



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | March 2018

Celebrating 35 years with Reta



Photo courtesy of Robbi Pengelly of the Sonoma Index-Tribune.

Reta Lockert, our donor relations director, has been with Sonoma Land Trust for 35 years! Here are some of her favorite moments through the years, in her own words: "Among the gifts: kneeling by spring's Calypso orchids at Nefertierra and Enchanted Wood; sitting on Charlie Laufenburg's porch and gazing at Mount St. Helena with him; finding a tiny notebook of practice assignments for Joan Cochran and her brother from the 1930s in the piano bench at Glen Oaks Ranch; hiking and hanging out with luminaries like Bill Kortum, Betty Burridge and Mary Hafner; and seeing our work expand to a landscape scale. Best of all is teaming up with people who love this incomparable place and bring the best of themselves to saving and celebrating it."

Add your wishes of congratulations to our "35 Years with Reta" booklet by sending them to lisa@sonomalandtrust.org.

Bay Camp registration is now open!

DONATE NOW

Look to the skies!

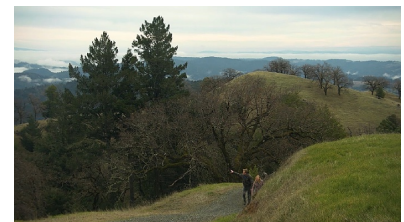
Presentation on clouds



On April 11, 7-8:30pm, at the Finley Community Center, Gavin Pretor Pinney, founder of the International Cloud Appreciation Society and a presenter of a TED Talk with 1.2 million views, will show you how to read the sky and recognize distinctive cloud formations using stunning images from around the world. Looking up will never be the same again!

[Learn more](#)

Open Road up Pole Mtn.



Enjoy [OpenRoad](#) with Doug McConnell's story about Pole Mountain and the Sonoma Coast, which aired on March 11 on NBC.



Sonoma Land Trust's Bay Camp this summer offers the exciting opportunity for youth to explore the watersheds of Sonoma County. Our bilingual summer day camp for children ages 7–14 will connect campers to nature through kayaking and bicycling. Three sessions offer unique experiences to access the amazing natural spaces in our backyard. Campers will see new sights and experience unique places where fresh and salt water meet, while making new friends and having fun along the way. A supportive and kind community is created by the staff and campers through team-building games and activities. Help children get outdoors and spend a week enjoying new and exciting adventures at Bay Camp!

[Learn more](#)

Watch last year's [video](#)

Sonoma Clean Power is a new partner in conservation



Local. Renewable. Ours.

Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) is teaming up with Sonoma Land Trust to plant trees — and also joins us as the newest member of our Business Partners Program. Committed to fighting climate change and working toward a clean and healthy environment, SCP will be supporting our conservation efforts by contributing to native vegetation planting projects on our properties and projects throughout the county. In addition to improving habitat and water quality, planting trees helps remove CO² from the atmosphere and is an effective way to fight climate change. SCP promotes clean, local, renewable energy options and provides the county with an alternative choice when selecting an energy provider. We appreciate their vision for a cleaner environment and we're thrilled to partner with them!

Welcoming Neal



We're delighted to introduce Neal Ramus as our new director of community programs! A Sonoma County native, Neal brings more than 10 years of experience and leadership in developing community programs and comes to us most recently from the California Academy of Sciences where he was associate director of youth engagement.

Día del Niño

Day of the Child



Photo courtesy of the Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative

Join us April 29 at Larson Park in Sonoma for an afternoon dedicated to celebrating the children. Your land trust, along with La Luz Center, Sonoma Ecology Center and more, will offer environmental educational activities, dancing, music, prizes and food from 1–5pm. No pre-registration needed.

This event is one of 11 sites across the county celebrating

Planting native species to prevent non-natives from taking root



Staff from the Spartina Project spent two days this month planting over 1,000 native *Spartina* plugs at Sears Point, accessing the marsh islands by airboat. Photo courtesy of Jeanne Hammond.

As part of our ongoing effort to establish tidal marsh at Sears Point, Sonoma Land Trust has recently partnered with the [San Francisco Estuary Invasive Spartina Project](#) to plant native *Spartina foliosa*, a signature tidal marsh species — better known as California cordgrass — on top of select marsh mounds. The Spartina Project works to eradicate non-native *Spartina* species, which have spread rapidly in Bay Area wetlands over the last 25 years. Planting native *Spartina* at Sears Point will help prevent non-native species from gaining a foothold there. Squares of PVC pipe connected by rope were built around each planting site as a barrier to prevent geese from eating the plants. This work builds on the successful research at Sears Point of SFSU grad student Margot Buchbinder and researchers at the [National Estuarine Research Reserve](#). It's yet another step in restoring the wetlands there and we couldn't do it without our incredible partners!

General Environmental Education Collaborative.
Visit www.sonomacountyee.org for more information.

SLT in the news



We've got news about the Sonoma Developmental Center. Read about it here.

[SDC... What's next?](#)

[SDC site assessment back on track, but closure certain](#)

[Influential parent group at SDC looks to uncertain future](#)

Save the date!



Our annual member celebration, "Heart of the Land," will take place May 12 from noon–3pm at Jack London State Historic Park. Join us for games, talks, food trucks and fun.



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Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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