



Newsletter • June 2020

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Mill Bend. Photo by Craig Tooley

## RCLC Launches Final Phase of Campaign to Preserve Mill Bend

**“Restoring and preserving these lands will not only bring much-needed recreational value to the area, but will have long-lasting benefits for our invaluable coastal wetlands and uplands habitat.”**

**-U.S. Representative Jared Huffman**

With major grants and key lead gifts already in place, RCLC is very close to reaching our overall campaign goal of \$2.7 million to preserve Mill Bend.

RCLC has already secured over \$2.1 million in state and federal grants and has raised nearly \$400,000 from foundations and community contributions for the acquisition, project planning and stewardship of the site.

This month RCLC is launching the final phase of the campaign to raise the \$205,000 still needed to reach the goal for the \$600,000 stewardship fund being established for responsible management of the property. Once these final funds are raised, the strikingly beautiful Mill Bend site will be preserved and protected forever.

When the Mill Bend property came on the market in 2017, RCLC responded to a unique opportunity to preserve this scenic and environmentally sensitive property for the community and, as the local land trust for the Mendonoma coast, has taken the lead role in raising the funds needed to acquire and manage the site.

The prospect of raising nearly \$3 million dollars to protect Mill Bend from development seemed daunting at the outset, but, with the help of several key partners along the way, what was once just a hope is now close to reality.

Stepping forward at a critical point, our interim conservation buyer The Allemall Foundation purchased the property to give RCLC the time needed to identify sources for permanent funding.



Aerial view of Mill Bend and Hwy 1, looking south.  
Photo by Craig Tooley.

Last month, RCLC was awarded three major grants totaling \$2.1 million from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California State Coastal Conservancy for acquisition and planning for the Mill Bend site.

RCLC also talked with key donors and obtained \$300,000 in lead gifts and pledges toward the campaign to preserve Mill Bend. Other community contributions for Mill Bend have raised that total to \$395,000 as the final phase of the campaign begins.

“I want to thank our lead donors Larry Jacobs and Mirka Knaster, Susan Clark, Cindy Kennedy, the Resource Legacy Fund, and other donors for their generous contributions and our partners Sonoma Land Trust and Gualala Arts for their commitment to the project,” says RCLC President Tina Batt.

RCLC hopes to complete this final phase of the campaign by sometime this fall. Once the final \$205,000 has been raised, RCLC will be able to close escrow on the property, and planning for the long-term preservation and restoration of the Mill Bend site can begin.



*Conserving and restoring open space and the natural environment along the Mendonoma Coast*

## Board of Directors

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**Gualala Bluff Trail:**  
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Mary Sue Ittner

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**Editor:** Laurie Mueller  
**Layout:** Tempra Board

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# Introducing Tina Batt, RCLC's New Board President



My husband and I have been living part time in Sea Ranch since 2013. We overlook the Gualala River watershed, and enjoy kayaking the Gualala River estuary, exploring the Mill Bend shoreline and wildlife. Like so many people in the region, we learned about Mill Bend from the local newspaper, the Independent Coast Observer, and started following RCLC's work to acquire and permanently protect Mill Bend.

I was introduced to Kathleen Chasey, Mill Bend's volunteer project manager by a friend, Peter Colby, who now works for the Western Rivers Conservancy. Peter

and his organization recently acquired conservation easements on a property in the Gualala River watershed and Kathleen had contacted him to learn more about their work. It was an exciting first meeting that took place last fall, as RCLC was working with a conservation buyer to acquire Mill Bend.

My land trust work has evolved over the years to include organizational and fund development consulting to support a number of land trusts and conservation organizations. As RCLC's new Board President, I am excited to bring my experience and passion for conservation to building the organizational capacity of the Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, as we acquire Mill Bend and support the community's vision for protecting the Gualala River watershed and the Mendonoma Coast.

*Tina Batt*

## New Volunteer Involvement

The possibility of securing Mill Bend for our community has attracted new leadership and volunteer commitment to RCLC to help us achieve our goals for Mill Bend and other projects.

### RCLC Board

Seven new members have joined the RCLC board since we first announced our interest in acquiring the Mill Bend site in late 2017. They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help lead us through the acquisition, planning and long-term stewardship of the Mill Bend site. You can read more about their backgrounds, areas of expertise and their love of and connection to the natural environment and the Mendonoma coast on our website.

