BODEGA LAND TRUST

JOURNAL

SUMMER 2013

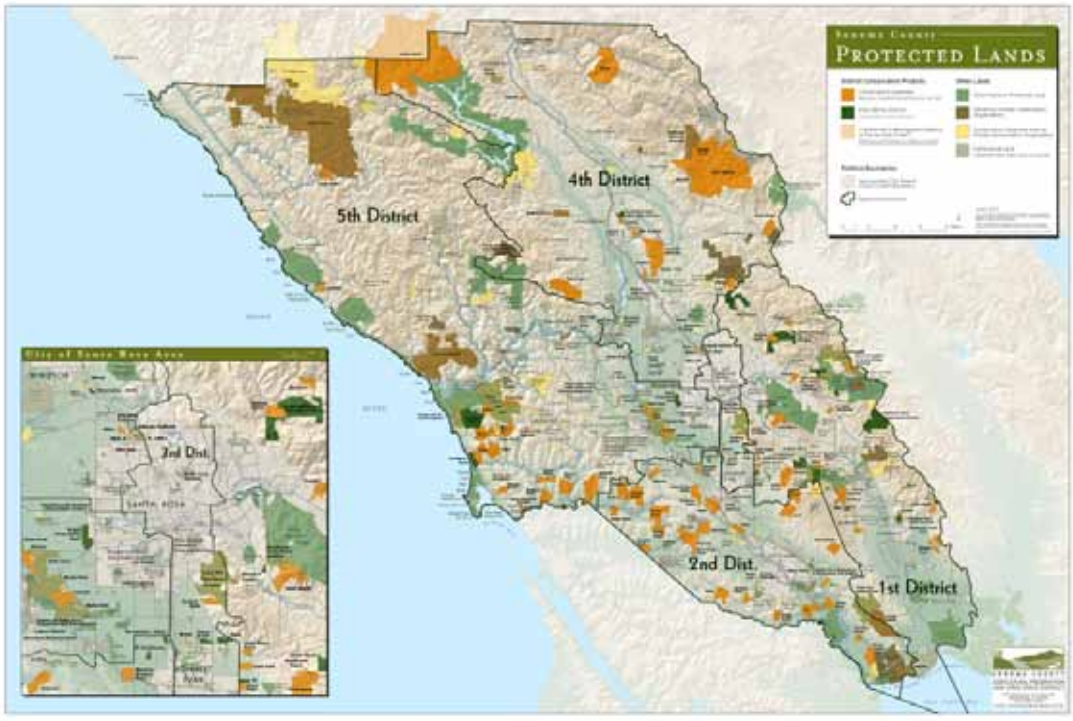
BODEGA LAND TRUST HOSTS

OCCIDENTAL COMMUNITY FORUM

by Eric Koenigshofer

In recent months the Board of Directors of Bodega Land Trust has been discussing how BLT might do more for the benefit of the community. Land preservation through conservation easements is the primary purpose of BLT, but other activities are also important. Public education programs have become increasingly popular. Some readers will have attended one of the "Walks and Talks" sponsored by BLT. During these outings participants get outdoors, make use of their boots, socialize with neighbors and learn something new along the way. Whether a hike takes participants to see new lambs or an old railroad line, the experience is always fun and informative.

Expanding on the concept of public education and community discourse BLT recently decided to take on the challenge of co-sponsoring a forum at the Salmon Creek School to explore the prospect of expanded recreational facilities around the west county. The meeting was held on June 4 and a tremendous crowd of over 400 people attended.



A group of Occidental area residents made a presentation which focused on a concept referred to as "The Gateway Project." In short, this idea would integrate various park facilities with visitor hubs around the area. A robust presentation and discussion followed and many people reported they appreciated the factual content and civil tenor of the meeting. In order to maximize public awareness of the

August 8 at 7:00 pm
BLT Community Forum at Salmon Creek School
Part two in a series:
Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District and Sonoma County Regional Parks

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BODEGA LAND TRUST is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to conserve the natural beauty and agricultural integrity of our watershed and our community.

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When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.
~Aldo Leopold (1886-1948)

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hello BLT Members and Friends,

Don Sherer, President

Welcome to the first issue of the Bodega Land Trust Journal, which we envision will explore issues and opportunities in more depth than we can in our emailed newsletter. The email newsletter, which we send through Constant Contact, will come out more regularly. If you are not currently on our email list and would like to receive it, please send your name and email address along to us at info@bodegalandtrust.org.

