



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | January 2019

We have a brand new website

[DONATE NOW](#)



We are very excited to share with you our new Sonoma Land Trust [website](#)! We hope you'll take a look at it and agree that it is both beautiful and useful — so useful, in fact, that you'll bookmark it for future reference. As a starting point, visit these important areas:

- Our just-announced [winter outings](#) (register now!)
- Our new and interactive [protected lands map](#)
- Stories about our [individual preserves](#)
- [Jobs](#) currently available

In addition to the new look and fresh content, our new site is responsive, which means that it's easy to read on smartphones and tablets, too. And you can count on us to keep the site interesting, so be sure to check back often. Many thanks to our partner, [Catch Creative](#) of Healdsburg, which designed and developed this comprehensive website. *Enjoy!*

Thanks to you, we met our challenge

Winter outings sign-up

Kayaks at Sears Point

Haven't been out on the land with us yet? Join us this winter on a bird walk, history tour or kayaking trip. Winter outings begin in February. Registration is open now.

[Register here](#)

Flyway Festival



Join us in celebrating the 24th annual Flyway Festival February 9 and 10 at Sears Point. We will be hosting bird walks featuring waterfowl and birds of prey.

[Learn more](#)

Good-bye to Ariel

END OF YEAR GIVING CHALLENGE

GOAL: \$1,000,000



\$1,000,000

Thank you to the members of our land community who came together to raise over \$1 million during our End of Year challenge! Your contributions join with others to make all that we do possible. A special note of thanks to The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which supports our work and encourages others to do so as well. We are honored to work alongside each of you to protect, care for and connect people to this special place we call home. Here's to all we will do together in the coming year thanks to your support!

Land Trust receives donation of stunning wild property



We are pleased to announce that we recently received a donation of 250 acres of rugged wild land in the foothills of the Mayacamas northeast of Healdsburg. The project, named "Bear Canyon Wildlands," closed escrow in December and became the Land Trust's 18th preserve. We are grateful for the generosity of former landowners Dick and Gretchen



Ariel Patashnik, land acquisition program manager, is leaving the Land Trust in early February to pursue a new career path. We will miss this consummate professional who deftly handled key acquisition projects along the Sonoma Coast during her three-year tenure. Best of luck to you, [Ariel](#)!

Welcome, Taj



Please join us in welcoming [Taj Hittenberger](#) as our new stewardship assistant project manager for the Sonoma Mountain and Valley region. A fifth-generation Sonoma County resident, Taj comes to us with a wealth of experience in land stewardship and a bachelor's degree in conservation & resource studies from UC Berkeley. Taj has taken the place of Katy Reynolds, who left to work part-time on her landscaping business and spend more time with her son. *We'll miss you, Katy!*

We're hiring

namer, beloved former Land Trust board member and supporter. Boasting diverse and intact native habitat, Bear Canyon Wildlands is situated within an identified wildlife corridor known as the Mayacamas to Berryessa Landscape Connectivity Network, adding to the 12,000-acre network of adjacent protected lands. "We are delighted and honored that the Grants chose Sonoma Land Trust to steward this gem of a property," says Wendy Eliot, Sonoma Land Trust conservation director. "The high quality of the habitat and natural resources on this land make it a natural fit for protection."

Preparing for a colorful springtime at Glen Oaks Ranch



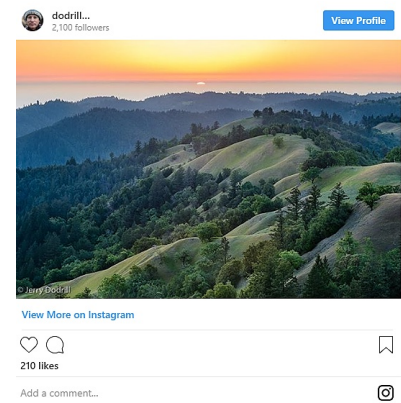
On a grey day in December, four volunteers joined staff in arranging and planting 3,000 flower bulbs into one of the rock-ringed beds at Glen Oaks Ranch in Glen Ellen. Careful planning went into this stewardship project in order to maintain the historic look and feel of the ranch. Come springtime, visitors will enjoy a brightly-colored display of seven tidy rows of grape hyacinth circling an abundance of mixed daffodils. There is space left in the very center of the flower bed for pollinator-friendly sage. A big thanks to our planting volunteers Yvonne, Jan, Marcia and Mark, for spending hours of their time on their hands and knees to get the bulbs in the ground. Special thanks to [Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary](#) for supporting this project through a generous donation toward purchase of the bulbs.

In the news

positions, land acquisition program manager for the Russian River and Sonoma Coast regions, and a second major gifts officer.

[More info](#)

Sea to Sky Trail success



This week on our Mountains + Molehills blog, learn more about the successful opening of the Sea to Sky Trail and browse some of our favorite Instagram-curated photos.

[Read more](#)

Leaving a legacy



A big thank you to a number of supporters who recently let us know of their commitment to protect the land for future generations through their estate plans. Are you thinking about leaving a legacy with the



[Click here for more information.](#)



Photo courtesy of the Press Democrat

Read the latest about our new Sunrays conservation easement property and stewardship in the Baylands, and watch a great story about Sonoma County's watersheds featuring executive director Dave Koehler:

[Owners give up development rights to protect critical watershed land in Mark West](#)

[Greening Dickson Ranch's Heights](#)

KRCB's [Bay Area Bountiful: Watersheds](#)

Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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