



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | October 2019

As we write this, the Kincaide Fire is burning out of control near Geyserville and the fact that October has become synonymous with fire season is again underscored. Our appreciation for the firefighters and other first responders is boundless and our hearts are with the individuals, animals, homes and businesses situated in the way of the fire. Stay safe, everyone. #SonomaStrong.

We're national award winners!



Sonoma Land Trust is proud to be the recipient of the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) 2019 National Land Trust Excellence Award! Each year, a leader in the land trust community is honored for excelling in one or more of the following areas: broadening support for land conservation, outstanding collaboration, and outstanding communications, education and outreach. "These are the individuals and organizations that inspire our community to ever-higher levels of greatness," said Andrew Bowman, LTA's president and CEO, about the award-winning organizations. "It's a privilege to give Sonoma Land Trust some of the recognition they deserve." We share this high honor with you, our members, our supporters, our champions!

[Watch video created by LTA about Sonoma Land Trust](#)

DONATE NOW

\$1 million challenge



From November 1 to December 31, when you donate to Sonoma Land Trust, your gift will be leveraged! Join us as we meet the challenge to protect nature. "As a farmer, I want to be a part of preserving this land for all of us and forever," said board member Jennifer Bice of Redwood Hill Farm (pictured above).

See raptors at Skaggs Island



Watch the migratory and resident birds of prey moving across Skaggs Island on this free driving/walking



Sonoma Land Trust staff and board receiving the 2019 National Land Trust Excellence Award at the LTA conference last week.

Bringing schools to the bay



This fall, Sonoma Land Trust is implementing a new field trip program for 3rd and 4th grade students at the [San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge](#), where your land trust restored 1,300 acres to tidal wetlands. The program aims to bring schools to the Sonoma Baylands to explore critical ecosystems through a curriculum that includes conservation and restoration, marshland ecology and ecosystem services, and climate change resiliency. Sharing the baylands with youth provides a real-world example of large-scale restoration, creates connections to the land by connecting to the local watershed, and inspires actions and behaviors that protect habitats. Fourth grade students from McNear Elementary were the first to partake in a field trip and had a

Early Bird Special on November 16 from 10am to 2pm.

[Register](#)

Watch like a hawk



Need more birding in your life? Join the Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch this fall to help identify hundreds of migrating hawks along the Sonoma Coast. "Hawks to me embody grace, power and freedom. Being able to document and build a scientific database as citizen scientists is a great privilege," said co-manager Dave Barry.

[Learn more](#)

Families Outdoors



Bring your kids or grandkids along and join us in exploring the natural world on the fourth Saturday of each month. Outings are bilingual in Spanish/English.

[See schedule](#)

Hot off the press

opportunity to take part in the restoration process by helping the Land Trust monitor the changes occurring at the site!

Q&A with a wildlife camera specialist



Photo courtesy of The Press Democrat.

Volunteer and donor Ginny Fifield is helping to broaden our knowledge about wildlife on our properties, setting up cameras and collecting data from Bear Canyon Wildlands Preserve. Check out our recent interview with her:

What worries you most about wildlife in Sonoma County?

In my opinion, the top three human-caused factors that negatively impact wildlife are:

1. Natural wild lands rapidly being lost to building development – both residential and commercial.
2. Extensive building and widening of roads and highways without planned safe wildlife corridors over or under these routes.
3. Continued use of pesticides and rodenticides that seriously impact the health of all wildlife species.

Why do you support Sonoma Land Trust?

Because they are dedicated to conserving land for the *future* of Sonoma County. We need to act now as well as plan ahead if we want to preserve our lands for the well-being of both wildlife and human populations. Sonoma Land Trust does both!

Milkweed and monarchs



If you haven't received our new annual report in the mail, please [read it here](#).

In the news



Read about our participation in a multi-organization wildfire collaborative and learn more about our new executive director and his vision for Sonoma Land Trust:

[Eamon O'Byrne, Sonoma Land Trust's new executive director](#)

[Why Sonoma County's parks are embracing fire as a tool again](#)

No Time to Waste Sonoma film screening



The Sebastiani Theatre in Sonoma is holding a special screening of Doug McConnell's new film on Sunday, November 10 at



Monarch caterpillars along the Tolay Creek riparian area.

Finding evidence of success in a restoration project, no matter how small, is a reminder of the importance of our conservation work. In September, while working with Andrew Meador of [Point Blue's STRAW](#) program to monitor tree mortality in the Tolay Creek riparian restoration area, we found two patches of narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*), a plant critical to the lifecycle of Western Monarch butterflies. Both patches had Monarch caterpillars (larva) that will soon pupate before becoming adults. Each patch of milkweed had larva in differing stages of development call instar; one held fourth instar and the other fifth instar (the final larval stage). The overall population of the Western Monarch is down 97 percent – so it's exciting to know that your Land Trust is contributing to the health of this struggling population.

Learn more about [Narrow Leaf Milkweed](#) and about the [lifecycle of Monarch Butterflies](#).

Examines the life of Betty Reid Soskin, the oldest National Park Ranger, and her mission to restore critical missing chapters of America's story.

[Get tickets](#)

Grateful for volunteers



Sonoma State students restoring the land at Tolay.

Our volunteers give their time, talent and energy to help us accomplish our mission, which is why we [celebrate them every year!](#) An extra special thanks to the 11 Sonoma State University students and their professor, Wendy St. John, and Land Trust intern Mariah Chastain, who recently helped with restoration work along Tolay Creek.

MarshFest a success!



MarshFest at the restored Sears Point wetland was a splashing success! In addition to birding tours, interpretive talks and levee tours, we provided opportunities for the public to ride bikes along the Bay Trail and kayak in the tidal marsh.

[MarshFest photos](#)

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