



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | January 2020

A night of “Art and Science” with author/painter Obi Kaufmann



Kaufmann pictured with his painting of the Jenner Headlands above the Russian River, which he made for Sonoma Land Trust.

Obi Kaufmann, bestselling author of “[The California Field Atlas](#),” is coming to Santa Rosa on Tuesday, February 11 for an exclusive presentation that will include an introduction to his newest book, “The State of Water: Understanding California’s Most Precious Resource.” His presentation for Sonoma Land Trust, titled “Ecological Connectivity and Restoration in Art and Science,” will introduce the audience to his stunning watercolor paintings and analytical writings, which offer an at-once practical yet hopeful message for the preservation of California. “Environmental conservation and restoration efforts are necessary not only for ethical reasons, but also as a matter of human survival,” Kauffman says. The presentation will take place at 7pm at Finley Community Center, located at 2060 W. College Avenue in Santa Rosa. His new book, “The State of Water,” as well as prints and cards, will be available for sale afterwards. Limited tickets are also available for a 6pm pre-talk reception with Kaufmann.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Raptor walk at Sears Point



Great numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl mean birds of prey are watching and waiting. Join raptor expert Larry Broderick on February 8 to learn about the dynamics of bird behavior at the recently restored Sears Point tidal marsh.

[Register](#)

SDC trails are open



To clarify any confusion regarding road closures at the Sonoma Developmental Center, we can confirm that all existing hiking and biking trails — including those along lakes — are still open for public use.

Wildlife-friendly fencing for landowners



One focus of our work in the [Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor](#) (partly funded by the [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#)) is to promote improvements on the landscape that help animals move more freely. With help from our wonderful volunteers, we've removed nearly all fencing that impeded and risked entangling animals traveling to and from our Glen Oaks Ranch Preserve, which sits within a critically important wildlife corridor in the valley. Where fences are necessary, such as for containing farm animals, then the design of the fencing can make or break animal passage. Four landowners on Sonoma Mountain, some with cattle operations, agreed to let us make "wildlife-friendly" changes to their fences to see what happened. We replaced woven-wire fence in several sections with fences specifically designed for easier wildlife passage while keeping cows safely inside. A foreman of one of the landowners put up a couple of his own cameras to watch how the cows reacted.

[Read what happened](#)

Reducing the fuel load on Pole Mountain

Forest bathing at Live Oaks



Join Certified Forest Therapy Guide Caitlin Williams for the therapeutic practice of forest bathing at Live Oaks Ranch on February 2.

[Learn more](#)

In the news



How do wild animals survive Sonoma County winters? Find out in the [Press Democrat](#).

The story of our landmark win for conservation was one of the [Press Democrat's most read stories of 2019!](#)

Volunteer at Tolay



Come join us at our former Tolay Creek Ranch, now the wild section of Tolay Lake Regional Park, as we hand-weed and care for the native trees and shrubs that



Our Pole Mountain Preserve is the site of a shaded fuel break project that kicked off this month and is intended to reduce fuel loads along a ridgetop road to improve emergency access and provide incoming firefighters with a place to make a stand against wildfire. The forested areas of the preserve are comprised of flammable thickets of California bay laurel, over-planted conifers and tanoaks that have succumbed to sudden oak death. Communities within coastal rural areas are at high risk for uncontrolled wildfire due to highly combustible fuels, strong coastal winds, the potential for downed power lines and human-caused fire ignition. This work is part of a larger network of projects along the Sonoma Coast to increase defensible space, improve forest health and fire resiliency, and protect residential properties and important infrastructure. Our project was funded through a [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) cost-share award and the generous support of an anonymous private foundation.

Pines sprouting after 2017 fire



After strong fall winds and the first few winter storms, Sonoma Land Trust staff recently spent a day clearing downed trees along the roads at Glen Oaks Ranch Preserve. The knobcone pines at the top of the property burned in the 2017 Nuns Fire and, due to their shallow root structure,

schoolchildren have planted along the creek and its tributaries. Stewardship workdays are in the planning stages and will start in early May. Email [Karen](#) or call (707) 526-6930, ext. 101 for details.

We met our goal!

Thanks to our new and tried-and-true friends for helping us meet our \$1 million challenge for nature! Your generosity, along with our challenge donors, Mary and David Love and our board of directors, made a tremendous impact to preserve land locally, helping to mitigate climate change globally.

The gift of friendship



When our friend and conservation leader Anne Teller passed away last year, we received an incredible gift in her honor with an equally incredible story, inspired by lifelong friends with a shared passion for giving back.

[Read here](#)



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property were killed in the fire, they are a fire-dependent species. The resin sealing their cones only melts away in 400–500-degree heat, allowing the cones to open and seeds to drop. Because of the fire, we now have many thousands of two-year-old seedlings springing up to replace the falling trees. Nature is truly resilient.



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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