2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amy Chesnut
Acquisitions Director, Sonoma Land Trusts

Amy is the Acquisitions Director at the Sonoma Land Trust. She joined SLT in 2004, and has focused her transactional work on the working lands of the North Coast of Sonoma County. She has been a member of CCLT’s Northern Region Council since 2008. Amy holds a J.D. from Lewis & Clark College, Northwestern School of Law, and has been working in land conservation for nearly 20 years, including legal and acquisition positions at The Nature Conservancy, Portland’s Regional Government-Metro, The Pacific Forest Trust, and the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District.

Terry Corwin, Treasurer
Executive Director, Land Trusts of Santa Cruz County

Terry Corwin, a long-time Santa Cruz resident, is the Executive Director of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and a former member of the Land Trusts Board of Trustees. Under her leadership the Land Trust is on a path of growth and re-invigoration. She spent most of her non-profit career as a CPA in corporate finance; in charge of taxation, treasury and SEC reporting for Plantronics, controller for Brocade Communications, VP of Finance for Core Technology and CFO for technology start-up at Extenex. Terry also serves as trustee on the Happy Valley School Board.

Gail Egenes
Executive Director, Riverside Land Conservancy

Gail Egenes is the Executive Director of Riverside Land Conservancy, a non-profit land trust which has conserved almost 12,000 acres of habitat and open space land throughout southern California. Ms. Egenes is a member of the California Council of Land Trusts (CCLT) Board of Directors, CCLT’s Horizons Committee, Southern California Open Space Council Steering Committee, and GrowRiverside, a local initiative to increase food security and local agriculture. She holds a B.A. in German, English and International Business and has been involved in non-profit management for over 30 years.

William H. Leahy II, Chair
Executive Director, Big Sur Land Trust

Since joining BSLT in November, 2003, he has focused on directing a new expanded vision for the land trust’s role in Monterey County. Bill has been instrumental in launching a new era of community partnership, building on the Trust’s successful track record to date. Prior to joining
the Trust, Bill worked for over 11 years at The Nature Conservancy (TNC) where he was involved in numerous conservation transactions, community-based projects and related policy issues. Bill received his Bachelor’s degree in economics from Vanderbilt University, and spent eight years in commercial real estate. His favorite pursuits including camping and backpacking with his family, skiing and playing the guitar.

Wendy Millet, Vice Chair  
TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation

Wendy directs the TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation which includes management of the ranch. Prior to that she directed the education program at the Woods Institute at Stanford University. Prior to this, she served as Associate State Director and Chief of Staff for The Nature Conservancy-California. Before Joining TNC, she served as Executive Director of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. She has also worked at The Conservation Fund, the Foundation for Research on Economics and the Environment, California Resources Agency, U.S. Forest Capital, and as Manager of a working cattle/guest ranch in Wyoming. Wendy serves on the Advisory Board for the Save the Redwoods League, Mendocino Land Trust, and Hope to Change: Women with Solutions to Global Warming.

Walter Moore  
Peninsula Open Space Trust

Walter Moore became president of the Peninsula Open Space Trust in 2011 after serving several roles at POST since 1995, including general counsel and vice president. Since joining the organization, he has been responsible for more than doubling the amount of open space land POST has protected, from just under 30,000 acres to more than 70,000 acres. Prior to coming to POST, Mr. Moore was an associate with the law firm of Thoits, Love, Hershberger, and McLean after graduating from the University of California's Hastings College of Law. Mr. Moore serves on the board of the California Council of Land Trusts and is the former chair of the Bay Area Open Space Council and a founding member of the Land Trust Alliance Leadership Council.

Harry Pollack  
General Counsel, Save the Redwoods League

Harry became Save the Redwoods League's General Counsel in 2011. Prior to joining the League, Harry’s law firm Conservation Partners represented land trusts throughout the state. In addition to his professional work, he has served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations. Harry assisted in creating the California Council of Land Trusts and serves on its Government Relations Committee. His past pro bono work included drafting the voter initiatives that helped establish McLaughlin Eastshore State Park. In his spare time, Harry serves on the City of Berkeley’s Planning Commission where he was Commission chair for three years.
Mark Silberstein
Executive Director, Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Mark Silberstein has worked on the conservation of coastal environments for over three decades. As Executive Director of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Mark has led the development of the National Estuarine Research Reserve and established the Foundation as a successful land trust working in the central Monterey Bay area. With a background in Marine Zoology and Ecology, he has worked from the edge of the Arctic Ocean to Antarctica, but is most at home on the tideflats of Elkhorn Slough. Mark was honored with the 2013 Environmental Law Institute's National Wetlands Award for Community Leadership. He lives with his family in Aptos, California.

Nita Vail
Executive Director, California Rangeland Trust

Nita Vail was named Executive Director for the California Rangeland Trust in September, 2001. She is a fourth-generation cattle rancher, with a background in agribusiness, policy and environmental consulting. Nita was appointed by Governor Wilson to serve as Assistant Secretary of Agricultural and Environmental Policy for the California Department of Food from 1994-1999. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Agricultural Management from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA and her MBA from University of Santa Clara, Institute of Agribusiness in Santa Clara, CA.