### Advisory Panel

Over the years RCLC has also benefited from the special expertise of many community volunteers who have been generous with their time and skills. As our projects and opportunities continue to expand in scope and number, we will need even more help to achieve our goals. To that end, RCLC is creating an Advisory Panel to provide consultation to RCLC Board and committee members on specific projects or respond to other needs that might arise.

Other volunteers have stepped forward to help with various tasks ranging from eradicating pampas grass to helping with events and administrative tasks and with social media and other community outreach.

## New Logo and Website

You may have noticed our new logo, which has been redesigned to reflect the central place that Mill Bend and the Gualala River now have in our mission to preserve and restore our coastal environment. Many thanks to talented graphic artist Drew Fagan, who designed the new logo.

We have also redesigned our website, which has a new look, a greater ease of use and many new features for our members and volunteers. RCLC Board members Robin Applegarth and Joel Chaban headed up this major web design project, again with the able help of Drew, who designed many appealing visuals for the website, including a slider of photos and an interactive map of our public access sites. Several photographers, including Paul Brewer, Ethan Applegarth and Craig Tooley have provided stunning shots of Gualala River scenes for the website.



## Become an RCLC Volunteer

Preserving and restoring the Mill Bend site is a major community project that will require many volunteers. As a volunteer organization, RCLC has always relied on volunteers from the community to complete and maintain our public access projects, and the Mill Bend project offers many new volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Mill Bend project or for other RCLC projects and needs, you can sign up on our website at [www.rclc.org](http://www.rclc.org) or contact our volunteer coordinator Cheryl Harris at [volunteers@rclc.org](mailto:volunteers@rclc.org).

## Preserving Parkland Since 1992



Since its founding in 1992, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy has been dedicated to conserving and restoring open space and the natural environment and to providing public access to residents of and visitors to the Mendocino Coast.

Through partnerships with the State Coastal Conservancy and other funders, RCLC has successfully created and maintained Cooks Beach, the Gualala Bluff Trail, and the Hearn Gulch Preserve, three scenic sites that provide the only public access to beaches and bluff tops along the first ten miles of the Mendocino County coastline.

The Mill Bend project is the latest and largest project undertaken by RCLC, and by far the most significant. Mill Bend sits at the mouth of the Gualala River and is the gateway to the Gualala River watershed.

Only by purchasing the Mill Bend property can we make plans to protect the estuary and wetlands habitat and restore the salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Gualala River.

Fortunately the response from potential funders, partners, donors and volunteers has been enthusiastic to date. With a successful close to the current fundraising campaign, Mill Bend will be in conservation hands before the end of 2020, and we will be able to move forward with the many plans for its future.

**What do we  
have planned  
for Mill Bend?  
Turn the page!**



# A PARK IS FOREVER. With your help, Redwood Coast



## CONNECT CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL:

Continue Gualala Bluff Trail through Mill Bend and up river past Gualala Arts, and partner with CalTrans on future bike and pedestrian bridge attachment over river.



