



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | April 2018

Land conservation on Capitol Hill

DONATE NOW



Dave Koehler (fourth from the left) was part of a California delegation that met with several state elected officials and their staff, including Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representatives Mike Thompson and Jared Huffman.

We took our voice to Capitol Hill this month in support of land conservation for Sonoma County. Through three days of advocacy organized by the Land Trust Alliance, executive director Dave Koehler joined land trust colleagues from around the country to meet with our U.S. senators and representatives to address land conservation issues that are at stake as budget appropriations are being made. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is our nation's premier land conservation program and, over the last 50 years, it has supported over 41,000 land protection projects. However, the future of LWCF is in jeopardy due to funding appropriation issues and requires reauthorization by this September.

LWCF is one of the funding sources we look to for leveraging private philanthropy for land protection in areas like San



For parks, water and land

In early May, absentee ballots will go in the mail and we urge you to vote YES on Prop. 68 – for parks, clean water and land conservation – for this generation and the next.

[Learn more here](#)

Wildflowers at Sears Point



Last fall, Cougar Mountain at Sears Point was totally blackened from the fires. On a recent Land Trust public hike, it was abloom with wildflowers. More than ever! You would never have known it had burned. The land – it is resilient.

passed. Farm Bilt programs are the largest source of federal funding for private land conservation that preserves farms, ranch land, wetlands and forests. These programs are vital to our work. At home and on the Hill, Sonoma Land Trust is advancing its mission of protecting the land of Sonoma County forever.

New snake observed at Glen Oaks Ranch



No matter how well you think you know the land, there's always something new and surprising waiting around the corner or, in this case, in the tall grass. On an early morning visit to Glen Oaks Ranch, new stewardship staffer Katy Reynolds came across this beautiful Western Yellow-bellied Racer (*Coluber constrictor mormon*), a species that had not yet been recorded on the property. Although quite large — this one was approximately three feet in length, but they can reach six — and very aggressive, these grey and yellow snakes are non-venomous. As their name implies, they're quick — capable of reaching speeds of over four miles per hour. Along with their speed, they are known for their highly-spirited personality; "I could hardly manage to snap a picture between its many attempts to snap at me!," laughs Katy!

We love our volunteers!

Mark your calendar
Sun., May 6, 6:30, NBC



Staff and crew enjoy lunch at Glen Oaks during a long day of filming.

Doug McConnell's *OpenRoad* TV show will present a feature story on the Sonoma County fires and their impacts on our protected lands. See the differences over time at our Glen Oaks and Sears Point Ranches, as well as [Ag + Open Space](#) properties. *You won't want to miss this!*

Share your thoughts



Got five minutes to spare? Please take our survey about Sonoma Land Trust. We care what you think and always love to hear from you. The survey closes May 20. *Thank you!*

Take the [survey](#).

Wildlife corridor in
Bay Nature magazine



In honor of National Volunteer Appreciation Month, we're paying tribute to the Land Trust's volunteers, who give so much of their time and talent to the mission of our organization. Take Wendy Z, for example: For more than 11 years, Wendy has lent her skills to the Land Trust, meticulously tackling data and file management, editing documents and using her beautiful penmanship to address thousands of cards and invitations each year. And, of course, most of our volunteers get out on the land and spend thousands of hours each year helping us care for it. Just recently, three volunteers spent four soggy hours at Pitkin Marsh on their hands and knees pulling weeds and exotic grasses around a rare species, white sedge (*Carex albida*). This month on our [Mountains and Molehills](#) blog, we're highlighting one such volunteer who has selflessly dedicated hundreds of hours to your land trust.

Read it [here](#).

Measure AA funding secured for the Baylands



We're excited to report that on April 11, the [San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority](#) Board of Directors approved the Land Trust's grant request for \$150,000 of Measure AA



We're excited that our work to protect the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor was featured in this spring's [Bay Nature](#) magazine. Learn why wildlife corridors are so vital.

Read it [here](#)

Hello to Katy



Katy Reynolds joins us this month as the new stewardship assistant project manager for the Sonoma Mountain and Valley region. A former outings intern for the Land Trust, Katy earned her degree from Sonoma State University while maintaining her own landscaping business and farm. *Welcome, Katy!*

Spring newsletter

The Sonoma Creek Baylands region faces a number of challenges, including sea level rise, flooding, groundwater salinity and public infrastructure, like Highway 37. The strategy will identify opportunities for restoration to help solve these challenges, as well as options for public access and recreation. The Measure AA funding for the strategy is supplemented by a generous \$50,000 grant from the Resources Legacy Fund. We are thrilled to be launching preliminary work on the strategy this summer.

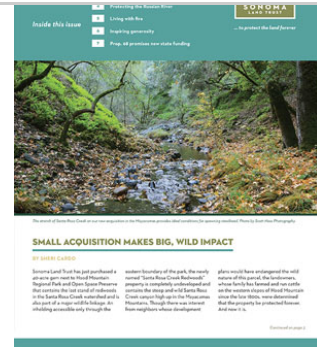
[Read the Press Democrat article](#)

Join us at Día del Niño



Don't miss out on a family-fun afternoon dedicated to celebrating the children! On April 29 from 1–5pm, your land trust, along with La Luz Center, Sonoma Ecology Center and more, will host free environmental activities, dancing, music, prizes and food at Larson Park in Sonoma. No pre-registration needed.

This event is one of 11 sites across the county celebrating Día del Niño as part of the Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative. Visit www.sonomacountyee.org for more information.



Learn about our new acquisition for wildlife, the opening of Pole Mountain and the Jenner Headlands, living with fire, protecting the Russian River, and more!

[Read it](#)

Sign up for Bay Camp!



Spots are still available for Bay Camp! Kids ages 7–14 are invited to spend their summer exploring the bay on bicycles and kayaks, while discovering the tidal marshes and waterways of Sonoma County. Bay Camp takes place in three, weeklong sessions, from July 9–27. Space is limited.

[Register now](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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