



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | December 2018

Breaking news!

Land in Mark West watershed protected forever



Today, a beautiful 60-acre property in the upper Mark West watershed has been permanently protected with a conservation easement thanks to a generous donation by landowners Ray Krauss and Barbara Shumsky. Located northeast of Santa Rosa in the foothills of the Mayacamas Mountains, this biodiverse property boasts a landscape rich in natural resources, with clear, clean springs that provide year-round water flow to Mark West Creek, a priority stream for recovery of endangered coho salmon. Its diverse vegetation includes oak woodland, Douglas fir and mixed hardwood forest, chaparral and grassland, and its mosaic of habitats, part of the Lake to Marin County wildlife corridor, is suitable for numerous species. "Protecting this property and its rich water resources is a wonderful legacy that will contribute to the ecological health of the upper Mark West Creek watershed for all time," says Ariel Patashnik, land acquisition program manager.

[Read more in our winter newsletter](#)

DONATE NOW

New board members



We are pleased to welcome to our board of directors Jennifer Bice, founder of Redwood Hill Farm & Creamery in Sebastopol, and Lewis Warren, shareholder of the law firm Abbey, Weitzenberg, Warren & Emery. *Welcome aboard!*

Winter newsletter is out!

challenge



Only 10 days remain to reach our \$1 million challenge. We need your help to accomplish it. When you give during our year-end challenge, your gift has tremendous impact. You support the lifeblood of our organization, making all that we do possible. This [year-in-review video](#) highlights just some of what we accomplished in 2018 with the help of members and supporters. Your support will help advance vital projects like:

- Protecting significant properties throughout the county
- Managing 17 preserves
- Connecting 250 kids to the outdoors
- Hosting 50 outings on the land

The future of the land is not promised to us. We must each do our part to protect it. A [gift of any size](#) makes a difference. [Gifts of membership](#) also help! The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation generously supports our land protection and stewardship efforts and encourages others to make a gift by December 31. Please donate today – and thank you for preserving what we all love most about Sonoma County.

Please welcome our new chief financial officer!



Read about the land conservation projects we're working on, our recent study about managing land for both wildlife and recreation, how we plan to reduce fire impacts in Sonoma Valley, and more!

[Read it](#)

Farewell, Ann



We are sad to say goodbye to Ann Johnston, land acquisition program manager, as she returns to Colorado to be closer to her family. Ann has been a key member of our acquisitions team for the past two years, growing our portfolio of land conservation in the Russian River watershed. *All the best, Ann.*

Hello to Melissa



We're delighted to announce that Joe Rizzo of Petaluma has been hired to serve as the new CFO/director of finance and administration for Sonoma Land Trust, effective January 2. He will replace Paul DeMarco, who has served in this role for nine years and is retiring; Paul's last day here will be January 15. Joe possesses over 25 years' experience in financial leadership and human resources, including working in nonprofits for the last 10 years. He is currently chief financial officer of Buckleup Programs, a behavioral health services nonprofit. "I am both honored and excited to join the Sonoma Land Trust team, and to use my skills and experience in nonprofit finance and operations to further the great work of the organization," he says. *Welcome, Joe!*

Sonoma Land Trust and Ag + Open Space partner to conserve large ranch

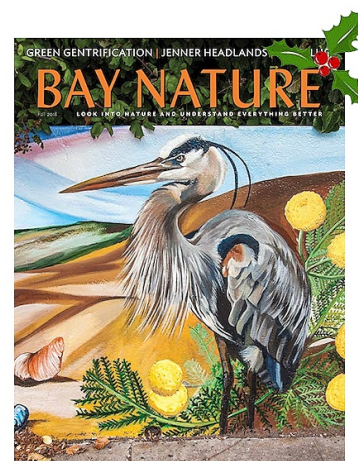


On December 11, the Sonoma Ag + Open Space board of directors approved spending up to \$3.48 million to purchase



Melissa Frediani joined us this month as executive administrator. A longtime resident of Santa Rosa, she spent 20 years working in corporate healthcare and is excited to be making an intentional shift into the nonprofit sector. *Welcome, Melissa!*

Give Bay Nature as a gift!



Bay Nature is a fantastic magazine connecting the people of the Bay Area to our natural world and motivating people to solve problems with nature in mind. From now till December 31, purchase 2+ subscriptions for only \$18 each. They make a great gift!

[Give a gift](#)

An ice dream

east Santa Rosa. In addition, Sonoma Land Trust is contributing a \$720,000 grant they received from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to protect lands of critical importance in the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor. Located just before the northern entrance to Hood Mountain Regional Park, the easements ensure the ranch's scenic hillsides and stream headwaters remain intact forever, and that agricultural operations continue, while also protecting crucial wildlife habitat. "This ranch is a great example of how working lands are also beneficial to wildlife species, such as bear, mountain lions and steelhead trout," says Dave Koehler, Sonoma Land Trust executive director. "We applaud the owners for their conservation vision and are grateful to the Moore Foundation for recognizing how important it is to protect these big ranches before it's too late." The deal will close in January.



Ever wondered what it was like living through the *ice* age? Now you don't have to! Read Corby Hines's informative (and amusing) take on living through the ice age and global warming this week on [Mountains + Molehills](#).

Photo courtesy of Sonoma Ag + Open Space.



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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