



# TODAY

*... to protect the land forever* | February 2020

## Exciting news about Highway 37 and the baylands



Last Friday was a proud day for Sonoma Land Trust. Our executive director Eamon O'Byrne was asked to participate in a press conference held by State Senator Bill Dodd to announce new legislation to improve Highway 37. Sonoma Land Trust has been active in the baylands for 30 years and most recently restored 1,000 acres of tidal wetlands. Senator Dodd's bill highlights the opportunity for extensive additional restoration in the former wetlands surrounding the highway. Wetland restoration will protect this critical infrastructure from climate change-driven sea level rise and catastrophic flooding. We've been working with Caltrans and other stakeholders on the natural infrastructure components of the plan to not only ensure the highway's resiliency to climate change, but also to add thousands of acres of restored habitat along the northern edge of San Pablo Bay.

[Read more](#)

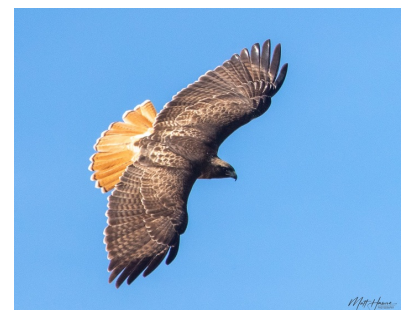
DONATE NOW

## Celebrating Earth Day and new art book about Russian River



On April 22, you're invited to help us celebrate the release of a stunning book of paintings of the Russian River watershed by local artist [Richard McDaniel](#). The event will take place at the Luther Burbank Center and also commemorate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. More info to come!

## Skaggs Island raptor walk



## Sonoma Valley culvert



*Mountain lion passing through the North Butler Creek culvert after 2017 blackberry removal.*

As part of our [Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor](#) program, the Land Trust has collected several years of wildlife camera data showing that wild animals frequently use open culverts and underpasses to cross Highway 12, which improves their safety as well as that of motorists. In fall 2017, your Land Trust, in partnership with the [Sonoma County Water Agency's](#) Natural Channels Program, removed dense Himalayan blackberry that blocked most wildlife access through a culvert under Highway 12 in Sonoma Valley. Since removing the blackberry bushes, **we have noticed a 50 percent increase in the number of species using that culvert!** Now, in addition to raccoon and grey fox, we're seeing deer, mountain lion, grey squirrel, opossum and more. With your support, we are helping to keep wildlife populations healthier and drivers safer.

## Grant received for baylands creek restoration

Join Certified California Naturalist and founder of West County Hawk Watch Larry Broderick on Sunday, March 8 for a free driving tour of Skaggs Island to seek raptors in the skies.

[Register](#)

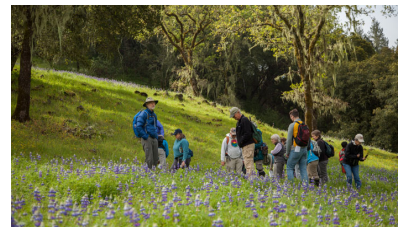
### We're hiring!



Do you or someone you know enjoy being outdoors and working with kids? Join our summer [Bay Camp](#) team! Take part in teaching some of today's youth to connect with nature through environmental education, arts and crafts and recreational activities like kayaking, bicycling and hiking.

[Apply here](#)

### Building resilience Mind, body and nature



Join instructors from the [Sonoma Community Resilience Collaborative](#) for an introductory mind-body medicine workshop in nature and learn skills to build inner resilience. There will be three opportunities at different park locations throughout the month.





We are delighted to share the news that we've been awarded Proposition 68 funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to prepare design plans for the restoration of Lakeville Creek. This work is a critical next step in our Sonoma Baylands project. Its focus is the restoration of a degraded creek on one of Sonoma Land Trust's most important preserves, Sears Point Ranch. The design will target vital riverside and seasonal wetland habitats for species such as the California red-legged frog and Western burrowing owl. Related to this project, the Land Trust is currently developing an Adaptation and Resilience Plan for the Petaluma River Baylands, which will call out the importance of restoring and reconnecting riparian habitats to the bay.

## Wildfire and wildlife



*A deer returning to Bear Canyon Wildlands after the Kincade Fire burned through the preserve in 2019.*

Our Sonoma Valley program manager, Tony Nelson, recently attended a conference of the Wildlife Society at which new study outcomes shed additional light on the role of fire in promoting biodiversity. Here are just a few interesting results that point to the importance of having a range of burned and

and register.

## Black History Month



*Photo courtesy of Glamour.*

In recognition of Black History Month, we want to share the amazing story of Betty Reid Soskin who, at 98, is now the nation's oldest park ranger — and is still working hard to restore critical missing chapters of America's conservation story to include the vital contributions of African-Americans.

[Learn more](#)

## Thank you, Obi Kaufmann



*Obi Kaufmann standing next to a custom painting of the Jenner Headlands he made for the Land Trust.*

Many thanks to our friends and supporters who joined us earlier this month for an inspirational evening with author and artist Obi Kaufmann! Didn't you love his message of hope for our planet? Be sure to follow

intensity.

[See you there.](#)

- Northern spotted owls (federally Threatened) will abandon large areas of severe burn, yet they will come back to small patches of severe burn (most likely for prey) within a variable intensity burn;
- Black-backed woodpeckers colonize burned areas to hunt beetle larvae if unburned forest is nearby for nesting and fledging success; and
- American Fishers (Calif. Threatened species) need forests with denser vegetation, (i.e., not burned recently) with multiple canopy levels and ground layers.

[Event photos](#)

## A love for the land



*Will Bucklin and Lizanne Pastore.*

As the son of Sonoma Land Trust founders Otto and Anne Teller, Will Bucklin has been part of the Sonoma Land Trust family from the beginning. In 2007, when Will and his fiancée Lizanne Pastore were planning their wedding, they asked their guests to contribute to the Land Trust in celebration of their nuptials. They know that when the land is healthy, the community is healthy. The couple farm in harmony with nature at Old Hill Ranch, which is protected by a Sonoma Land Trust conservation easement. Will produces celebrated old vine zinfandel from a vineyard that dates to the 19th Century and is believed to be among the oldest in the county. We'd like to thank and celebrate Will and Lizanne for their many years of support to Sonoma Land Trust. If you would like to honor a special event or birthday with a gift to Sonoma Land Trust, please [contact Melissa Bennett](#).



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