



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | August 2019

Celebrating saving land with Dave

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Before Dave Koehler's tenure as our executive director comes to an end next month, we want to share with you some of what Dave has meant to us, our organization and our county. "Dave's steady hand and strategic planning have created a strong framework for our work going forward," says Allison Sanford, chair of the Sonoma Land Trust board of directors. "His warmth and capacity for team-building and community engagement have strongly enhanced our capacity to fulfill our mission. I speak for the entire board and staff when I say how much we appreciate and will miss him." Key to Dave's success was building a culture of collaborative leadership based on a shared vision that land is the heart of the community. The many initiatives Dave put in place will serve our county well for generations. Please join us in wishing our esteemed and beloved leader all the best in his retirement and future pursuits.

[Enjoy the video celebrating Dave](#)

[Make a gift in honor of Dave](#)

Photo contest winner



Congratulations to Ashley Kathleen — the winner of our #Instaworthy Sonoma County Hikes photo contest! Pictured above is her stunning photo taken at Tolay Lake Regional Park (click on photo to enlarge). Follow Ashley on Instagram [@ashleykw1989](#). Thank you to all our participants! While the contest is over, we encourage you to get out on the land to see these beautiful hiking spots in person.

[Get your free hike guide](#)

**We've been
reaccredited!**

plan adopted



To achieve Sonoma Land Trust's mission of protecting the land of Sonoma County forever, we need an array of voices reflecting our community – a rich diversity of talent, backgrounds and beliefs – embodied in our organization, from board and staff to partners and supporters. In 2016, a group of six California land trusts, including Sonoma Land Trust, agreed to be “early adopters” of a California Coalition of Land Trusts’ initiative to develop organization-specific Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) plans. Our staff participated in retreats, coaching sessions and three years of committee work to produce a 10-year DEI plan, which was recently adopted unanimously by our board of directors last month. We’re looking forward to continuing the work to ensure that our programs, land preserves and resources are shared equitably throughout the community.

[Read the DEI plan](#)

Remembering Ted Eliot

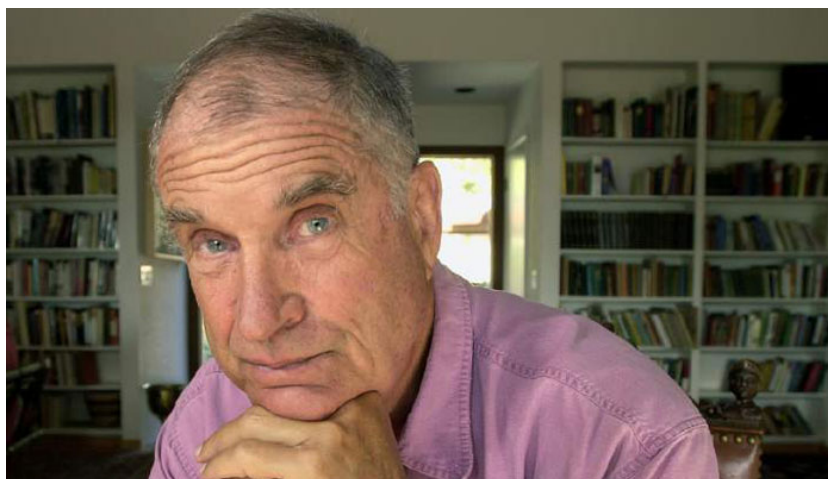


Photo courtesy of the Press Democrat.



We are thrilled to share that Sonoma Land Trust's accreditation has been renewed for another five years – a rigorous process that affirms our commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in our conservation work!

[Learn more](#)

Families Outdoors!



Join us this Sunday for a workshop with Tamara Wilder as we make cord and beads from plants and stones, followed by a picnic and swimming at Morton's Warm Springs!

[Register here](#)

Movies with the family



Enjoy these warm summer nights at Movies in the Park at Howarth Park! We're proud sponsors of this year's

champion and father of our conservation director Wendy Eliot, on August 8. “The beauty of open space absolutely spoke to him on a visceral level. He would say, ‘I’ve traveled the world and I’ve seen gorgeous places. But I’ve never seen a more gorgeous place than Sonoma County,’” Wendy recently told The Press Democrat. Ted worked brilliantly over the last 30 years to sustain the beauty of Sonoma County — just a few of his accomplishments include helping to pass the ballot measure that set up the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District; co-chairing the Measure F campaign to fund the district for a second 20 years; and, more recently, advocating to preserve the Sonoma Developmental Center for open space and public access. Our hearts are with Wendy and her family; like her, her dad possessed tremendous strength of conviction and compassion, and all of us at Sonoma Land Trust miss him greatly.

be there before each movie with activities for kids and talking to families about the importance of protecting nature. Hope to see you there!

[Details here](#)

Plein Air Festival



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 14 — the annual Sonoma Plein Air Art Festival is coming to the Sonoma Plaza! Enjoy — or even purchase — beautiful artistic paintings of open space lands, including our own Glen Oaks Ranch and the Sears Point Wetlands. We’ll be at the art show all day from 10am to 4pm so come on by.

[Learn more](#)

Another successful year of Bay Camp!

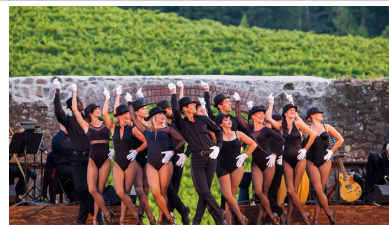


It was a muddy but fun summer for campers who attended this year’s Bay Camp. They all had an incredible time kayaking, biking and hiking through the newly restored wetlands at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and learning about the importance of marsh ecosystems. Campers were also able to participate in conservation efforts by working with Point Blue’s STRAW program to install native plants. This year, we doubled the number of Bay Campers to nearly 100 and, for over 60 percent of them, this was their first summer camp experience! We greatly appreciate our funders, businesses and partners who made camp possible: Community Foundation Sonoma County’s Environmental Education grant, Vadasz Family Foundation, Exchange Bank, Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary, AmeriCan Adventures, Innovative Screen Printing, Joanne Dow and many other generous individuals, as well as La Luz Center, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance, Via Esperanza and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

Hiring bilingual educator

We are looking for a full-time bilingual youth programs coordinator to support our budding educational programs serving youth. This new position facilitates our successful bilingual summer camp program and will assist in the creation of our new youth development and bilingual field trip programs.

[Apply here](#)



On September 8, come enjoy Broadway Under the Stars with Jack London State Park as your backdrop while supporting your Land Trust! As the nonprofit partner of the evening, we're excited to share with our friends and supporters a special discount to the September 8 performance — use the code SLTSEP8 at checkout.

[Get tickets](#)

Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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