



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | June 2018

Thankful for good neighbors



Before and after clearing the brush at Glen Oaks Ranch.

Maintaining good neighbor relationships is key to properly stewarding our land. The October 2017 wildfires scorched large swaths of Glen Oaks Ranch, burning both the natural environment and the property's infrastructure. Needless to say, we had a lot of post-fire work to do between determining the fate of the burnt historic barn and clearing trails. Recently, neighbors adjacent to Glen Oaks alerted us to some burnt acacias and thick, heavy vegetation that had left a mess and, according to an independent consultant they'd met with, should be cleared for fire suppression. Thanks to the concern of these neighbors, and the swift response of our stewardship staff, we were able to hire a contractor to quickly clear the burnt trees and vegetation. *It takes a village!*

New technology captures fish biology at Sears Point

[DONATE NOW](#)

New board chair Allison Sanford



We are delighted to announce that Allison Sanford has been named the new chair of our board of directors. Allison has been on our board since 2009 and replaces outgoing chair, Neal Fishman. We'd like to thank Neal for his service as board chair, as well as outgoing board member, Ken Freeman.

[Learn about Allison](#)

Prop 68 has passed!



It's official — Prop 68 passed! Thank you for voting to protect our clean water, parks and natural resources. This \$4.1 billion bond is going to bring an estimated \$45 million dollars for



Two years ago, [Mountains and Molehills](#) highlighted a technology that could be used to sample fish in the tidal wetland restoration area at Sears Point. This technology, Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS), was used to monitor the site in spring and fall of last year, along with traditional sampling techniques. The results are fascinating: Using ARIS, we saw more than 14,000 fish, and found eight times more fish in fall than in spring. We verified that the diversity of habitats (e.g. marsh mounds, channels) contributes to greater fish diversity, including large numbers of lower food chain fish, such as Pacific Herring, as well as larger predators like white sturgeon and striped bass. Our consulting biologist concluded that, as the site continues to mature with more sediment, vegetation and invertebrates, its value as nursery habitat will increase. Want to learn a little more about the sampling and what it captured? Check out [this video](#) created by our consultants at FISHBIO.

Weed whacking for fire suppression



including \$5 million to support Russian River watershed management.

Welcome, Alexis!



Alexis Geers joins us this month as the new development associate. A newcomer to Sonoma County, Alexis brings a wealth of fundraising and communication experience, recently working for Sonoma State University, UC Santa Cruz and YMCA of Silicon Valley. *Glad you're here, Alexis!*

Congrats to the Snow Leopard Conservancy!



The [Snow Leopard Conservancy](#) – where former Land Trust board member, Darla Hillard, is co-founder and education director – recently received a prestigious Darwin Initiative grant to support their ongoing snow leopard conservation efforts in Nepal. Her husband, fellow co-founder and Land Trust Legacy League member Dr. Rodney Jackson said they're really "chuffed" to receive this grant!

workdays!

Summer is a busy time on Sonoma Land Trust properties! Volunteer crews have been cutting back tall weeds and grasses to prepare for fire season, as well as for summertime visitors to our properties. Cutting the tall weeds and grasses is important to supporting fire safety in preparation for a dry summer and wildfire season, and also defines walking paths and parking areas. These dedicated volunteers have been weed whacking at Estero Americano, Laufenburg Ranch, Stuart Creek Run and Glen Oaks Ranch. Want to experience one of these Land Trust properties? Join us on a [guided outing](#) or [email Karen Arrington](#), volunteer program manager, to find the right volunteer opportunity for you.

A message from one of our new business partners: Munselle Civil Engineering



Munselle Civil Engineering and Land Surveying (MCE) have been stewards of Sonoma County land long before the company even existed. Owner Cort Munselle grew up in a farming family in Alexander Valley, truly “living off the land” by making grape growing his family’s livelihood, while learning the importance of preservation, sustainability, and how to live and work harmoniously with Mother Nature. “Being a civil engineer may seem like a juxtaposition to land conservation,” says Munselle, “but our occupation allows us to have a voice in local government as areas are chosen to develop and how they’re developed.” In addition to consulting with government on the potential effects of development, MCE works closely with clients who work with the Land Trust on land restoration projects such as culvert/barrier removal and riparian enhancement and

Internships available



Are you passionate about the environment? Do you want job experience working on the land? We have a few summer and fall internships in fundraising, stewardship and outings available for the right candidates!

[Check them out](#)

Nature connections



“I sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that my work is about connecting people to something they aren’t already connected to. But it’s more like a reawakening to that of which we are already a part.” Read Ingrid Stearns’s beautiful musings on connecting to nature on [Mountains and Molehills](#).

becoming our business partner. Learn more about the impact you can have as a business partner and the benefits of membership by contacting [Emily Klein](#).



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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