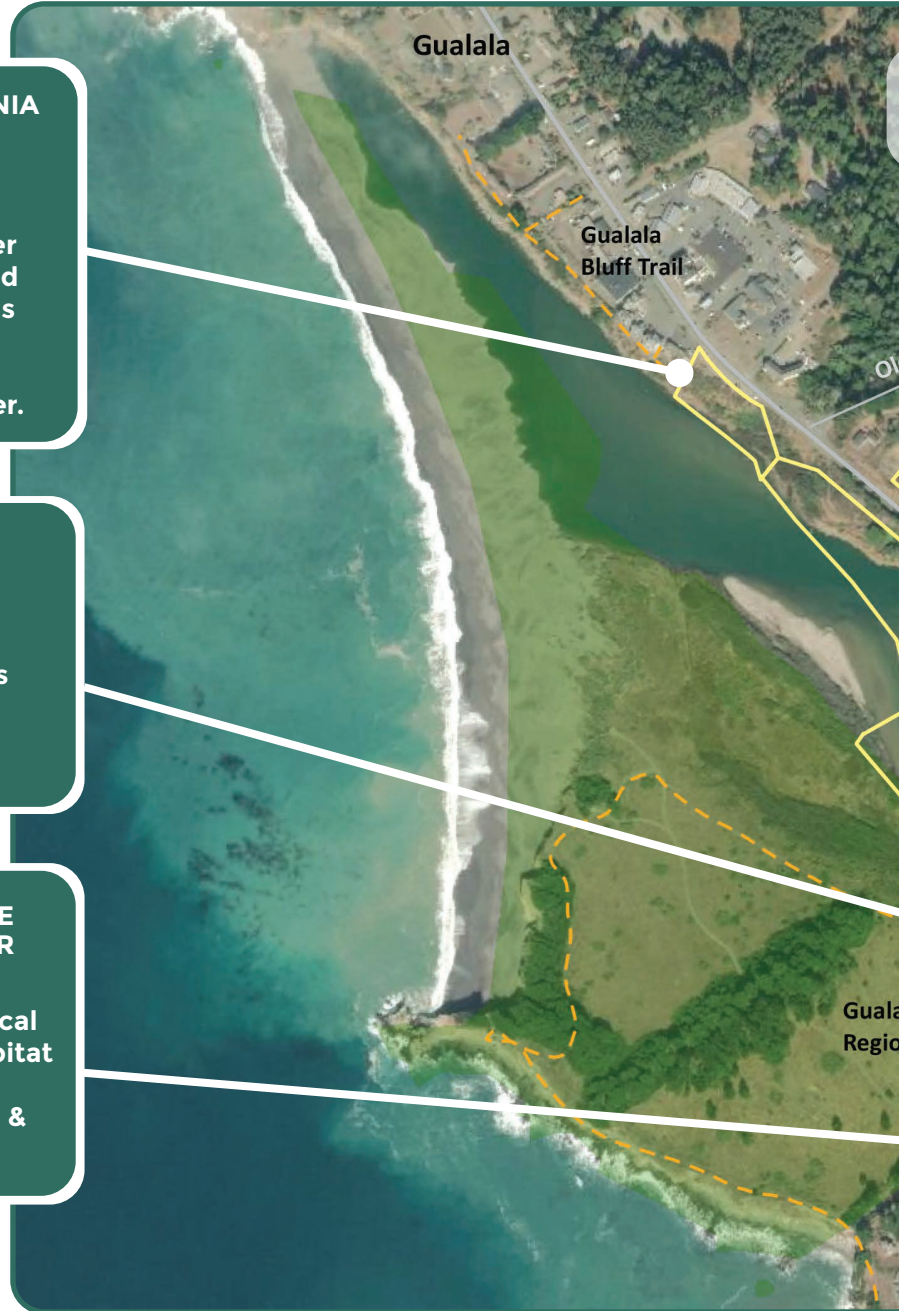
## SURVEY WILDLIFE & PLANTS:

Understand willow wetlands biodiversity for habitat restoration.



## RESTORE THE ESTUARY FOR SALMONIDS:

Improve critical keystone habitat for juvenile Coho salmon & steelhead.

