Dear Friends,

Nature never gives up... even after devastating fires.

This spring we were amazed and inspired to see these bear grass blossoms appear on the preserve for the first time in decades, and we welcomed back redwood lilies in numbers we’ve never witnessed before. Apparently, these plants took the fire as a call to action.

As you know, the fire was our call to action, too — and thanks to the support of people like you, Pepperwood has become a critical hub of cutting-edge fire science research based in the North Bay and serving California as a whole.

In fact, we were recently recognized with a grant of nearly $840,000 from the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to conduct post-fire restoration on the preserve.

The grant underscores the value of Pepperwood’s living laboratory as a demonstration site for resilient land and water management strategies. We’re aiming for practical ideas you can use to protect your own backyard.

Stay tuned for updates about workshops we’ll be doing with partners such as UC Cooperative Extension, the Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, ReBuild North Bay, and many others.

And please join us to take comfort and cheer in these flowers that remind us of nature’s resilience.

With deep appreciation,

Lisa Micheli, PhD
President & CEO
TeenNat Graduates return to serve as mentors and researchers

We are thrilled to have TeenNat graduates Aidan Carpenter (TeenNat 2013) and Claire Pavelka (TeenNat 2015) join us as Summer Education Assistants. They return to Pepperwood to work as mentors for our 25 TeenNat summer students, while also working with our researchers to enter field data into the Pepperwood database for scientific analysis.

Claire has always had a passion for research, Pepperwood, and hiking, so she jumped at the chance to work with this summer’s group of TeenNat youth. Her experience with grassland identification made her the perfect choice to assist with the grassland work of our Preserve Ecologist, Michelle Halbur. Claire is a senior at Santa Clara University double majoring in Biology and Environmental Science.

Aidan has worked with us for three summers now, including doing long-term vegetation monitoring as a field technician on our collaborative research project with UC Berkeley. A senior at UC Davis, Aidan is majoring in Ecology, Evolution, and Biodiversity, with a minor in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

“After meeting professionals in a variety of fields related to biology during my time in TeenNat that summer,” Aidan told us, “I discovered a way to build a career based on my love of nature and wildlife. That led me to major in ecology with the hope to find a job in a field-biology related position.”

Many thanks to Claire and Aidan for helping us make TeenNat a success.

And thanks to all of you for supporting the next generation of conservation scientists!
Pepperwood to host UC California Naturalist Certification course

Learn about Sonoma County’s natural ecosystems and earn your citizen scientist stripes through this UC certification program.

Can you tell a bobcat track from a coyote track when you’re out on a hike? Have you ever thought about becoming a steward or education volunteer so you can help families connect with nature? Are you a community activist wondering how to keep Sonoma County’s precious natural resources fire-safe and climate ready?

If questions like these cross your mind, then Pepperwood’s California Naturalist Certification program may be the perfect opportunity for you!

We are proud to partner with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources program to offer citizen scientists a way to earn UC certification. Our curriculum delivers a comprehensive overview of California’s geology, flora, fauna, freshwater and forest resources, and environmental issues.

This is part of a broad statewide program working to advance citizen science.

During the 8-week course you’ll gain deep insights about Sonoma County’s natural world by hiking in Pepperwood’s varied habitats and ecosystems with our staff and local experts in hydrology, soil science, ecology, botany, ornithology and geology.

Those who complete the 40-hour course and a capstone project will be eligible to receive their UC California Naturalist Certification.

To register or learn more, please visit pepperwoodpreserve.org
Beloved trail now being restored

Pepperwood’s Douglas-fir Trail is one of our most well-used and well-loved. It’s also a unique outdoor classroom that winds its way through a distinctive serpentine chaparral ecosystem and merges gradually with a Douglas-fir forest. Serpentine is the state rock of California, yet these ecosystems are rare globally, with unique plants not found anywhere else.

The trail has been closed since burning in the 2017 Tubbs Fire, and we’ve been eager to restore it for our students, researchers and you! Well, we’re happy to announce that our trail rebuilding project is up and running.

Many of the Douglas-fir trees along the trail were destroyed in the fire and posed a safety risk given their proximity to our facilities — but happily, the subsequent hazardous tree removal has opened this area for a wonderful restoration and trail enhancement opportunity. Now we’re actively clearing out invasive weeds and planting the native shrubs and trees that thrive here.

