



# TODAY

... to protect the land forever | December 2019

## Five reasons to give to the land you love!

[DONATE NOW](#)

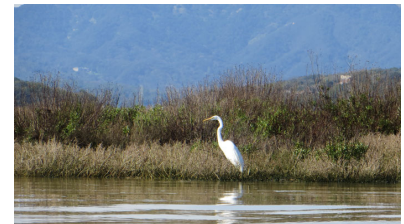


1. **Risk reduction** — Science-based land management remains one of the best ways to reduce the impacts of wildfires and floods.
2. **Health** — We've transferred more than 10,000 acres to partners specializing in park recreation and stewardship, creating more access to parks and open space for our community.
3. **Water** — We protect land in the Russian River Watershed, which provides over 600,000 people with drinking water.
4. **Clean air** — Preserving land provides clean air — trees, vegetation and soil absorb air pollution.
5. **Food** — We safeguard agricultural lands that provide food for the community, such as organic dairy, meat, vegetables and fruit.

During our End-of-Year Challenge, your donation to Sonoma Land Trust can have an even greater impact. All gifts received by December 31 will help us meet a \$1 million challenge issued by generous donors Mary and the late David Love, and our Board of Directors. Your gift helps the land — and when the land is healthy, our community is healthy.

### New report!

#### Bird monitoring at Sears Point



After the restoration of the tidal wetlands at Sears Point, Sonoma Land Trust — aided by biological consultants and citizen scientists — began monitoring bird populations, an effective indicator of marshland ecological conditions, in 2016. We've just published a report summarizing the results of the first three years!

[Read here](#)

#### Conservation Cocktails



A margarita inspired by tidal marsh — a spritzer celebrating the Russian

## Celebrating 10 years with the Jenner Headlands



December 17 marked exactly a decade since we acquired the Jenner Headlands — 10 years of hard work fulfilling our conservation and recreation promises. At the time, this was the largest land protection project in Sonoma County history at \$36 million for the 5,630-acre coastal landscape threatened with subdivision into 40 estate homes. The five-year conservation effort was led by ace acquisitions director Amy Chesnut, who facilitated partnerships with several funding agencies, including [Sonoma Ag + Open Space](#), [California State Coastal Conservancy](#), [California Wildlife Conservation Board](#), [NOAA](#) and [The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#), and the support of generous donors and friends like you. Protection of this historic ranch enabled the preservation of the natural and cultural history of the area and provided the opportunity for public recreation and stewardship of the preserve on a landscape scale.

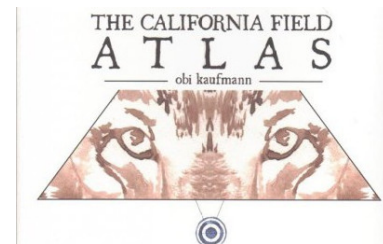
[Read more](#)

## Helping Pepperwood Preserve heal after the fire

and waterways of Sonoma County by downloading our *free* Conservation Cocktails guide today. And tell your friends!

[Download here](#)

## Mark your calendar for Obi Kaufmann!



Obi Kaufmann, best-selling author of *The California Field Atlas*, is coming to Santa Rosa on February 11 at 7pm to make a special presentation hosted by Sonoma Land Trust. Stay tuned for more details!

## Gaye LeBaron: Legacy of Strong Women



ICYMI, enjoy Gaye's latest column on the women who kept McCormick Ranch together through the generations.

[Read it here](#)

## Welcoming Nancy!





Sonoma Land Trust recently joined our friends and partners at [Pepperwood Preserve](#) to help restore their property following the Kincadee Fire. Dozer lines were created on the preserve along a portion of the southern boundary of the fire to prevent it from spreading. Those lines were vital to firefighting, but they scarred the land. With help from Land Trust volunteers, we smoothed the berms — long mounds of dirt along the edges of the dozer lines — and restored the topsoil and seeds that had been scraped off. Our work will help minimize sediment runoff from this property that is situated at the top of three watersheds: Mark West, Franz Creek and Brooks Creek. Wildfires impact all of us in ways we cannot always see. That such a large, spirited crew came out to work on the land while sharing stories was inspirational as well as restorative. We are grateful for our time together.

## Your land trust to help guide reuse plan for SDC



On December 17, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors approved a \$3.5 million funding agreement with the California Department of General Services to prepare a Specific Plan for the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). As part of this two- to three-year effort, the County appointed a 15-member “[Planning Advisory Team](#)” (PAT) that includes the Land Trust. The team’s mission is: “*to promote a Specific Plan that reflects community needs and goals for the site*”



Photo by Irene Young

We are pleased to welcome Nancy Otto to our board of directors. Nancy is a nonprofit fundraising consultant with over 25 years of development, training and leadership experience; she is particularly committed to social justice and environmental work. Nancy is an avid cyclist and has a great love of the land!

## Winter newsletter



Learn about our End-of-Year Challenge for nature, the impacts of the Kincadee Fire on our lands and a Q&A with our new executive director, Eamon O’Byrne.

[Read it here](#)

## Rapt by raptors?

constraints. The PAT will seek to represent the broad interests of the community ... and serve as ambassadors to the public ...” Sonoma Land Trust acquisition manager John McCaull was selected to serve on PAT, and our primary focus will be to advocate for permanently protecting the open space and wildlife corridor lands of SDC. Please visit [Transform SDC](#) for updates as the County formally launches the reuse planning process in 2020.



Join Larry Broderick for a photo-filled evening to learn about the raptors who inhabit and overwinter in Sonoma County, then follow up with a raptor tour of Skaggs Island on January 23 or 26.

[Sign up](#)

## Happy holidays!



## Families Outdoors



Our monthly bilingual family outings will resume in January. Bring your kids or grandkids each month for a child-oriented nature discovery experience!

[Learn more](#)

## More ways to give





Don't forget that making a gift through stock donation, a donor-advised fund or a required minimum distribution is an easy and powerful way to contribute to land conservation. [Learn more about how to donate and the benefits of donating here.](#)

Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.  
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