



# TODAY

... to protect the land forever | March 2021

## Standing against racism and in support of our AAPI community

[DONATE NOW](#)

*You're invited!*

### Bay Nature's 2021 Local Hero Awards

This year's awards are being done virtually and include our own Wendy Eliot and also Doug McConnell of *OpenRoad TV*!



*Glen Oaks Ranch in the mid-late 1800s, relied on the skills of Chinese laborers who constructed buildings, tended the farm, planted vineyards and orchards, and more.*

Sonoma Land Trust stands with our Asian American and Pacific Islander community members and rejects the violent, discriminatory behavior that has been directed toward them throughout the country. While this sadly isn't new, we remember the words of Charles Stuart, founder of Glen Oaks Ranch, when he was the only delegate at the California Constitutional Convention of 1878-79 to speak out against the Chinese Exclusion Act. "I beg of gentlemen on this floor to pause, to consider well, and not to be carried away through blind prejudice, through political ambition, or through race hatred; but act like civilized, just, and Christian men; not to do an act that would shock all humane men throughout the world, both Christian and Pagan. Sir, this is what I plead for, and will ever plead for; and will sympathize with the weak and downtrodden of the world, and hope to



Wendy Eliot is being honored for her storied conservation career at Sonoma Land Trust in which she secured over \$50 million dollars of funding and conducted complex negotiations to protect nearly 20,000 acres of parkland, wildlife habitat and working lands. Her award will be presented at the Sun., Apr. 11 session starting at 5pm.

the small case.

Learn more about Stuart and his passionate speeches at the convention [in this story by Jim Shere of Glen Ellen](#), who gave a talk for Sonoma Land Trust in 2014 about this brave and principled man ahead of his time.



Doug McConnell, with 37 years of on-air experience, is still opening eyes to the unique beauty of wild California on his most recent series *OpenRoad*. A great champion of parks and public lands, Doug gives his time freely to raise awareness and financial support for our natural treasures. Tune in for a conversation with Doug Tues., Apr. 13 at 4pm.

[Register here](#)

## For Earth Day on April 22

# Wildflowers, wildlife and the wild within



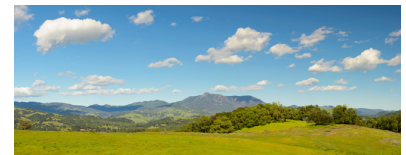
Celebrate Earth Day with us! Take a deep dive into the colors of spring and explore the extraordinary relationship between local wildflowers and wildlife with California Master Naturalist Shelly Spriggs. Shelly is an avid wildlife tracker, lifelong wildflower admirer and landscape storyteller. She is thrilled to be sharing stories of improbable wildflower adaptations, their surprising communication methods and their unique relationships with wild animals in next month's Language of the Land presentation. Motivated by an appreciation and reverence for the natural world, Shelly currently works as an environmental educator with Sonoma Water. Additionally, she leads a variety of guided outings throughout the county, sharing her fascination, enthusiasm and extensive ecological knowledge with audiences of all ages.

Register for the presentation [here](#)

In the meantime, check out our [digital Wildflower Guide](#) for help identifying these spring beauties when you're out hiking

And, last but not least, enjoy our beautiful 1.5-minute [Sonoma Wildflower Meditation](#)

## We're hiring!



We're seeking a topnotch major gifts manager for our development department. Deadline to apply is April 2. Sonoma Land Trust is a great place to work! Tell your friends.

[Job announcement](#)

## One virtual hike — three preserves



# New program offerings in Spanish



This spring, we are launching new Spanish-language programming. Engaging the Latinx community is one of our priorities and one of the ways we do this is by offering programs in Spanish. This makes our programs more accessible and engaging to multiple generations. The past month marked the first all-Spanish-language SLIME (Students Learning in Marsh Environments) field trip for Petaluma's Loma Vista Immersion Academy. Ms. Horrell's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class "zoomed" down to the Baylands to learn about conservation, restoration and the ecologically important habitats there. Additionally, our On the Land team continues to innovate with virtual outings to some of the Land Trust's most sensitive and remote preserves. Staff led over 40 Spanish-speaking leaders from the AVANCE and Pasitos programs of [Community Action Partnership](#) on a Spanish-language virtual tour of Glen Oaks Ranch. Participants reported changes in perspective on wildfires, a reconnection with the outdoors from their childhoods, and general surprise about how engaging and refreshing a virtual outing could be.

[Sign up for your virtual outing here](#)

## Stewardship spotlight

# Recognizing the incomparable Harold Appleton



Have you experienced a guided virtual hike with us yet? In April, we'll be featuring three different preserves: Pole Mountain, Estero Americano and Glen Oaks Ranch. These free hikes are our way to be together, share stories and appreciate the beauty of the land in ways we might not be able to in person.

[Click here to register](#)

*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.*

## Sonoma Magazine

# Curbing fire with fire



"Wildfires have charred about 200,000 of Sonoma County's one million acres since 2017." This extensive article on reviving prescribed burns to reduce the intensity of wildfires covers a lot of ground. Our fire ecologist Tony Nelson is interviewed along with our partners in the Wildlands Collaborative and more.

[Read it here](#)



Harold Appleton, a riparian restoration expert, erosion control specialist and registered professional forester, has been a friend and mentor to several generations of Sonoma Land Trust staff. From Tolay Creek Ranch to Pole Mountain and White Rock preserves, Harold has helped us keep our streams clean and plant and grow native oak trees, sedges and shrubs. An Evergreen donor, he also donates his time to develop our forest management plans. Harold has patiently taught staff how to see the landscape differently and to take a hands-on approach to tackling small projects before they become big problems. He has led numerous volunteer workdays where he has taught the art of making and installing willow wattles, brush check dams and willow poles. Perhaps you've seen Harold and his band, Altered Agenda, playing at one of our donor events in the past? He's a true conservation Renaissance man! Thank you, Harold, for everything you do for Sonoma Land Trust and our county!

[Watch Harold Appleton in action](#) working on the shaded fuel break on Pole Mountain Preserve.

## Traditional use of fire



If you missed last week's Language of the Land talk with Margo Robbins of the Yurok Tribe talking about Native American use of fire and contemporary practices on a changed landscape, you can watch it here.

[Click here for recording](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.  
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