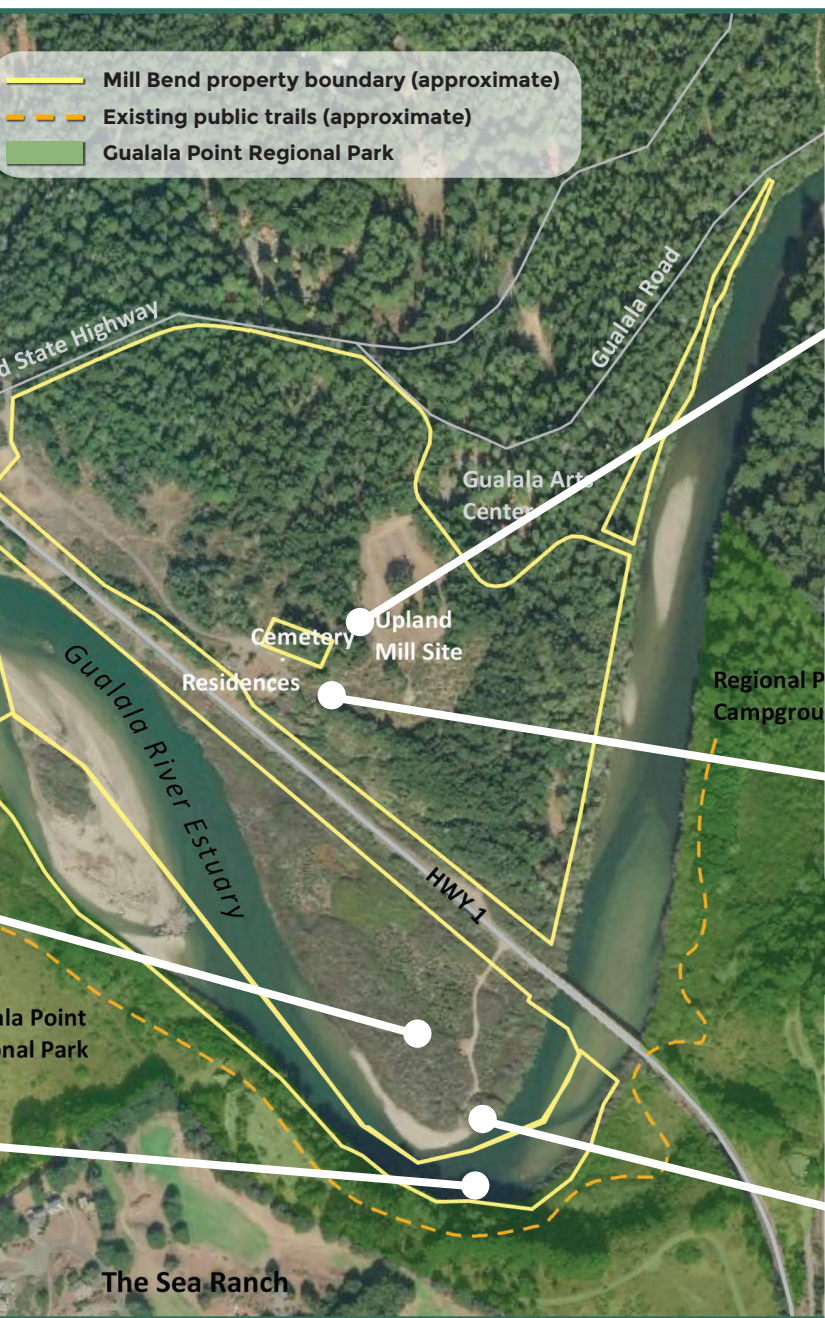


## MILL BEND CONSERVATION Protecting the land, restoring

### PARTNERS:



# Coast Land Conservancy and its partners will ...



**COMPLETE UPLAND RESTORATION:**  
 Replace invasive plants with CA natives, add riverside and redwood forest trails, Gualala Arts parking, and continue cemetery preservation.



**EXPLORE A RESEARCH CENTER**  
 Replace current residences with a facility for environmental education, citizen science training, and more.



**IMPROVE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE RIVER:**  
 Restore kayak access road, improve parking & protect gravel bar beach from vehicles during the summer.



## PROJECT Saving the river, sustaining our community



RCES LEGACY FUND®  
 E SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.



CALIFORNIA  
 NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



PRUNUSKE CHATHAM, INC.

# Mill Bend Technical Advisory Committee Formed



Planning for the Mill Bend site and implementing the various projects for protecting habitat, providing trail connections, restoring the estuary, and improving public access to the river is a multi-year project requiring many areas of expertise. Mill Bend Project Manager Kathleen Chasey is in the process of forming a Mill Bend Technical Advisory Committee, which will provide the expertise and oversight needed for a project of this scale.