As you know, BLT has an all-volunteer Board of Directors. We have, however, welcomed our part-time Development Director, Deborah Walton, to help pilot our fundraising and communications efforts. But getting a regular newsletter out takes considerable time and prodding of those who can contribute articles or stories to it. So hopefully the email newsletter will be more timely and the Journal will be something to savor over a cup of tea or glass of wine.

Deborah will also help expand our outreach efforts to include more educational programs, information-sharing at community events, and personal introductions to the work we do with members of the greater Bay Area community who value and wish to protect the natural beauty and agricultural integrity of coastal Sonoma County.

We are very honored that one of our Board members, Eric Koenigshofer, was able to bring together the community in a reasoned and informative way regarding the "Gateway Project." BLT has traditionally provided educational opportunities for our close-knit community. In that tradition, we look forward to hosting the second forum in August to hear from the SCAPOSD (www.sonomaopenspace.org) and Sonoma County Regional Parks (parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov).

Our Walks and Talks are offered most months, with great programs to educate and inform the public about our watershed streams and grasslands and their inhabitants, as well as aspects of local farming and history. (See page 10 for details.) We see this type of program as integral to our mission, and we thank you for supporting this effort with your donations and time.

Speaking of time, monitoring our easements takes a great deal of it, and monitoring coordinator Sharon Sadler and her volunteer team do an outstanding job. Our agreement in all of our conservation easements defines our role in ensuring that the property is managed and maintained by the landowner in a manner consistent with the conservation values the easement seeks to protect. If you would like to join this effort, please contact us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and learn more about your land trust. You are welcome to attend our Board meetings, or schedule a time to discuss how you might support our efforts in a more concrete manner. We welcome your input, energy, and financial support.

Sincerely,
BODEGA LAND TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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issues involved BLT has arranged for a second meeting to be held on the evening of August 8, 2013, also at Salmon Creek School. At the August 8 meeting both the Sonoma County Regional Parks Department (Regional Parks) and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD) will be on-hand to make presentations, answer questions and hear from the community.

During the last two decades thousands of acres have been taken into public ownership in the west county. Funding for these purchases has come from a variety of sources both public and private. The main local source of acquisition funds comes from the SCAPOSD with additional major funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency which distributes voter approved bond funds for coastal conservation efforts. Many other organizations and governmental agencies also contribute. The result is expanded public ownership of large acreages such as Willow Creek and Jenner Headlands to name two key examples.

With such major public investment comes an expectation that some of the land will be opened for public use. Figuring out how this is to be done is the important task at hand. All sort of environmental issues arise in converting and opening former agricultural lands to public use. Potential impacts include a wide array of issues such as traffic, location of parking lots, impacts on wildlife, conversion of land from agriculture to recreational use, etc. The list is long and the issues can be complex.

Another consideration which was expressed by many people in comments on June 4, was the concern that as more people come to visit and enjoy the wonders of nature and the treasure of historic small towns, that the essence of these places not be overwhelmed in the process. We've all seen it before… it is possible to love a place to death. Figuring out how to share these places without losing them is the key to success. To the extent BLT can help by promoting public education and engagement to ensure the proper balancing of interests is achieved, the BLT Board of Directors will feel like we've done our job. With your help of course!

If you have further questions or concerns, please attend the meeting on August 8th at the Salmon Creek School. As always, BLT is eager to hear if this type of community forum is of benefit to you. You can email us at ***info@bodegalandtrust.org.***

ANNUAL DINNER SET FOR SATURDAY, OCT. 26TH

Our Annual Dinner, the major fund-raising effort for Bodega Land Trust, will be held on **Saturday, October 26th** at the Fire Hall in Bodega. Details will be forthcoming in our emailed newsletter. If you can volunteer, donate an auction item, and/or attend, please get in touch now! Just email ***events@bodegalandtrust.org*** or call 707.874.9001. But most of all, be sure to mark your calendar and join us!

… and a gentle reminder that time marches on …

Here is the list of the servers at the 2000 dinner, described in our program as "Bodega's Young People, organized by Anne Greenfield:"

Spencer Brumm, Annelise Kinney, Kate Mundell, Lindsey North, Julayne Ringstron, Jason Sauter, Shannon Shaffer-Killey and Michelle Travinsky. They were young teenagers in 2000. All have parents or grandparents still in the area, and most still live here. Where are other young helpers from previous years? Please send updates and photos if possible!