As it turns out, our TeenNat crew also fares quite well in serpentine soil! As part of their summer research work, they’ve been monitoring post-fire plant survival and mapping the restoration area. Hundreds of volunteers are helping, too — planting native grasses and caring for tree seedlings like madrone and oak.

Come be part of it! Visit our website to register for a volunteer day, and help the quail, deer, bobcats and other critters get their stomping grounds back!

Re-Build campaign passes the halfway mark!

The fire also destroyed three of our most important buildings — but Pepperwood donors are rallying around our Rising from the Ashes campaign and construction begins soon. However, we still need to raise the full $1.25 million by summer’s end.

For more information about how you can help, please contact Margie Shurgot at 707-591-9310 x202 or mshurgot@pepperwoodpreserve.org.
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Enjoy a hike. Take a class. Save a habitat. So many reasons to be a member!

Be part of the solution.
When you join as a Pepperwood member, you protect our land, water and wildlife. You inspire future scientists, and help lead the way on the latest fire research. All that and more... because everything we do is powered by members like you.

Get member benefits!
Helping to care for the environment is just one reason to become a member. Here are a few more:

   **Exclusive hikes**
   You’ll get to explore some of the most beautiful and least travelled areas of the preserve.

   **Special events**
   Go behind the scenes and get the inside scoop from expert staff and scientists.

   **Discounts and early registration**
   Don't miss out! Members can sign up first... at the discount price!

Go online and join today.
Visit our website and find the membership level that’s right for you.

Give the gift of membership.
Know someone who treasures our beautiful California landscapes and wants to protect them? Of course you do! Celebrate your family and friends with a gift membership.

Pepperwood members Randy and Kelly Hicks at an exclusive Sunset Hike.
photo by N. Mizelle

Join us today or renew your membership at pepperwoodpreserve.org
SEPTEMBER

5 | The Forest Beneath Our Feet
Lecture w/ Michelle Halbur   7pm

7 | MEMBER EXCLUSIVE!
Poetry Reading   4-6pm   FREE
w/ Pulitzer Prize winner Forrest Gander

14 | Workshop: Cyanotype Prints
w/ Jessica Layton   9am-3pm   $40/$35

14 | California Naturalist Certification
Saturdays   Sept 14 - Nov 2   9am-3pm
Earn UC certification   $450/$430

21-22 | Women’s Wellness Retreat
9am Saturday through 12pm Sunday
w/ Geeta Priya Arora   $300/$250

27 | MEMBER EXCLUSIVE!
Telegraph Hill Hike and Sunset Picnic
5:30-8:30pm   FREE

28 | Gardening with Native Plants
w/ California Native Plant Society
9am-3pm   $35/$30

28-29 | Family Overnight
3pm Saturday through 11am Sunday
All ages welcome   $25/$20

Member prices shown in blue.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Help care for the habitats you love. Join the fun and make a difference!
Sept 7   Oct 5   Nov 2   Dec 7   9am-12pm   Please register online.

Become a member and support Pepperwood’s work,
and you’ll get discounts on all classes and events!
OCTOBER

3 | Bats of Northern California
Lecture w/ Corky Quirk 7pm

19 | Family Walk: Creepy Creatures
10am-12pm Free

19 | Birding Across the Watershed
w/ Nicole Barden and Allison Titus
8:30am-3:30pm $50/$45

NOVEMBER

7 | Bears of the North Bay
Lecture w/ Meghan Walla-Murphy 7pm

9 | Homemade Herbal Gifts
w/ Autumn Summers
10am-2:30pm $50/$45

16 | MEMBER EXCLUSIVE!
An Evening of Stargazing 5-9pm FREE

DECEMBER

7 | Holiday Wreath Making
w/ Heather Jennings
10am-12pm or 1-3pm $30/$25

21 | MEMBER EXCLUSIVE!
Winter Solstice Yoga 9am-12pm FREE

Member prices shown in blue.

FREE! PUBLIC HIKES

Come on up and explore Pepperwood!
Sept 14   Oct 12   Nov 9 9am-1pm
Visit our website to reserve your space.

To see a complete listing of classes and events,
and to register online, visit pepperwoodpreserve.org.
Pepperwood is a leader in forging solutions to advance the health of Northern California’s land, water and wildlife. We use our 3,200-acre preserve as a living laboratory to engage citizens, volunteers, students, and scientists. Come join us!

Learn more at pepperwoodpreserve.org