



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | June 2021

Marie Andel named new chair of board of directors

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Marie Andel, a board member since 2017, has been named the new chair of Sonoma Land Trust's board of directors. An award-winning business executive specializing in building values-based, high performance cultures, Marie retired as chief people and culture officer for CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA Insurer, in 2019, and is currently serving as interim chief human resources officer for Pinterest. She succeeds Allison Sanford, who served as chair for the past three years.

"Nature is such a healing force — it gives us life, energy and renewal," says Marie. "As we confront the challenges of climate change, I look forward to partnering with the diverse communities of Sonoma County to keep the land, waterways and wildlife healthy — and, by extension, all of us."

July virtual hikes



Experience the majesty of the old-growth redwood forest on a virtual tour of remote conservation properties Buckeye and Howlett Forests. Featuring photographs and video footage taken by Corby Hines, this virtual tour will be sure to delight and bedazzle you!

[Register here](#)

There is no charge for these events, which are made possible by the voters of Sonoma County who fund the work of Ag + Open Space with a quarter-cent sales tax.

Women in Business – and has also served as a board member of the American Red Cross Bay Area. She lives in Sonoma with her husband, Eric.

[Learn more about our new board chair](#)

Conservation Council completes its first year!



The Conservation Council, our new education program for teens, wrapped up its inaugural year in May. Focused on serving marginalized communities, youth participants engaged with a comprehensive youth development and conservation science curriculum to learn about land protection strategies and to conduct authentic research activities that could inform land management practices. Throughout the year, council members visited nine different preserves across Sonoma County to gain a better understanding and awareness of conservation efforts and the habitats and ecosystems that make them special. When asked what they got out of the program this year, one participant reported, “I think nature serves as a certain therapy and I definitely feel I got that out of this program. I also got to learn about how land conservation organizations run and what type of things go into having a career in conservation. This experience taught me a lot about conservation and gave me insight into careers in STEM.”

[More about our education programs here](#)

The latest news on the campaign

July 15, 7pm “Adapting to Rising Waters”



Join program manager Julian Meisler and coastal ecologist/botanist Peter Baye to learn about the work being done to advance our goal of protecting and restoring 10,000 acres in San Pablo Bay. We’ll discuss the design and use of nature-based solutions in tidal wetland restoration and management amid the uncertainties and changing conditions from climate change.

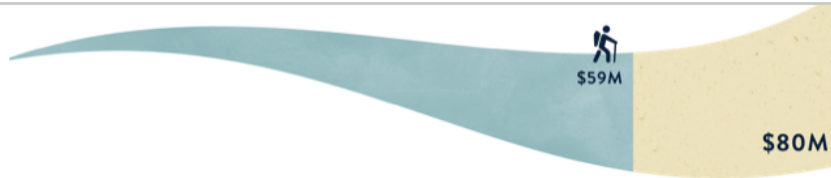
[Register now](#)

Seeking a dedicated advocate

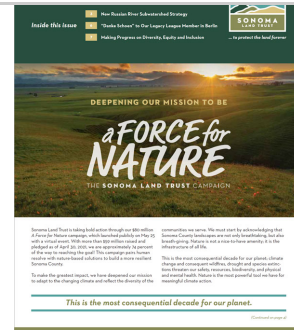
If you have experience representing the concerns of nonprofits to government agencies and elected officials, we’d love to hear from you! We are hiring for a Public Policy and Funding Program Manager to ensure that Sonoma Land Trust provides timely and effective advocacy for policies to advance climate adaptation and conservation in the county, and secure the benefits of nature for all communities.

[See position announcement](#)

Spring Newsletter



On May 25, we launched the public phase of the Sonoma Land Trust Campaign: A Force for Nature. With more than \$59 million raised to date toward an \$80 million goal, we are well on our way to reaching this ambitious goal. Donations of all sizes are important to this campaign and we are grateful for the many individual contributors, foundations, businesses and government funders for their tremendous support. Learn more about the different ways your gift can help conserve land and water and help all people benefit from nature on our [new campaign website](#).



Learn about our new strategy to help Coho, the progress we're making on diversity, equity and inclusion, our A Force for Nature campaign and more in our recent spring newsletter.

[Read it here](#)

“Looking out” for fire



Local community group [Pole Mountain Lookout, Inc.](#) is working to design, fundraise and construct a new fire lookout tower at the summit of Sonoma Land Trust's Pole Mountain Preserve to ensure the continuity of fire detection services along the Sonoma Coast. After 53 years of service, the old lookout tower placed on Pole Mountain following the Creighton Ridge Fire of 1978 is no longer safe to be staffed, but fire cameras will remain in operation until a new tower can be built. [Pole Mountain Lookout, Inc.](#) is seeking your

New OpenRoad story



In this new story, host Doug McConnell talks with program manager Sara Press and consultant Tom Robinson about how land conservation tools can help increase freshwater flows in the Russian River's Coho-bearing creeks.

[Watch it here](#) (our story begins at 13:00)

Your land trust in the news



detection services in the region. The Lookout provides a strategic coastal location for the early detection of wildfires and staff provide real-time critical information to dispatchers and responders about weather conditions, drift smoke, a wildfire's potential and more.

View the [fire cameras](#) on Pole Mountain and see the stunning view from the summit firsthand by hiking the [Sea to Sky Trail](#)

partners provide programs that increase access to nature for Latino families and youth.

[Read story here](#)

The California Coastal Conservancy provides a \$150,000 grant for Sonoma Land Trust to conduct wildfire risk reduction on Little Black Mountain Preserve, Laufenburg Ranch, Pole Mountain Preserve and Live Oaks Ranch.

[More info here](#)

Sonoma Land Trust enters into an agreement with Glen Ellen Forum to beautify Dunbar Point at the junction of Arnold Drive, Dunbar Road and Highway 12.

[Learn more](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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