



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | February 2022

Join the Hawk Watch



Birdwatching your thing? Want to watch the big birds? The Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch group may be for you, and they're looking for new volunteers. Each autumn, this dedicated group visits the [Jenner Headlands Preserve](#) to document raptor activity within the Pacific Flyway coastal section that funnels rare hawks on their migration path. Organized in 2009 by local raptor expert Larry Broderick, and later co-managed by naturalist Dave Barry, the group helps identify migration and overwintering trends among such species as rough-legged and ferruginous hawks. Later, they compare numbers with other groups monitoring raptors in the region.

The coastal prairie grasslands on the Jenner Headlands Preserve—managed through [bird friendly conservation ranching](#) by [Markegard Family Grass-Fed](#)—provide rich feeding grounds and habitat that have been diminished elsewhere due to [coastal development](#).

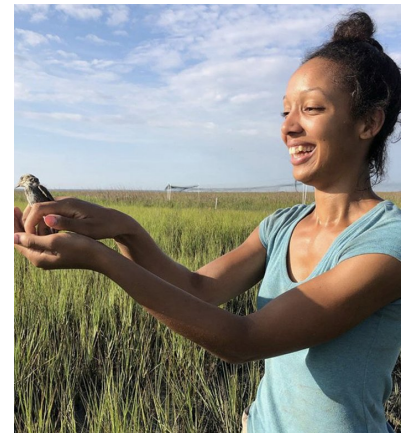
"It's a wide-open expanse that is perfect for hunting," says Larry Broderick. "They've got the wind coming up from the coast, the thermals, three or four different wind patterns that basically funnel the birds right over us."

To volunteer with the Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch group during the upcoming raptor season, check [their Facebook page](#).

Click [here](#) to see the 2021 report via Facebook.

DONATE NOW

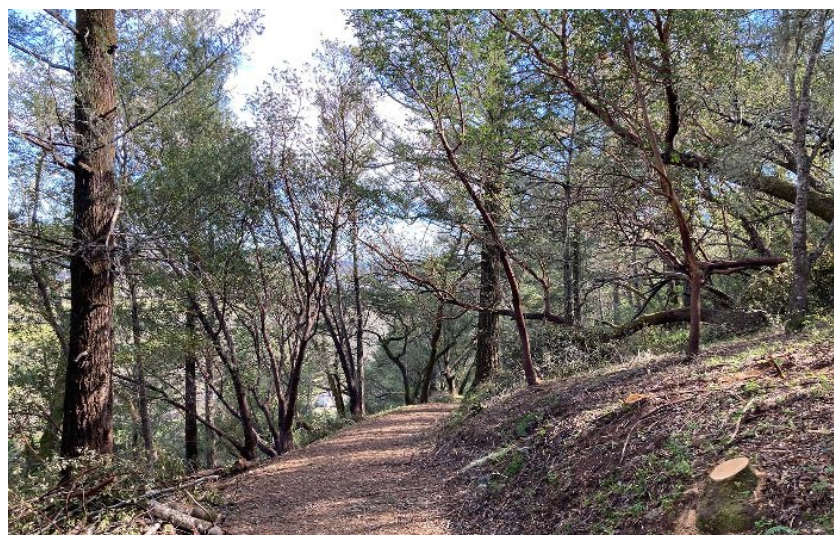
Black History Month



In recognition of Black History Month, we're celebrating Corina Newsome. Corina is one of the cofounders of [#BlackBirdersWeek](#), which was organized in part as a response to the racism Black birder Christian Cooper experienced in Central Park. Corina says one of the biggest impacts of Black Birders Week for her was seeing "the magnitude of other Black people, specifically doing the things that I love to do as well; it was the encouragement I didn't know I needed." Corina is the Community Engagement Manager at Georgia Audubon.

Read more about Corina Newsome, her work and Black

Fire prep at Laufenburg Ranch



This winter, we completed 16 acres of understory forest thinning and shaded fuel breaks at Laufenburg Ranch. Our goal was to improve forest health, wildfire resilience and community safety in this fire-prone region.

Forest Thinning: The forest had grown dense with small, weak saplings. By thinning many of these trees from the forest units, we increased resources to the remaining mature trees and reduced ladder fuels that can carry fire to taller vegetation. Ladder fuels are typically shrubs, low tree branches and smaller trees reaching up into the branches of larger trees. In most of Sonoma County, and the West in general, the buildup of ladder fuels from decades of fire suppression and outdated land management practices is a big contributor to changes in wildfire behavior.

Shaded Fuel Breaks: Our four shaded fuel breaks—strips of land in which vegetation has been reduced to limit a fire's ability to spread rapidly—provide a safe location for fire response activities and can now serve as control lines for future prescribed burns.

This work is part of our long-term management goal of returning fire to its more natural place and role in functioning ecosystems.