## Mill Bend Technical Advisory Committee

**Kathleen Chasey**, Mill Bend Project Manager,  
Mill Bend Technical Advisory Committee Chair

**Lisa Ames**, Program Mgr, CA State Coastal Conservancy

**Laura Baker**, Ecology & Systematic Biology, Friends of  
Gualala River Representative

**Tina Batt**, RCLC Board President, Local Community Rep.

**John Bennett**, Forest Mgr, Gualala Redwoods Timber

**Sean Case**, Environmental Scientist, Gualala River  
Watershed Council

**Roberta Chan**, Ranger Asst, Sonoma County Regional Parks

**Brian Cluer**, Geomorphologist, NOAA NMFS

**Tom Cochrane**, Geologist, Local Community Representative

**Peter Colby**, Director, Western Rivers Conservancy

**Roger Dingman**, Pres, Gualala River Steelhead

**Sarah Gallagher**, Environmental Scientist, CDFW

**Jenn Garrison**, Coastal Conservation Planning, CDFW

**Lauren Hammack**, Geomorphologist, Prunuske Chatham Inc

**Caryl Hart**, Commissioner, California Coastal Commission

**Diane Hichwa**, North Coast Bird Specialist

**Emma Hurley**, Scientific Tech, Gualala R. Watershed Coun.

**Nick Kent**, Resource Manager, Redwood Empire Sawmills

**Kay Martin**, Dir, retired, Ventura Cnty Env. & Energy Res.

**Bob Merrill**, North Coast Dist Mgr, CA Coastal Comm.

**Melanie Parker**, Asst Dir, Sonoma County Reg. Parks

**Renee Pasquinelli**, Sr Environmental Scientist, retired  
Calif. State Parks, CNPS DKY Representative

**Joe Pecharich**, Restoration Scientist, NOAA NMFS

**Sara Press**, Land Acquisitions, Sonoma Land Trust

**Chris Ramsey**, Fisheries Restoration, CDFW

**Joan Schwan**, Vegetation Ecologist, Prunuske Chatham

**Erin Seghesio**, Salmon & Steelhead Recovery  
Coordinator, NOAA NMFS

**Jake Shannon**, Restoration Specialist, State Water Board

**David Sus Susalla**, Director, Gualala Arts Center

**Jon Thompson**, Botanist, California Native Plant Society  
Representative, DKY Chapter

**Craig Tooley**, Mill Bend Project Photographer

**John Walton**, Conservationist, Mediator

**Jonathan Warmerdam**, State Water Control Board

**Peter Warner**, Botanical & Ecological Consultant

**Bert Whitaker**, Director, Sonoma County Regional Parks

**Dan Wilson**, Biologist, NOAA NMFS

## Memorial & Commemorative Gifts

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Alice & Lucien Bray**  
Don & Françoise Kemp

**Marty Covington**  
Bette Covington

**Don Endemann**  
Robert Juengling

**Erwin "Sonny" Hagen**  
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**Robert W Sunstrom**  
Robert Juengling

**Ray & Florence Van de Water**  
Ken & Marian Brown  
Roberta Van de Water

**Mary Van Walterop**  
Anne Hendricks

### IN HONOR OF:

**Linda Bell**  
Elisabeth Watson &  
Nigel Blair-Johns  
**Bluff Trail Volunteers**

Mary Sue Ittner &  
Bob Rutemoeller

**Kathleen Chasey**  
Cheryl Harris

**Lloyd & Kathleen Chasey**  
John & Janet Tweedie

Tom Cochrane  
Elisabeth Cochrane

**Kathie & Marilyn, The Great  
Litter Pickup & Recycling Duo**

Mary Sue Ittner  
**Mary Sue & Bob**

Jay Faulkner  
Bob & Linda Ittner

**Irene Leidner**  
Nancy & Rich Trissel

**Laurie Mueller**  
Laura Baker

**Ivy Phelan**  
Patricia Jean Minor

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**Kayleigh Slusher**  
Julia Sherwin & Michael Haddad

**Nell Susalla**  
Sus & Harmony Susalla

**Richard S Wall**  
Mary S Wall

**John Walton**  
Jeff Gyving & Lena Bullamore

**RCLC wishes to thank the following partnering organizations and individuals for their contributions to Redwood Coast Land Conservancy and the Campaign to Preserve Mill Bend:**

**Major Grants (\$300,000 to \$1 million)**

**United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
California Natural Resources Agency  
California State Coastal Conservancy**

**\$50,000 to \$100,000**

**Larry Jacobs and Mirka Knaster**

**Susan Clark                      Cindy Kennedy                      Anonymous Donor  
Sonoma Land Trust                      Gualala Arts Center**

**\$10,000 & above**

**Resources Legacy Fund                      Lois & Harry Lutz  
Mary Sue Ittner & Bob Rutemoeller                      Rich & Connie Schimbor  
Andrea Lunsford                      Anonymous Donor**