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NEXT WALKS AND TALKS

Monday, Sept. 2 at 9 AM
The *REAL* Birds of Bodega!

As part of B50 – the 50th anniversary celebration of Hitchcock's ***The Birds*** in Bodega – join us for an informative walk along Salmon Creek to see and hear about the birds that populate this area with expert Gordon Beede.

Sunday, Sept. 29 2-4 PM
Rain Gardens

Please join us at the Salmon Creek School for a tour and talk about the wonderful demonstration rain garden planted there with Cleo Woelfle-Erskine, author of *Creating Rain Gardens.*

ALL WALKS AND TALKS ARE $10 ADULTS, $5 CHILDREN. Please RSVP to reserve your spot at walks@bodegalandtrust.org or call 874.9001.

SALMON CREEK WATERSHED HAILED AS REGIONAL MODEL

by Brittany Heck, Executive Director, Gold Ridge RCD and Hazel Flett

The Salmon Creek Watershed is becoming regionally renowned for its forward thinking, collaborative, non-regulatory driven restoration program and is often cited as a model for other watershed efforts.

In 2005, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (GRRCD) received grant funding from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to develop the Salmon Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan. The Plan strives to integrate environmental management, natural resource protection, agricultural sustainability, and community goals to provide a guide for improving watershed health.

The planning process has been a multi-faceted, multi-partner program, begun in earnest to address poor habitat conditions in the Salmon Creek Watershed through prioritized implementation and long-term outreach and education. The goal of this plan is to develop a program that, if implemented effectively, will improve the rankings of several key habitat condition indicators (e.g., summer rearing baseflow, primary pools and shelter, large woody debris, and turbidity), currently ranked as "Poor" for coho salmon to "Good." (NOAA Fisheries, Southwest Region, 2009 draft in press)

The Plan takes a watershed approach to addressing the issues of water quality and quantity, rather than looking at stream restoration on a site-specific basis. Through a geomorphic assessment, sediment source and water quality analysis, and water supply and demand study, a thorough base of resource knowledge was examined to better understand the current state of the Salmon Creek Watershed. Based on these assessments, it was then determined what actions should be taken to enhance and protect the natural resources of the watershed for current and future generations. GRRCD will serve as the chair and directly administer the implementation of the Plan, with oversight and technical assistance from the Technical Advisory Committee.

Activities to date include development of a watershed-wide water supply planning, management and outreach program aimed at reducing impacts to streamflow and water quality, installation of estuary habitat structures to increase smolt rearing success, road and gully fine sediment reduction projects, instream habitat (LWD) improvement projects, and riparian revegetation and fencing.

The Plan lists possible partners who may be willing to work with Gold Ridge RCD on each of these sub-recommendations. I'll focus on those for Bodega Land Trust (BLT).

Bodega Land Trust's Involvement

BLT's existing program is described as conservation easements, outreach and education, and stewardship activities on properties with easements. The Plan suggests that along with Sonoma Land Trust and the Open Space District, BLT identify priority areas for forest and woodland conservation, including late-successional redwoods that provide habitat for special-status species (Uplands 1b).

Uplands 2 Grasslands; in the 1990s BLT supported watershed ranchers in developing and implementing ranch plans (2a). It could currently

help identify priority areas for native grassland conservation (2c) and help refine management strategies that promote native grassland species (2b), working with the Sonoma Marin Coastal Grasslands Working Group.

Uplands 4a lists BLT as a possible partner in identifying and protecting areas needed for wildlife corridors and critical habitat.

The Plan recognizes BLT as active in instream and riparian enhancement, a possible partner in increasing and protecting riparian corridor widths to improve function and habitat quality (1a), enhancing riparian corridor structure complexity and species richness (1b), increasing wood in stream channels (2a), and promoting tree establishment along the active channel and on stream banks (2c). These trees (2c) stabilize banks, provide complexity to slow flood velocities, deposit fine sediment and protect seedlings, and allow undercut banks to develop.

