



# TODAY

... to protect the land forever | August 2021

## Conservation ranching along the coast for a cause

DONATE NOW



Markegard Family Grass Fed, the ranching family that provides rangeland management for the Jenner Headlands Preserve, is the first livestock operator in California to receive the "Audubon Certified" seal of approval. This endorsement is intended to assure customers of the Markegard family's grass-fed beef that their ranching practices promote biodiversity, sequester carbon, and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species. Well-managed grazing can be an important tool for healthy grassland management by controlling exotic grasses, reducing thatch and biomass, and promoting native coastal grassland flora. Coastal ranches can also serve as important refugia (locations that support populations of a once more widespread species) for numerous wildlife species, including bobcat, badger, coyote, songbirds and raptors. Audubon developed its Conservation Ranching Initiative to counter the decline of grassland birds, which have suffered significant decline over the past 50 years due to widespread development of North America's grasslands.

## Our hikes return



After a long pandemic break, we will be slowly starting up our in-person guided hikes this fall at two preserves: Glen Oaks Ranch and Little Black Mountain. For COVID, we'll keep groups small, socially distance and wear masks when clustered together. Note that air quality or fire danger could result in cancellations.

[Register now](#)

## The "Wood-Wide Web"

## A field trip on forest and fire at the Jenner Headlands



*At the Jenner Headlands Preserve: (L-R) SLT's Joe Plaughter, TWC's Brook Edwards, Battalion Chief Marshall Turbeville, Assemblymember Jim Wood, SLT's Eamon O'Byrne, CAL FIRE Division Chief Ben Nichols and SLT's Bob Neale.*

California Assemblymember Jim Wood, CAL FIRE Division Chief Ben Nichols and Battalion Chief Marshall Turbeville recently joined staff from Sonoma Land Trust and The Wildlands Conservancy at the Jenner Headlands Preserve to observe healthy forest and fire resiliency activities. Among the Land Trust's goals for the preserve when we acquired it in 2009 was to restore the health of the 3,100-acre redwood and Douglas fir forest, which had been logged several times. Our goal of restoring a healthy forest and incorporating shaded fuel breaks will create more fire resiliency for nature and people alike. After an informative walk through the woods discussing challenges and solutions, Assemblymember Wood presented Marshall with a legislative resolution recognizing him for his exemplary community service. We would also like to thank Ben and Marshall for their longtime assistance to Sonoma Land Trust and Assemblymember Wood for his legislative leadership on wildfire resiliency.

## A Force for Nature now at \$62.4 million of \$80 million goal



It is our pleasure to present UC Berkeley PhD candidate Lorenzo Washington for September's Language of the Land online presentation. Learn about this vast underground communication network through which trees, other plants and fungi work together to increase their chances of survival.

[Register here](#)

### Sept. 11 - Dec. 17 Russian River and Its Watershed exhibit



The book is beautiful, but here's your chance to see Richard McDaniel's stunning paintings of the Russian River Watershed in person. The exhibit will take place at Heron Hall of the Laguna Environmental Center. Opening reception is September 11, 3-5pm.

[Learn more here](#)





Since the May 25 public launch of “A Force for Nature,” our educational and fundraising campaign, an additional \$3.4 million has been committed! This incredible support from our community puts our total raised to date at \$62.4 million – or about 78 percent of the \$80 million goal. Among recent pledges was a planned gift commitment from board member Judy Scotchmoor and her husband, Roland Gangloff. We sat down with Judy to learn more about what motivated hers and Roland’s investments of time and treasure since they first became involved in 2002. She said, “The new strategic plan with a focus on climate change and equity further inspired us to increase the size of our planned gift. By counting this pledge toward the campaign, we can support the work being done now, during this environmentally critical period.”

[Learn more about Judy and Roland’s philanthropic approach and other campaign highlights](#)

## Virtually connecting students to the bay

### Knocking!

We are hiring a **Senior Ecologist and Stewardship Manager**. Want to play your part in protecting Sonoma County from the impacts of climate change? Ready to roll up your sleeves to help achieve tangible results on the ground? Want to be part of a talented, deeply committed and national award-winning conservation organization?

[Check out the job announcement](#)

### Hike to summit and win cap



Fall is a great time of year to hike to the top of Pole Mountain via the 15.1-mile [Sea to Sky Trail](#) – and if you do, we’ll send you a free Land Trust cap!

### Trail closure



The trails at our former Sears Point Ranch (now San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge) along Highway 37 south of Lakeville are closed until December due to construction. This includes

Share this Page: powered by **Thank you!**

Thank you for teaching us new things we did not know about California and what good people like you do for the environment and the beautiful wildlife we were oblivious to.

You made learning more fun and interesting and you did it in the way that made me want to learn more, I hope I learn more about the beauty of nature and you were by far one of my biggest inspirations.

*Thank you for teaching us new things,  
from: F*

Trail and 0.5 mile Dickson Trail. The 1.4-mile Bay Trail-Sonoma Baylands Trail will remain open during construction via Port Sonoma only.

[View trail map](#)



*Thank-you notes sent to our youth programs team from Santa Rosa students after attending virtual SLIME.*

Over 2,000 students participated in the virtual rendition of our Students Learning In Marsh Environments (SLIME) elementary school field trip program last year. This bilingual program connects students to the marsh ecosystem at San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge at Sears Point, teaching them about the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse, wetland restoration efforts to prevent sea level rise, and more! Funding from Sonoma County Ag + Open Space allowed 22 Sonoma County schools to participate for free. We also welcomed an additional 12 schools from Marin, Napa and Solano counties. During this pilot year, 76 percent of participating schools had student populations that were, on average, 54 percent socioeconomically disadvantaged and 31 percent English-language learners. A Sonoma County teacher sent the following after her class participated: “The presentation included engaging videos, photos, maps and other graphics that kept students interested and also provided a sense of place. I would like to visit your site with a class at some time in the future. Thank you!”

Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.  
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