**Under \$1,000 (Oct. 2019 - May 2020)**

Beatrice Acosta • Rob Alcott • David & Lucienne Allen • Gary & Judy Amado • Karl Anderson • Ward & Betsy Anderson • Anonymous • Robin Applegarth • Arkin Tilt Architects • Laura Baker & Lewis Lubin • Edward Barich • Joanna Barnes • Christina Batt & Robert Doyle • Gary Beall • Linda & Frank Bell • Tempra Board • Max Bollock • Charles Bouril • Craig Brestrup & Lynn Cuny • Paul & Jacquie Brewer • Steve & Gayle Brugler • Ryan Buckley • Sandy Bush • Jill Butler • Dinah Carl • Carolyn Case • Joel & Pat Chaban • Charities Aid Foundation of America • Kathleen & Lloyd Chasey • Brad & Linda Clayton • Bob & Phyllis Clement • Elisabeth Cochrane • Tom Cochrane • Steve & Bonnie Coffeysmith • Alison Cormack • Bette Covington • Allen & Camille Cox • John Curtis • Kirsten & Ed Cutler • Leslie & Eric Dahlhoff • Susan & John Dean • Sue and William Denevan • Janis Dolphin • Kristine & David Donadio • Art & Penny Dreyer • Fred & Frances Ducey • Heidi Endemann • Nik & Nancy Epanchin • Brian & Christine Erwin • Jim Finn • Ken & Martha Fischer • James & Susan Flessner • Tim Fulkerson • Kathleen Fusek • Jesus & Carole Garcia • Heinz Gewing • Elizabeth Gledhill • Barbara Gomes • Paula Gordon • Jeff Gyving & Lena Bullamore • George & Pat Haas • Susan-Marie Hagen & Jim Biller • Doug Hammerstrom & Diane Harris • Pete & Harriet Hanauer • Anne Hanlon • Cheryl Harris • Bob & Leslie Harrison • Mary Heibel • Anne Hendricks • Don Hess • Laura Hess • Diane & Bryant Hichwa • Charles & Susan Higgins • Nancy Hoogendyk • Dard & Mary Hunter • Fred & Barbara Ilfeld • Bob & Linda Ittner • Colleen Jackman • Jeanne & Richard Jackson • Lisa Joakimides • William Johnston • Ursula & Derrol Jones • Jim & Joan Jordan • Robert Juengling/Oceanic Land • Francoise & Don Kemp • Linda Kennedy & Andy Lang • Sarah Kilpatrick • Christine & Michael Kreyling • Jack & Paige Likins • Kent & Jann Littleton • Anne & Alex Long • Jerry Lucey • Alyssa Lutz • Pam Maclean • Maureen Maring • Kay Martin • Roger & Pat Maxwell • Drew McCalley & Marilyn Green • Fred & Janet McElroy • Jerry & Barbara Meral • Scott & Theresa Mercer • Marcia Metcalfe • Diane Meyer • Trish Miller & Brent Klopfer • Patricia Jean Minor • James & Patrice Mitchell • Susan Moore • Susan Moreschi • Laurie & Leigh Mueller • Tom Murphy & Pam MacLean • Patricia & Bill Mutch • Kathleen Nangle • Gary Nausler & Marta Brown • Eileen Nolan • James Noss • James Nybakken • David & Evelyn Osteraas • Douglas & Elke Paul • Tony & Linda Perez • John & Jackie Petersen • Mike Petrich / Kreative Wear • Don & Brenda Phillips • Bryan Plude • Dorothy Porter • Richard & Shelley Priest • Richard Ragaini • Peter & Leslie Reimuller • Mark Renneker • Lynn Reynolds • Jennifer Richardson • Erin Riley & John Crowley • Massomeh & Phillip Roberts • Monroe Robinson • Harriet Rose & Steve Keller • Shannon Rosenberg • Donald & Mary Rozenberg • Kathleen Sandidge • Cynthia Schreiner • David & Susan Schultz • Susan & Larry Seymour • Susan Shaddick • William Shaw • Shell Oil Co Foundation Matching Gifts • Maybeth & Ken Shockey • Richard Shoemaker • Dave Shpak & Susan Wolbarst • Peter & Mary Kay Sidell • Jane & Doug Simmonds • Cyndy Solomon & David Mayer • Michael Spurlock • Bess Sternberg • Janet & Lynn Stevenson • James Strachan • James K Suhr • Harmony & Sus & Nell Susalla • Christopher Swarth • Vicki Talbot & Robert Schwein • Lois Talkovsky • Gail & Matt Taylor • Malay & Beverley Thaker • Lynn & Laurel Thorpe • Thursday Ramblers • Karen Tracy • Nancy & Rich Trissel • Roberta Van de Water • Amy Van Syoc • Ginger & Maurie Veys • Linda Vieira • Mary S Wall • Richard Warmer & Virginia Rubin • Elisabeth Watson & Nigel Blair-Johns • Bill & Sandy Weimeyer • Michelle & Calvin Welch • Sheree Wilcox • Martha Wohlken • Dean Wolf & Kathi Oram • Karl Young & Sue Friedland • Your Cause LLC