Finally the Plan lists BLT, along with producers, Farm Trails, the Farm Bureau, LandPaths, SLT, Open Space, NRCS and Gold Ridge, in supporting producers in diversifying income and seeking financial assistance, in order to keep large ranches viable (Ag.2).

The Plan includes a section on project selection criteria and process. Then it moves to outreach and education, which are fundamental to the success of the Plan, and lists newsletters and websites, tours and public meetings, and presentations and information booths at community events - all things which BLT does. A shared electronic calendar and regular watershed summits would be welcome additions, helping to co-ordinate the activities of many partners. Funding sources for Plan implementation and a comment on permits are a realistic conclusion.

The Salmon Creek Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan was prepared jointly by staff at the GRRCD and ecological consulting firm Prunuske Chatham, Inc. with assistance from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Plan and much more information are available on Gold Ridge's website: ***www.goldridgercd.org.***

The Salmon Creek Watershed Council is also seeking residents with rain gauge or well information to share. Please email *dshatkin@sonic.net* or contact them through their website at ***www.salmoncreekwater.org.***

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Uplands
Uplands 1:Manage forests and woodlands to maintain diversity and ecosystem function.
Uplands 2: Protect existing coastal prairie and other grasslands rich in native species and manage for healthy grasslands throughout the watershed.
Uplands 3: Reduce impact of invasive species populations on habitat quality and function.
Uplands 4: Preserve undisturbed upland habitat and its connectivity.

Instream and riparian (IR) enhancement
IR 1: Protect and increase existing riparian corridors.
IR 2: Increase instream channel complexity.
IR 3: Reduce fine sediment delivery and maintain gravel quality.

Water quality (WQ) enhancement
WQ 1: Minimize turbidity and the delivery of fine sediment from upland sources.
WQ 2: Maintain and improve summer water temperatures.
WQ 3: Increase summer dissolved oxygen levels in pools.
WQ 4: Minimize nutrient and pathogen delivery.
WQ 5: Promote minimal use and proper disposal of toxic compounds.

Water supply sustainability (WS)
WS 1: Develop storage-based water supplies to reduce reliance on, and utilization of, extractive sources.
WS 2: Reduce water demands.
WS 3: Recharge springs and groundwater.

Agricultural sustainability
Ag. 1: Facilitate opportunities for producers to process and market agricultural products locally.
Ag. 2: Preserve open space and rural landscapes by keeping large agricultural parcels intact and their operations viable.
Ag.3:Ensure sustainable resource use in agricultural production.

SALMON CREEK RANCH
Starting a working ranch from scratch

by Lesley Brabyn, www.salmoncreekranch.com
Photos courtesy of Salmon Creek Ranch

When nearing retirement age, many people start thinking about traveling or look forward to pursuing neglected hobbies. They usually don't think of moving to the middle of relatively nowhere to start a whole new lifestyle and livelihood. But that is what my husband and I did in 2007.

We had been living in Marin County, where I was the executive director of a nonprofit. My husband John, a biomedical engineer (who still has to keep his day job in San Francisco) is the director of a nonprofit eye research institute. And Jocelyn, our daughter,

was working on the east coast as a field archeologist. Thank goodness, she got sick of digging in the snow and sweltering heat and came back to California where she is now instrumental in every aspect of our family business. Our son, bless his heart, hates farming and is currently pursuing a career in academia at the University of Michigan.

It was not as if we were total strangers to a pitchfork or shovel. My husband spent many a summer milking cows, driving tractors and learning all kinds of useful skills while growing up in rural New Zealand. And I am part owner of a still operational 126 acre farm in Southern California that has been in my family since 1886.

We started looking for some land to buy and found almost 400 acres set among even larger parcels along Salmon Creek near Bodega. Because the purchase was such a stretch, we had to figure out how to make it a profitable venture. We needed to make an income from our operation and needed to do it fast.

Although hampered by having no outbuildings, cross fencing or animal shelters of any kind, we at least did not have to look at dilapidated things in need of repair and we could design what we needed as we learned what that was. However, it was a bit of a Catch-22: we needed structures to house our animals, but also had to earn the capital to build them at the same time. So we hit the ground running, learning how and what to farm as we both produced and started to build the infrastructure necessary to run a business.

