



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | July 2021

Happy trails and many thanks to Tony Nelson!

DONATE NOW



Photo by Angelina Martin.

After nearly 14 years at Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma Valley program manager and wildlife ecologist Tony Nelson is leaving to pursue new adventures and pursuits. Tony is leaving quite a legacy at the Land Trust and in the region. As stewardship director Bob Neale says, “Tony’s sound approach to natural resource management has profoundly influenced how our entire organization approaches conservation work in Sonoma County.” Along with stewarding Glen Oaks Ranch and other preserves, he has led our efforts to protect the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor, managed the Stuart Creek Run fish passage barrier-removal project and led the development of the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative. “It’s been a privilege to work with a bunch of really good people at Sonoma Land Trust and with our partners to make lasting conservation impacts in Sonoma County,” says Tony. “I’ll enjoy watching the continued accomplishments!” His last day in the office will be Monday. To say he will be missed is an understatement.

[Click here if you’d like to send an email to Tony.](#)

Thurs., Aug 26 at 7pm

The Sonoma Coast: Surface to Seafloor



Join Jennifer Stock of NOAA’s Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary for a visual tour of the seafloor off the Sonoma Coast. Taken during underwater exploration of deepwater habitats in 2017 and 2019, her photographs show the tremendous amount of biodiversity that exists in the globally significant marine sanctuaries.

[Register here](#)

Meet our new staff

The state of the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor



Photo by Stephen Joseph Photography.

In 2012, Sonoma Land Trust embarked on a multi-year project to keep open the narrowest section – the “pinchpoint” – of the high-priority Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor between the Mayacamas and Sonoma Mountain. Since that time, the Land Trust has protected key properties in the corridor, completed numerous studies, provided guidance to landowners on changes they could make on their properties to help wildlife, co-led the coalition to save the 700-plus acres of wildland of the now-closed Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC); partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society to develop guidelines for recreation within the corridor to minimize impacts on wildlife, and more. In 2015, an analysis of wildlife connectivity on the SDC property found that much of the northern portion along Sonoma Creek is expected to allow for free passage of wildlife if left undisturbed. In 2019, we helped pass a law that requires the protection of SDC’s open space and wildlands as public parklands, and we will continue to monitor proposals for the reuse of the SDC property to ensure that this vital corridor will remain open for wildlife passage well into the future.

[Read the SDC Connectivity Report here](#)

Welcoming two new board members



Natasha Bacci joined us in June as major gifts manager. Previously, she had worked for six years at The Trust for Public Land where she helped manage the California advisory board and the national organization’s statewide fundraising program for protecting land and creating parks. As a native of Sonoma County, Natasha is excited to be bringing her experience back to her local community.



Joe Plaugher, also a Sonoma County native, is our new stewardship project manager focusing on the Sonoma Valley preserves and serving as coordinator of the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative. Joe has worked for several years as a field representative to Rep. Mike Thompson, is working towards a Natural Resources Management certificate and is an active volunteer in support of



We are delighted to welcome Quincey Tompkins Imhoff and Michael Valdovinos to the Land Trust board of directors. Quincey is a longtime conservationist and community activist here in Sonoma County and internationally. She is the VP and former executive director of the [Foundation for Deep Ecology](#), founded by her late father, Doug Tompkins, and her mother, Susie Tompkins Buell. Quincey and her husband, Dan Imhoff, live in Healdsburg, where she spearheaded the community effort to stop logging at Felta Creek.



Michael Valdovinos is a board-certified clinical psychologist, trained organizational psychologist and avid outdoorsperson who understands the intersection between nature, the needs of the Latinx community and the opportunity for deeper community engagement. Born and raised in Sonoma County along the Russian River, Michael works as the safety policy manager, health and well-being at Facebook. Michael and his wife, Alison, live in Sebastopol where they are raising two young daughters and attending to an organic apple orchard.

prescribed fire with the [Good Fire Alliance](#).

Hwy 37 in the news



The redesign of Highway 37 in the face of growing sea level rise represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to achieve conservation goals for North Bay tidal wetlands – and our Congressional representatives are seeking funding to make it a reality. From the start, Sonoma Land Trust and our partners have been representing the interests of the wetlands during the redesign process. And those prospective wetlands – and the Land Trust – have been in the news recently!

[Press Democrat on federal funding](#)

[SF Chronicle on Rising Reality: Elevating Roadway to Thwart Its Demise](#)

“Adapting to Rising Waters” recording



If you missed the recent presentation by coastal ecologist and botanist Peter Baye on using nature-based solutions to respond to changing conditions at

Laufenburg Ranch



We have wildlife cameras set up at our [Laufenburg Ranch](#) preserve in Knights Valley, too, where we're always excited to capture bear footage – but this footage is extra special because it's a mama bear with two cubs! Documenting this bear family comes as we begin implementing our forest management plan at Laufenburg to promote a healthier and more resilient forest ecosystem. Enhancing wildlife habitat is always a key focus of ours, and this bear family serves as a beautiful reminder of the wild animals who will continue to benefit from our forest management. Let's all be [A Force for Nature](#) and keep these essential beings wild – and continue to preserve and steward the open spaces they need to thrive!



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
Copyright 2008-2021 Sonoma Land Trust. All Rights Reserved.

[restoration](#), you can [watch it here](#).

IPPY award goes to ...



Where the World Begins: Sonoma Mountain Stories and Images, published by Sonoma Mountain Preservation and written primarily by local historian Arthur Dawson, has been awarded a Bronze Medal in the 2021 Independent Publisher Book Awards. This beautiful book, which the Land Trust helped support, can still be purchased at Copperfield's, Readers, Kenwood Press, Glen Ellen wineries, and at sonomamountain.org.