Mattson in memory of Emily Evers
Linda and Steven Wolan in celebration of Casey and Alicia Case
Patricia Wolfe in celebration of Ms. Judy Launson
Joan Woodhull in memory of Joel Woodhull
Ronald and Pieter Anne Wright in honor of Austin Jerome Edwards
Alfred and Julia Wurglitz in celebration of Ralph Benson and the incredibly hardworking staff at Sonoma Land Trust
Thomas Varish and Laure Campbell in memory of Donald C. Campbell, Ret. USN
Pamela Zimmerman in memory of Jerry Waxman

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY
FOR CONSERVATION

Making a bequest to Sonoma Land Trust is a simple way to ensure that the places you love remain forever open. You can name Sonoma Land Trust as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial accounts. Anyone can make a bequest.

FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

info

Reta Lockert, Donor Relations Director
(707) 526-6930 ext. 105
reta@sonomalandtrust.org
sonomalandtrust.org/donate
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015 (PRE-AUDIT)</th>
<th>2014 (AUDITED)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$5,970,644</td>
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<td>4,106,763</td>
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<td>1,083,925</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$57,872,853</td>
<td>$53,334,154</td>
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| **LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS** |                  |                |
|**Liabilities**              |                  |                |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | $3,397,531       | $2,721,762     |
| Deferred revenue           | 1,688,709        | 519,186        |
| Short-term note payable    | 400,000          | 674,118        |
| Refundable advances        | 1,006,293        | 1,006,124      |
| Use obligation-life estate | 603,879          | 609,594        |
| **Total Liabilities**      | $7,096,412       | $5,530,784     |

|**Net Assets**              |                  |                |
| Unrestricted               |                  |                |
| Available for operations   | $8,160,578        | $5,417,687     |
| Board designated — conservation projects | 1,652,064       | 763,911        |
| Investment in conservation lands | 36,263,802      | 36,318,418     |
| **Total unrestricted net assets** | 46,076,444     | 42,500,016     |
| Temporarily restricted net assets | 4,699,999       | 5,303,354      |
| **Total Net Assets**       | $50,776,443      | $47,803,370    |

|**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $57,872,853 | $53,334,154 |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

|                      |                  |                |
|**REVENUE AND SUPPORT**|                  |                |
| Contributions and grants | $7,282,338      | $3,242,975     |
| In-kind contributions   | $900             | $262,188       |
| In-kind contributions: Conservation land & improvements | — | $40,000 |
| Project income          | $4,954,885       | $8,603,291     |
| Investment income       | (13,889)         | 159,807        |
| **Total Revenue and Support** | $12,224,234 | $12,308,261 |

|**EXPENSES**              |                  |                |
| Projects and stewardship | $7,361,598       | $10,469,569    |
| Governance and administrative | 1,114,504   | 1,059,010      |
| Fundraising              | 725,059          | 640,812        |
| **Total Expenses**       | $9,201,161       | $12,169,391    |

| Net income before land acquisitions & donations | $3,023,073 | $138,870 |
| Land acquisition expenses | (1,000,000) | (568,063) |
| Land acquisition contributions (net) | 950,000 | 2,352,827 |
| **Net income after land acquisitions & donations** | $2,973,073 | $1,923,634 |

The amounts presented here are derived from the Sonoma Land Trust's financial statements for the years ending December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014. Copies of the audited reports of financial statements are available upon request.
### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31

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| Temporarily restricted net assets | 4,699,999        | 5,303,354      |
| **Total Net Assets**         | $ 50,776,443     | $ 47,803,370   |

| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $ 57,872,855 | $ 53,334,154 |

### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

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| In-kind contributions        | 900              | 262,188        |
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### STAFF

- **Dave Koehler**  
  *Executive Director*

- **Karen Arrington**  
  *Volunteer Program Manager*

- **Sheri Cardo**  
  *Director of Communications*

- **Amy Chesnut**  
  *Acquisitions Director*

- **Paul DeMarco**  
  *Director of Finance & Administration*

- **Shanti Edwards**  
  *Stewardship Project Manager*

- **Wendy Elliot**  
  *Conservation Director*

- **Trevor George**  
  *Associate Stewardship Project Manager*

- **Corby Hines**  
  *Outings Assistant*

- **Deirdre Holbrook**  
  *Major Gifts Officer*

- **Joseph Kinyon**  
  *GIS Manager*

- **Reta Lockert**  
  *Donor Relations Director*

- **Frances Lum**  
  *Accounting Assistant*

- **John McCaull**  
  *Land Acquisition Project Manager*

- **Julian Meisler**  
  *Baylands Program Manager*

- **Nicole Na**  
  *Communications Coordinator*

- **Bob Neale**  
  *Stewardship Director*

- **Tony Nelson**  
  *Sonoma Valley Program Manager*

- **Corinne Neuman**  
  *Controller*

- **Elizabeth Newton**  
  *Office Manager*

- **Linda Parker**  
  *Senior Accountant*

- **Ariel Parashnik**  
  *Land Acquisition Project Manager*

- **Kyle Pinjuv**  
  *Assistant Stewardship Project Manager*

- **Crystal Simons**  
  *Conservation Easement Program Manager*

- **Ingrid Spetz**  
  *Outings Manager*

- **Jen Stanfield**  
  *Assistant Stewardship Project Manager*

- **Maggie Stockel**  
  *Development Associate*

- **Samantha Thomas**  
  *Development Assistant*

- **Community Planning Coordinator*

- **Kaaren Van Dyke**  
  *Membership Program Manager*

- **Marian Vernon**  
  *Strategic Initiatives Analyst*

- **Jeffrey Westman**  
  *Development Director*

- **Editor: Sheri Cardo**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- **Denny Van Ness**, Chair  
  *Venture Capital Advisor*

- **Fred Reid**, Vice Chair  
  *Business Executive*

- **Robert Brent**, Secretary  
  *Retired Business Owner*

- **Clay Clement**  
  *Attorney*

- **Neal Fishman**  
  *Retired Public Official*

- **Ken Freeman**  
  *Winery Owner*

- **Steven Hightower**  
  *Retired Entrepreneur*

- **Bryant Hichwa**  
  *Retired College Professor*

- **Hal Hinkle**  
  *Farmer*

- **Perry Karsen**  
  *Retired Business Executive*

- **Pete Mattson**  
  *Business Executive*

- **Bill Osterland**  
  *Retired Business Executive*

- **L. Timothy Portwood**  
  *Fundraising Consultant*

- **Harry Richardson**  
  *Retired Physician*

- **Allison Sanford**  
  *Retired Administrator*

- **Wendy Smit**  
  *Retired Businessperson*

- **Peter Van Alyea**  
  *Business Owner*
“How strange that nature does not knock, and yet does not intrude!”

— Emily Dickinson