We immediately applied to have our pastures certified organic, which we obtained without difficulty, as our land had been left to its own devices for decades. However, the pastures were overgrown with brush, berry vines and lots and lots of poison oak, making a conventional grazing operation a bit of a challenge. Plus, the terrain was undulating to steep, so we felt grazing lots of cattle not to be the best fit for the land, given the damage they could do to a hillside. So,

goats became the logical choice with our plan being to eventually convert to sheep, once the pastures were tidied up.

Our next challenge was to choose a goat breed that would fit with our management style as well as the climate and terrain out here. We chose the Kiko, a meat breed from New Zealand. We brought our first goats home in April of 2008, all four of them, and now run a herd of about100. They've done a great job of civilizing the pastures and we've grown to appreciate their quirkiness. Our goat meat is completely range fed and no, we do not produce goat milk. All milk produced by our goats is used to raise their own young.

We also began a free-range poultry operation to produce pastured duckling and duck eggs. We currently produce pastured duck meat and certified organic duck eggs. Over 15 Whole Foods Markets carry our duck eggs as well as several independents. We also ship our duck eggs all over the United States and our duck can be found in some of the Bay Area's finest restaurants.

Most recently, we've added beef cattle to the mix and are producing 100% grass fed beef: Angus and some Scottish Highlanders. Not a lot as we don't want to overstock. But the cattle have the full run of the ranch and get to choose what they want to eat when they want it, which certainly seems to benefit the taste and texture of the meat. Scottish cattle fit this landscape well.

As any of you know who have been out to the coast, this is gorgeous country. As landowners, we feel profound gratitude for being able to own a precious piece of it. When our time is up on this plane, we want to leave our little corner healthier than when we found it, and minimally impacted by our activities. Because of this, we continue to work on projects with various groups who are concerned about the land and the creatures populating it. These have included the Department of Forestry and Cal Fire to assess the health and safety of our 200 acres of forest, which include some breathtaking stands of redwoods and an amazing collection of flora and fauna, all now very well documented by a licensed forester. We are working with the Gold Ridge Conservation District on an ongoing project to repopulate Salmon Creek with salmon by restoring habitat, checking water flows and fostering the hatching and growth of baby salmon. We continue to work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service on projects related to erosion prevention and with the California Certified Organic Farmers on keeping our land free of pesticides and our animals happy and healthy. We look forward every January to the annual bird count when the Audubon Club's delightful volunteers very busily set out to document the birds they see on our ranch.

We are half way through our 6th year out here and love it. There are few places left in this country where the postmaster hands you your mail without you having to say a word, let alone stand in a line, and where the local coffee house barista hands you your regular brew as soon as you walk in the door.

Make no mistake about it, farming is hard work and we've had plenty of ups and downs. If it is not predators, it is the weather. Bobcats, mountain lions, great horned owls and ravens are not stopped by electric fences. So we've employed a team of livestock guardian dogs to protect our animals as a non-lethal method of predator control. These dogs have been bred for thousands of years to live with the flocks they protect. One look at these giants is enough to send any coyote scurrying to the next farm over where the pickings may be a little easier had. We must operate outside all year round and there have been days, when the rain is pelting down in sheets and the wind is blowing a gale, and we've still got 1,000 ducks to feed, that we've wanted to just sit down in the mud and cry. But then, the storm passes, the duck survive and we thanks the heavens that we are allowed to live in this beautiful place.

One of my friends asks me every time I talk with her, "Any regrets?" She cannot imagine living out here where water comes from a well, where there are no pizza deliveries and you need to allow at least 10 extra minutes to get from your house to a paved road. I think about that for a moment, but only for the briefest moment. "Absolutely not", I say. But then I have to hang up the phone in a hurry to tend to the water leak I just spotted out the window……

A LOOK AT ...

WHITE-TAILED KITES (*Elanus leucurus*)

Part of a Series on Grassland Animals by Leah Norwood

One October, I glanced up at a line of cedars and was surprised to see at least one white-tailed kite sitting on the top of every tree as far as I could see. It was a lovely sight: kites dressed in white, gray and black set against the blue sea and sky; dark-green trees and orange pumpkins in the fields. White-tailed kites are medium-sized raptors that forage in open grassy areas with water nearby and just enough trees to hunt from and nest in. Diurnal rodents make up most of their diet, and, from the description above, kites roost colonially in fall and winter.