**\$1,000 & above**

Gayle Alexander & Wanda Swenson  
J Kendall & Tamera Anderson  
Kathryn Arnold • David & Suzanne Brown  
Ken & Marian Brown • Ramona Crooks  
Jane W Evans • Jay Faulkner  
Gareth M Fong • Penny Gardner  
Vivian Green • Bruce & Sharon Jones  
Richard & Judy Knarr • Irene Leidner  
Julia Sherwin & Michael Haddad  
Elise Thomas & Paul Radosevich  
Sara & Bill Snyder Beverley Thompson  
John & Janet Tweedie • John & Chris Wall  
John & Lynn Walton • Jeff & Pearl Watts

# Mill Bend Project Supported by Funds from Many Sources

RCLC has received a \$1 million grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, \$845,000 from the California Natural Resources Agency and \$300,000 from the California State Coastal Conservancy. These grants, together with \$600,000 in funds raised from foundations, organizations and local contributors, will enable RCLC to purchase Mill Bend from the Allemall Foundation and begin planning for preservation, restoration and public access to the site.

# Help Us Reach the Top!

Thanks to the outstanding response to RCLC's Campaign to Preserve Mill Bend, we are very close to our goal of \$2.7 million. As we go to press, we've watched our tree grow to \$2,495,000—now we need just a bit more than \$200,000 to take it to the top.

Anyone who has been involved in a major group enterprise knows that it takes a few key people with the drive, focus and perseverance to make the vision a reality. The campaign to put Mill Bend in conservation hands is no exception.

After Mill Bend came on the market in 2017, a community forum held in November of 2017 confirmed support for its purchase. Mill Bend Coalition team members **John Walton, Jeanne Jackson, Kathleen Chasey, Laurie Mueller, Charlie Ivor** and **Joel Chaban** began searching for ways to acquire Mill Bend for the community.

Seeing a way forward with The Allemall Foundation as a conservation buyer, the **RCLC Board**, with Kathleen Chasey as project manager, decided to take on the Mill Bend purchase as a project in early 2018. In early 2019, Kathleen took on the huge task of writing the million dollar USFWS grant application with **Lisa Ames** at the State Coastal Conservancy to acquire Mill Bend, along with the hundreds of hours required to research and gather supporting material. In the meantime, Mendocino Land Trust's Executive Director **Ann Cole** worked with **Nikki Houtz** on the \$845,000 California EEM program grant.

As a former mill site, Mill Bend had to undergo testing for potential soil contamination. Although the testing process was lengthy and complicated, realtor **Cindy Kennedy** and Kathleen successfully held the negotiations together until the property was finally acquired by The Allemall Foundation in September 2019.

Since then, RCLC Board members **Christina Batt, Laurie Mueller, Kathleen Chasey, Cheryl Harris, and Robin Applegarth** have headed up community fundraising and outreach for the project, with considerable help from **Tempra Board, Anne Hanlon, Trish Miller** and many other volunteers, while other Board members have helped handle other property, administrative and financial management issues.

Thanks to the stellar volunteer work and financial support from our community, Mill Bend will soon be in conservation hands.

## Save the Date: Mill Bend Community Forum

**October 10, 2020 at the Gualala Arts Center**

*May be postponed due to concerns about COVID-19.  
Check our website at [www.rclc.org](http://www.rclc.org) for updates.*

# Join the Campaign to Preserve Mill Bend

Help RCLC protect and restore 113 acres of scenic land and wildlife habitat at the mouth of the Gualala River



\$2,700,000  
Help us reach our goal

\$2,495,000  
Raised by June 5

\$2,000,000

\$1,500,000

\$1,000,000

\$500,000

**A Park is Forever**

donate at  
**rclc.org**

