



# TODAY

*... to protect the land forever | October 2021*

## Join in our \$1.3 million end-of-year challenge and become A Force for Nature!

[DONATE NOW](#)



“We think of our gifts to Sonoma Land Trust as investments in a healthy and sustainable future for everyone in our community and around the globe. We hope you will join us in protecting the lands that make Sonoma County so special and in supporting nature-based solutions to our most pressing environmental challenges.” — Tim Portwood and Jim Lauber, Campaign Steering Committee Co-Chairs

Inspired by nature, the Campaign Steering Committee of Sonoma Land Trust’s A Force for Nature Campaign have committed more than \$700,000 in support of our mission and encourage you to join them. This year, they have issued an end-of-year challenge to raise \$1.3 million for Sonoma Land Trust by December 31. Together, through implementing nature-based solutions, we can protect the land and waterways that sustain us.

[DONATE NOW](#)

**Nov. 9 at 7pm**  
SDC and the wildlife corridor



Join land acquisition director John McCaull for a presentation on the importance of the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor to the ecological health of Sonoma Mountain. Learn about the connection between conservation of this regional treasure and pending redevelopment proposals for the future of the Sonoma Developmental Center. Live Spanish interpretation will be provided.

[Register here](#)

**Winter Outings & Families Outdoors**

# history of our county



*Pole Mountain is within the ancestral homeland of the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria.*

On Indigenous Peoples' Day on October 11, we shared Sonoma Land Trust's Land Acknowledgement Statement. While only a few sentences, it was crafted with care and intention as a collaboration between our staff and board. The statement, which incorporates specific recommendations and feedback from local Indigenous communities, attests to our commitment to supporting their history and tradition of land stewardship in Sonoma County.

As we pursue our mission of conserving land in Sonoma County, we recognize that we stand upon the unceded ancestral lands of many Indigenous peoples. We honor their knowledge, care and stewardship of this special place across the ages and acknowledge the deep and lasting damage that colonization has inflicted on them. We embrace our responsibility to learn from and protect their cultural and traditional connections to the land.

[Learn more about our diversity, equity and inclusion work](#)

## Part Two What's going on in the Sears Point wetlands?



Join the Land Trust and Ag + Open Space for more in-person guided hikes at Glen Oaks Ranch and the Sears Point marsh this winter — or bring the whole family along and join in our monthly bilingual family outings.

[See our outings page](#)

*There is no charge for these events, which are paid for by the voters of Sonoma County who fund the work of Ag + Open Space with a quarter-cent sales tax.*

## \$963K for easement on Sonoma Mountain



The Land Trust is working with a longtime agricultural family to protect a 703-acre working cattle ranch in southern Sonoma County with a conservation easement. We have received a \$963,000 grant from the National Resources Conservation Service through the County's Regional Conservation Partnership Program to ensure future agricultural productivity and ecosystem health. The project is expected to close in 2022.





*Julian Meisler at Sears Point. Photo by Darryl Bush for the Press Democrat.*

The shoreline erosion control project, a nature-based solution to reduce the impact of wind-driven waves on the shoreline, is progressing well. Thanks to the construction team's good work, it is even possible that the Eliot Trail will reopen before the end of the year. Last week's Press Democrat article described the project so well that we're providing it here for you:

### ***Sonoma Land Trust builds 'living shoreline' to thwart erosion at Sears Point***

***by Guy Kovner***

Julian Meisler stood on a human-made levee at low tide along the shore of San Pablo Bay, surveying 1,000 acres of a dark brown, mostly barren mud flat.

"That's exactly what we want to see," said Meisler.

He is the project manager of Sonoma Land Trust's 15-year campaign to restore wetlands intended to protect the Highway 37 corridor — with both a roadway and rail line — from flooding exacerbated by sea level rise.

[Read the rest of the article here](#)

## **Dia de los Muertos**

## **A decade on the mountain**



Relationships and connections form the foundation of our work and, as our caretaker at the Little Black Mountain Preserve, Jessica Holloway is our steadfast anchor in the community. For 10 years, Jessica has lived in a rustic cabin on the property, safeguarding the preserve through wind and rain, drought and fire. Jessica is well-adapted to the land and well-liked by all our neighbors and everyone who knows her. *Happy 10-year anniversary, Jessica!*

## **SLT in the news**

**Focus on the Sonoma Developmental Center: Preserving the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor**  
[Kenwood Press](#)

## **OUR letter to the editor**

**SDC proposals have serious gaps**  
[Sonoma Index-Tribune](#)

**Upping our investment in wildfire prevention by Senator Bill Dodd**  
[Press Democrat](#)

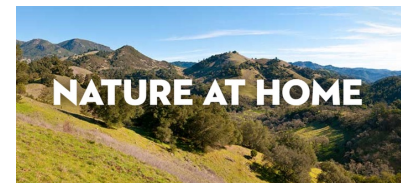
**State grant extends Sonoma Valley wildfire prevention work**  
[Press Democrat](#)



While Latinx Heritage Month comes to a close, the celebration and appreciation of the cultures and peoples should continue! As the monarch butterflies make their migration to overwinter here on the West Coast and down to Mexico, we can celebrate the tradition of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) from October to November 2. The cultural practice of Dia de los Muertos connects us to our loved ones who have moved on into the afterlife, which is represented by the monarch butterfly (sadly on the brink of becoming an endangered species). You can learn more about Dia de los Muertos and the monarch butterfly by watching this recording of our virtual program, “[Monarchs: A Migration of Souls](#).” Festivities to celebrate are currently underway here in Sonoma County – visit [El Dia de los Muertos Petaluma](#) to learn about some events taking place!

million for fire safety in  
Sonoma Valley  
[Sonoma Index-Tribune](#)

## Missed our programs?



You can find most of our [Language of the Land programs here](#), from last month’s “CALM amidst the storm” about de-stressing to the previous month’s on how trees and fungi talk to each other (“Peek into the Wood-Wide Web”) to “The Sonoma Coast from Surface to Seafloor,” “The California Serengeti” and much more.



Questions or comments? Email Sheri Cardo, managing editor.  
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