White-tailed kites live in coastal and central California as well as disjunct portions of Oregon, the Gulf States, Florida, Mexico and South America. Here in Sonoma County, White-tailed kites are fairly common year-round. You can see them hunting in the coastal grasslands along highway 1, and if you're stuck in traffic on highway 101, you can almost always enjoy a "free kite show" in Petaluma where the spiral staircases advertise themselves on the west side of the freeway.

Unlike most raptors, kites have only two plumages: juvenile and adult. Juvenile plumage consists of rusty edging on the head, back and breast with white edging on the contour feathers, and adult plumage consists of lots of white with black shoulder patches and gray wings, backs and median tail feathers. This snazzy "outfit" is completed by black wrist spots on the underside of the wings. Male and female plumage is almost identical. Watch for the adults' scarlet eyes—the eyes of the young go from dark to orange to red.

Kite nests are placed in the tops of trees, often oaks, and are open to the sky. The outside of the nests tend to be "decorated" with cedar boughs to help sanitize the nest and protect the hatchlings from parasites. This is especially necessary when nests are reused from year-to-year. Kite nests can go from being built so shoddily that "one of the four eggs partially fell through the nest" to being so well-made and water-tight that "after a storm, the eggs were almost submerged" (Bent, 1937).

In terms of conservation, White-tailed kites have quite a checkered history with human beings. Hunters thought that kites (and other raptors) ate the game birds they were after, and cartridge companies capitalized on this by encouraging hunters to kill all raptors. There may also have been an impact on White-tailed kites from egg collectors (oologists) since kite eggs are gorgeous: their surfaces "covered with chocolate in several intensities and each of ravishing richness" (Dawson, 1923). Between 1890 and 1932, kites were nearly extirpated from California; in 1927, there were less than fifty pairs in the entire state.

Then, from the late 1930s into the 1970s, humans helped increase kite populations by outlawing raptor hunting and cultivating more land for agriculture—giving kites more open space to hunt in and more rodents to eat. From the 1960s on, kites have been listed as a "Fully Protected Species" by California Fish & Game, and with groups like Bodega Land Trust protecting grasslands and coastal prairies, white-tailed kites have made a great comeback.

The word "kite" comes from Aryan skut and Old English cyta, both meaning "to go swiftly" the way these birds go after prey. Kites hunt from the air by "hovering" or "kiting." In bird lingo, hovering means remaining in place while flapping the wings—which kites do with great regularity. But "kiting" itself means hanging motionless in the air. "Where there are tall Lombardy poplar-trees these birds amuse themselves by perching on the topmost slender twigs, until the tree-tops are swept by the wind from under them, when they often remain poised motionless in the air until the twigs return to their feet" (Bent, 1937). If that isn't kiting, I don't know what is.

TRACKING HAWKS

by Hazel Flett

Before Christmas last year, my husband, Joe, and I observed people on Salmon Creek Road in Bodega with a radio transmitter. A day or two later they were on the top of the ranch. We learned that they were tracking a particular hawk, who was flying from tree to tree, and that they were from Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. I later wrote to the observatory, which is a program of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy.

Our hawk, Echo, was one of three telemetry birds they tracked last fall; he was a juvenile red-tailed hawk. The other two were broadwinged hawks, one of which flew a net distance of 515 miles to Mexico in four days (tracked all the way) and the other was found dead on Angel Island with a wound on the back which pierced a lung. All three birds started at Marin Headlands. Echo flew north (most birds were migrating south at this time of year) and covered 44 miles. He spent a night on the Headlands, then headed to Stafford Lake Park in Novato and then to Bodega, where he stayed put through a small storm system for 3 days. He was still moving around in the hills above Bodega when the study ended just before Christmas.

According to Jill Harley, program manager for the observatory, they have been working on tracking hawks for over 20 years. Their "mission is to inspire the preservation of birds of prey." They monitor and study the bird of prey migration along the central California coast, particularly at Marin Headlands, part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The organization is dedicated to the conservation of raptors, both through careful data collection and through involving the public in every aspect of their research."

The program is made up of 300 community volunteers and a small staff. They have a wonderful site for counting migrating hawks and vultures; in 2012 (August 20 to December 9) they sighted 25,138, an average of 56.87 per hour of observation; their average per year 2001 to 2011 was 28,587. They also banded 2,036 raptors in 2012. They track hawks by telemetry and by cellular transmitter terminals, fitted to the hawks; they have 5 transmitters and tracked 4 red-tailed hawks and a peregrine falcon.