Follow Corina on [Twitter](#)
[@HoodNaturalist](#)

Chris Carlson joins the Land Trust's stewardship team



Welcome Chris Carlson, our new Sonoma Valley program manager. Chris has a Master of Science in forestry from the University of Montana and a bachelor's in geography from the University of Oregon. He will focus on managing preserves in the Sonoma Valley region, leading Sonoma Land Trust's [Living with Wildfire](#) program, working with the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative and engaging in wildlife corridor work. Chris says he has big plans to explore Sonoma's landscapes with his partner, Bri, and the couple's two children.

Trek No. 100 to Pole Mountain summit

Language of the Land:
30x30



Join us on March 23 to learn about California's 30x30 plan to conserve 30% of the State's land and water by 2030. Policy



In January, avid hiker Lisa Koss completed her 100th hike to the top of Pole Mountain. From the Jenner Headlands parking area, the [Sea to Sky Trail to the Pole Mountain summit and back](#) is 15.2 miles. "I haven't found any other hikes in the area that provide the distance and level of difficulty I desire, and there's such beauty and diversity of topography as you head up to Pole Mountain," says Koss.

What began as a single hike turned into a 100-hike goal that friends, The Wildlands Conservancy rangers and Sonoma Land Trust staff applauded and supported. They celebrated Lisa's achievement at the summit on January 23 of this year.

Says Koss, "Hiking is an innate part of me...the way I experience a place. I just love that [Sonoma Land Trust](#) and [The Wildlands Conservancy](#) are dedicated to preserving amazing landscapes...for all of us...for free."

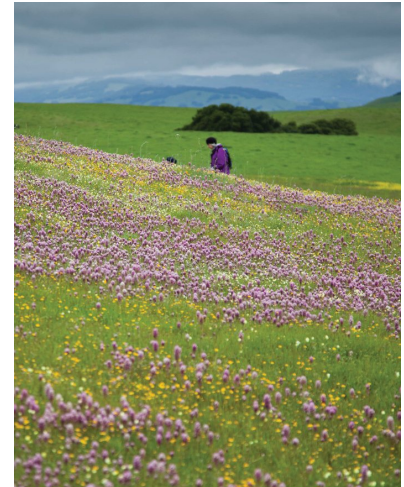
Reta Lockert to retire in March



Reta Lockert, the first paid staff member of Sonoma Land Trust, has announced that, after 39 years, she will retire at the end of March. While her duties have evolved over the years, she has always worked closely with board members, donors and

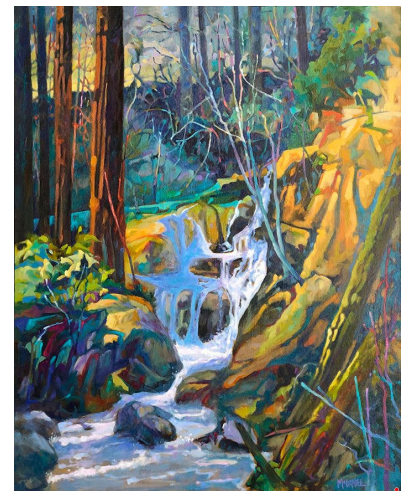
Ariana Rickard will discuss the initiative and how our conservation work can make significant contributions to achieving the 30x30 goal. [Register Now!](#)

Spring Wildflowers



It's almost spring and time to smell the flowers! Join us on a virtual wildflower walk to celebrate the array of beautiful wildflowers that thrive across our county this time of year. See our [outings page](#) to learn more and sign up.

In the News



Painting by Richard McDaniel

The Mendocino Voice

through a series of programs and events, such as nature walks at Tolay Creek and music in the parlor at Glen Oaks Ranch, Glen Ellen.

For the past decade, Reta has managed the Legacy League, a program for those who include Sonoma Land Trust in their estate plans. Today, this group has more than 200 members. Acquisition and land restoration projects often take decades, and she has seen many come to fruition.

“The deep relationships Reta has fostered have helped make the Land Trust what it is today,” says Shannon Nichols, director of philanthropy. “We are so grateful for her service, persistence and passion, and we will miss her tremendously.”

[Russian River landscapes opens Feb. 8](#)

Kenwood Press

[Letter to the editor regarding SDC proposals](#)

A Time for Regeneration event



Sonoma Land Trust has made the event *A Time for Regeneration: A Conversation between Paul Hawken and Jeffrey Ubben* available on its [YouTube channel](#). Paul and Jeff are two heavyweights in the environmental world, tackling issues around climate change and commerce. Paul recently released a new book *Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation*. We are fortunate to be able to offer this talk to the Sonoma Land Trust community. Thanks to Paul and Jeff for their time and to our sponsors, [Little Saint](#), [SingleThread Farms](#) and [Compass](#). We'd also like to thank Freeman, Three Sticks, Hafner and Sei Querce wineries for their contributions—and for their ongoing support of land conservation in Sonoma County.



Questions or comments? Email info@sonomalandtrust.org.
Copyright 2008–2022 Sonoma Land Trust. All Rights Reserved.