



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | March 2020

Dear Friend of Sonoma Land Trust —While we all ride out this pernicious epidemic as best we can, our staff is continuing to do the essential work (from home) that needs to be done. Our first item below is an exciting one and, despite this trying time, and the challenges and fear we are all experiencing, we hope it inspires some hope for the future. As always, thank you for your support, which makes all this important work possible.

Give to the land you love — your support helps our community adapt to a changing world and ensure healthy habitats for wildlife and people alike.

[DONATE NOW](#)

We are expanding the size of Taylor Mountain Regional Park



View from Cooper Creek; photo by Jerry Dodrill Photography.

In partnership with [Regional Parks](#) and [Sonoma County Ag + Open Space](#), we are completing an acquisition of 54 undeveloped acres immediately adjacent to and north of Taylor Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve in southeastern Santa Rosa. Upon closing tomorrow, we will immediately transfer the property, Cooper Creek, to Sonoma County Regional Parks.

[Read Press Democrat article](#)

[Watch the video](#)

Wildflower presentation



Miss seeing the spring wildflowers? Then enjoy them virtually through our first online presentation by botanist Peter Warner on fire, flora and resilience in Sonoma County. This aired live and was recorded last week.

[Watch it here](#)

Preparing for wildfire



Ever wondered what a “shaded fuel break” really is? Check out our new video

Live Q & A: Protecting Cooper Creek

Learn more about Cooper Creek by tuning in this Thursday at 7pm for a live interview with program manager Kendall Webster. She'll be talking about the importance of protecting Cooper Creek, its role in the larger conservation picture and how this project benefits nature and people. There will be time for Q&A at the end.

[Register](#)

Bay Camp registration is now open!



Bay Camp, also known as *el Campamento de la Bahía*, is our bilingual summer day camp that connects children ages 7–12 with the growing tidal marsh system of the [San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#). Campers take part in learning about the salt marsh ecosystem, arts and crafts, and confidence-building activities like kayaking and bicycling. Through our community partners, we're able to reach and better serve youth who otherwise may not have opportunities to attend summer camps, and we are hopeful that, by summer, COVID-19 will be behind us and our local kids will be able to take part in these fun and educational activities. Last year, Bay Camp provided over 60 percent of campers with their first summer camp experience and offered full scholarships to 74 percent of our eligible campers. If you'd like to learn more about Bay Camp, how to register or how you can help provide this wonderful experience for a camper, please visit [our website](#).

using this strategy to reduce the amount of fuel for wildfires and improve emergency access on Pole Mountain.

[Watch it here](#)

We've moved online!

Although we can't take you on beautiful hikes out in nature right now, we're still working to provide opportunities to connect you with the natural world. Join us for online presentations featuring nature topics such as wildflowers, birds, land conservation and more, while enjoying it from your own home! Check [our outings page](#) regularly for updates.

Spring outings postponed



Due to rapidly changing conditions and recommendations from local, state and federal agencies regarding COVID-19, we have postponed all of our in-person community programs and activities through the end of April. Please check our website or social media for updates.

Russian River book event postponed

women



Joan Vilms on the land.

“Joan is the one to talk to if you want to learn about dedicating land to permanent open space.” This quote, from the organization’s first newsletter in 1977, highlights the key role Joan Vilms played in setting the foundation of Sonoma Land Trust. She was instrumental in closing our first land acquisitions, including Little Black Mountain Preserve outside Cazadero and Secret Pasture Preserve overlooking the Sonoma Valley. She negotiated countless land acquisition requests and conservation easements, ensuring that all projects the Land Trust pursued met the organization’s conservation goals. She also began Sonoma Land Trust’s first tree-planting campaign, which resulted in 34,000 trees being planted at Little Black Mountain in the heart of the Creighton Ridge Fire burn area. A former resource management consultant and county planner, Joan served as our first Land Counselor, helping establish the organization that today has a national reach and reputation, evidenced by our receiving the Land Trust Alliance’s 2019 National Excellence Award, a tribute to the most outstanding land trust in the United States.



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, we are postponing the release of our new book *“The Russian River and Its Watershed,”* originally scheduled for April 22, until this summer. Stay tuned!

Good books



Practicing social distancing can be tough, so our staff has compiled a list of our favorite environmentally themed books so you can connect with nature from the safety of your couch. Follow us on social media for future recommendations of movies and more!

[Check out our list](#)

Wildflower guide



We’re working hard to provide you with resources to connect with nature at your leisure during these unprecedented times. Keep an eye out for an email to download our newest — and free! — digital On-The-Land



wildflowers.

We'll miss Calen



We're sad to say goodbye to our assistant stewardship project manager, Calen May-Tobin, who supported our conservation easement and Sonoma Coast programs. He is moving to Canada to be with his partner. Best wishes to you, Calen!

Fun Things to do

[Enjoy national parks virtually](#)

[Be awe-inspired](#)

[Meditate](#)

Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
Copyright 2008-2019 Sonoma Land Trust. All Rights Reserved.