For more information, please go to their website at *www.parksconservancy.org/programs/ggro/*.

MONITORING REPORT FOR 2012-13

Sharon Sadler, Monitoring Coordinator

Thank you once again for everybody's help and enthusiasm. We had a good year in the field with no problems and fingerlings were sighted in Fay Creek.

We got to work with a few new local monitors in 2012 including Kathleen Kamins, Kit Illingworth and Gabe Nelson who all did multiple monitoring trips. We also were blessed with the time and talents of returning monitors, including Lori Curtis who spent quite a few hours in the office and in the field. Carol Sklar went on three monitoring trips. Jay Sliwa led Coleman Valley Canyon and has done so for the last four years! Maria Potter returned and led Fay Creek Corridor. Jack Proctor returned and went on two monitoring trips.

Steve Pye, intern from Sonoma State, worked a lot at the beginning of the year in the field and office and then led the first ever Freeman Easement monitoring this year as he had worked on the baseline.

More of the backlog of monitoring books, photos and surveys of easement by year have been completed. There is always work to be done on this project and anybody interested in helping with cataloging, gluing photos and/or helping with keeping up with filing and transcribing the incoming monitoring reports and photos, just give Sharon Sadler, Monitoring Coordinator, a holler at 707-874-2795.

So far in 2013, we have held a monitor training at Salmon Creek Falls Education Center with ten new monitors ready and trained for this season. We have monitored three of the twelve easements. If you are interested in monitoring you can always call Sharon to join a monitoring crew for 2013 and be trained individually or in small groups during the spring, summer and fall monitoring season. Just ask our volunteers – monitoring is FUN!

NEWS AND MUSE(ings)

WALKS AND TALKS

Bodega Land Trust has had a busy spring with our ever-popular Walks and Talks series of community education presentations. We want to thank our leaders who so generously gave of their time and knowledge: Hazel Flett, Kate Lundquist, Jeanne Chinn, Paul Kaiser, Kathleen Kraft, and Rick Coates. All provided fascinating glimpses into the natural history of the "place" we call home here in Coastal Sonoma County.

The year began, as it should, with birth. Communing with newborn lambs is the perfect way to get in touch with our farmers and rich agricultural rangelands that support the thousands of head of sheep that grace our area's grasslands and hillsides. **January's Lamb Walk and Talk** at Bodega Pastures with Hazel Flett was so popular that we added a second day.

February was **all about the beavers.** In partnership with the Salmon Creek Watershed Council, Kate Lundquist from Occidental Arts and Ecology Center (OAEC) had a fascinating presentation on the habits and habitats of beavers, and how they could help to restore salmon in our creeks and streams.

Wildlife corridors were the topic in March, with Jeanne Chinn of the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife explaining how corridors connect fragments of habitat and create a bypass for wildlife that protects plants, animals, and genetic flow.

In April we celebrated spring's early arrival with the ever-popular **tour of Singing Frogs Farm** in Sebastopol. Farmer Paul Kaiser has created one of the most diverse natural and cultivated habitats on his family farm, weaving a web of interdependent plants and animals. This is a don't-miss tour you want to be sure you don't miss next year!

May was the perfect month to walk and talk about **coastal prairies** and the amazing diversity of grasses, wildflowers, and critters. This presentation was led by Kathleen Kraft, an expert on California native grassland conservation.

And in June, we "walked our talk" with local railroad buff Rick Coates as we explored the **history of our local railroad**. This was so popular that we are considering another one this fall. STAY TUNED!

If you appreciate BLT's Walks and Talks series and would like to support it, please consider a donation (see envelope inside or visit our website).

Please visit our new website!

We have redesigned it so it can be easily updated by our very non-techie staff of one! Let us know what you think, what we should add, and any other tips.

BODEGALANDTRUST.ORG

Oh yes, and of course be sure to LIKE us on Facebook!

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday and Monday Sept. 1-2

We are honored to be one of two nonprofit recipents of proceeds from the exciting **B50** celebrating the 50th anniversary of the filming of Hitchcock's *The Birds* in Bodega. **Sunday evening** will be a gourmet dinner, including rare scenes from the film and special guests.

