



TODAY

... to protect the land forever | October 2020

Congratulations to Wendy Eliot on her retirement

21 years and 18,000 acres saved!



Conservation director at Sonoma Land Trust since 1998, Wendy Eliot was born with an appreciation for land conservation in her blood. Landscape architect Charles Eliot (1859–1897), brother of her great grandfather, established the first land trust organization in the United States in 1891 in Massachusetts. “He believed everyone should have access to nature,” says Wendy. “This was during the Industrial Revolution and Charles thought people needed open space close to urban areas.” She also inherited a love of the land

[DONATE NOW](#)

Monarchs: A Migration of Souls

Thurs., Oct. 29, 7–8:30pm



Join our next virtual presentation for a chance to learn about the magnificent butterfly that inspired a longstanding Mexican tradition shared around the world. The monarch butterfly’s migration has represented the return of spirits of the dearly departed and is celebrated through the El Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) holiday.

[Register here](#)

[Download monarch craft book](#)

Fall hawk migration

Thurs., Nov. 19, 7–8:30pm

Sonoma County for protecting the land in their own ways. But their biggest contribution, by far, was their daughter, Wendy, who protected more than 18,000 acres around the county during her tenure at the Land Trust. She is respected and admired, and will be dearly missed by colleagues throughout Sonoma County, the greater Bay Area and across California. Her accomplishments include the following:

- Acquiring Sears Point Ranch to restore 1,000 acres to tidal marsh
- Doubling the size of Tolay Lake Regional Park
- Raising funding to buy the Santa Rosa Southeast Greenway
- Saving the summit of Sonoma Mountain
- Protecting the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor
- Expanding Taylor Mountain Regional Park
- And so much more

[Learn more about Wendy's extraordinary career](#)

John McCaull becomes land acquisition director



The acquisitions department remains in good hands. John McCaull, who joined Sonoma Land Trust in 2013, has been promoted to land acquisition director. John, an attorney and former lobbyist, has managed key projects, such as the Sonoma Developmental Center and McCormick Ranch, and coordinated our advocacy for funding measures, like AA for the Bay and M for Sonoma County Parks. *Congratulations, John!*

Key 113-acre property along the Gualala protected!



While we've missed bringing you out on the land this fall to observe raptors on the wing, let us bring you close-up views of birds of prey in the comfort of your own home. Join raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick online and experience the excitement of the fall hawk migration.

[Register here](#)

Sea Change Five-year anniversary!



October 25 marks five years since we let in the tides to restore 1,000 acres to tidal marsh at Sears Point. What a day that was! Have you walked or kayaked there since? This wetland restoration project provides many benefits, including tempering flooding impacts from climate change-driven sea level rise.

[Learn more](#)

Bay Day is all month long!



Sonoma Land Trust is donating to Redwood Coast Land Conservancy's (RCLC) purchase of the stunning Mill Bend property along the Gualala River, protecting 113 acres of coastal wetlands, estuary and uplands at the boundary between Sonoma and Mendocino counties. Along with protecting critical habitat for endangered Coho salmon, steelhead trout and other threatened and endangered species, this \$2.4 million project also provides for public access and recreational opportunities, including an extension of the California Coastal Trail. RCLC has been working to acquire Mill Bend since 2017. Sonoma Land Trust was pleased to contribute \$150,000 from its Land Protection Fund, a special fund that helps us move quickly when strategic acquisition opportunities arise. Congratulations to RCLC and our coastal communities!

[Learn more here](#)

Living with the new fire cycle



Live Oaks Ranch Preserve just a few short months after the 2017 firestorm. Nature persists.

The Glass Fire recently roared across Sonoma and Napa counties in a way that's become heartbreakingly familiar and which has taken a high toll on our preserves in the



Celebrate our bay throughout the whole month of October. Save the Bay's #BayTrailChallenge asks you to walk, run, bike, wheel or paddle – and have the chance to win awesome prizes! Celebrate Sonoma Land Trust-style and visit the [Bay Trail at Sears Point Ranch](#).

[More Bay Day info](#)

SLT in the News



Kenwood Press: In a timely interview, executive director Eamon O'Byrne talks about confronting fire and COVID crises in his first year on the job.

[Read it here](#)

AAA's Via Magazine: A story about rambling along the Sonoma Coast mentions the Sea to Sky Trail up to our Pole Mountain Preserve. This is the perfect season to visit and hike it yourself!

[Find it here](#)

properties and two properties under purchase contract burned, some of them severely. While we feel confident that the natural landscapes will recover, our hearts go out to those people who lost so much.

We've been asked how our communities can adapt to this new fire cycle. Sonoma Land Trust believes we must work together to return fire to a more natural, less extreme experience in Sonoma County — the way it was for thousands of years. We need smaller, less intense and more frequent fires that prevent the buildup of high fuel loads in our forests and woodlands. In many places, we must work together to remove this dead wood and fuel before the fires come. This will result in healthier habitat for our oak trees, mountain lions, redwoods and spotted owls. We must also upgrade our buildings with fire-safe materials and create defensible space. Like many of you, your Land Trust is conducting these activities on the lands we own to help make our community more resilient to fire. Let's work together for a more climate and fire-resilient Sonoma County!

[Learn about our work with CAL FIRE and other partners to increase fire resiliency in Sonoma Valley.](#)



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.
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