On **Monday at 9 AM** we'll host a Walk and Talk tour all about the *real* birds of Bodega. For details on both, please visit our website at ***bodegalandtrust.org.*** Tickets and lots more information on B50 can be found at ***bodegabirds.com.***

Many Thanks

to the following businesses and individuals who so generously gave donations to our 2012 Dinner and Auction and BLT lunch.

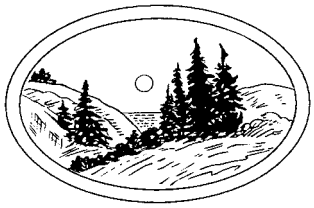
Jan Aanstoos * Andy's Produce Markets * Thia Ashonoah * Artisans' Co-op * Aubergine * Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds * Barley and Hops * Marcy Basel * Bloomfield Farms * Bodega Bay Kayak * Bodega Country Store * Bodega History Group * Bodega Pastures Sheep * Bohemian Market * Bud's Custom Meats * Cher Church * California Redwood Chorale * Linda Cannefax * Cinnabar Theater * Colleen's Coffee Shop * Copperfield's Books * Carol Covey * Bill Duncan * East West Café * Judy Fisher * Forchetta/Bastoni * Freeman Winery * Frizelle-Enos * Global Village * Gourmet au Bay * Gourmet Mushrooms * Jim Grant * Grow Gardens * Hand Goods * Harbor View Gifts * Harmony Farm Supply * Sharon Harston * Hat in Hand * Iron Horse Vineyards * Jeff Johnson * Michele Anna Jordan * Libby Kirk Art Glass * Abby Killey and Donkeys * Lagunitas Brewing Co. * Larner Seeds * Laguna Farm * Landmark Studio * Peter Lowell's Restaurant * Madrone Audubon Society * Martha's Old Mexico Restaurant * Many Rivers * Mockingbird Books * Mostly Natives Nursery * Joan Mortenson * Naturlich Flooring * Edie Nelson * Northern Light Surf Shop * Occidental Arts & Ecology Center * Occidental Center for the Arts * Occidental Video * Osmosis Day Spa Sanctuary * Owl Ridge Winery * Pacific Market * Patagonia Clothing * People's Music * The Ratto Group * Rose and Thorn Gift Shop * Safeway * Tammi Salas * Sandpiper Seafood Restaurant * Santa Rosa Symphony * Sebastopol Hardware Center * Sixth Street Playhouse * Carol Sklar * Slice of Life * Sonoma Fine Wines * Sonoma Gourmet * Spring Hill Cheese * Annie Springer * Laird Sutton * Taylor Maid Coffee * Terrapin Creek Café * Trader Joe's * Traditional Medicinals * Union Hotel Restaurant * Valley Ford Market * Vera van Schaick * Weiraugh Farm and Creamery * West County Cycle Service * Whole Foods * Wild Flour Bread * Windwalker Designs

Our amazing lunch and dinner volunteers included:

Abby Killey
Ann Cassidy
Benedicta Jacobs
Betsy Mundell
Carol Sklar
Cathi Bruton
Charlotte Cassidy
Cynthia Poten
Daniel Chadima
Dhruba Jacobs
Elaine Hards
Gabe Nelson
Hazel Flett
Ian Cracknell
Jay Sliwa
Jill Davison
Joan Mortenson
Jodie Rubin
John Bruton
Jon Gorman
Jordan Senia
Josh Jacobs
Jodie Rubin
Luana Presler
Lucy Bennett
Matt Elias
Owens Ryan
Patti O'Rourke
Sandy Sharp
Sandy Wilds
Sarah Schaefer
Scott van Cleemput
Sharon Sadler
Steve Killey
Sue Holve
Tess Pohlmann

...and thanks for the great music from Tonebent!

Interested in helping out with our 2013 events?
We'd love to have your auction donations or volunteer help posting flyers, sending emails, preparing the tables, cooking, serving, cleaning up, and a whole host of other essential jobs. Please contact Deborah Walton at events@bodegalandtrust.org for a signup form. Thank you so much!



BODEGA LAND TRUST
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BODEGALANDTRUST.ORG

SAVE THE DATES!

AUGUST 8
BLT COMMUNITY FORUM
See front cover

SEPTEMBER 1-2
B50 EVENT IN BODEGA
See page 10

OCTOBER 26
BODEGA LAND TRUST ANNUAL DINNER
See page 3

Details Inside!