

Anne DeLozier

From: Solano Land Trust <info@solanolandtrust.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2011 3:30 PM
To: Anne DeLozier
Subject: News from Solano Land Trust

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Help us reach our goal of adding 250 new members during our 25th anniversary. In 2011, we're offering the reduced membership rate of \$25 to new members only. Join us!

Give online at:
www.solanolandtrust.org

Or send a check to:
Solano Land Trust
1001 Texas Street, Suite C
Fairfield, CA 94533

In This Issue

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Help us save Rockville Trails: The Time is Now!



**California poppies and oaks
at Rockville Trails**
Photo by Jorge Fleige

The clock is ticking. Solano Land Trust has an opportunity to buy an amazing piece of property across from Rockville Park in Fairfield. We are working on securing public and private donations, but need your help to raise \$2-3 million dollars on top of these efforts. Be a part of history and make a donation today at www.solanolandtrust.org.

With these funds, Solano Land Trust will buy 1,500 acres of rolling hills, oak woodlands and rocky outcrops between Green Valley and Suisun Valley Roads to protect the land in perpetuity. Solano Land Trust would purchase 330 acres this spring, with the expectation to purchase another 1,170 acres by the end of the year.

"It will be a treasure for all of Solano County to enjoy," says Executive Director Nicole Byrd. "We need help from the entire community to pull this together,

[Protect Rockville Trails](#)

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[Helping out at NorthBay Healthcare's Jubilee](#)

Save the Date

Farm Fresh Feast
Russ Lester's Dixon Ridge Farms
Saturday, May 21, 2011
[Buy tickets now!](#)

4th Annual
Lynch Canyon Trail Run and
Community Hike
Saturday, June 4, 2011
[Register now!](#)



2010 hikers display their "summit certificates"

2011
[Register now!](#)

Aim for Ag and Open Space Shooting Clay August 20,

Upcoming Events

Jepson Prairie
Wildflower & Aquatic
Invertebrate Tours
Saturdays & Sundays
until Mother's Day
10 a.m. to Noon

Lynch Canyon
3rd Annual Kite Festival &
Solano Land Trust's Birthday
Saturday, April 23, 2011
Noon to 4 p.m.



but feel confident that we can do it!"

The property is on the leading edge of the 800,000-acre Blue Ridge Berryessa Natural Area, and has the potential to be a regional park with a trail system that connects existing and planned Bay Area Ridge Trails reaching as far as Lynch Canyon and the Napa River. "This opportunity may be once in a lifetime," says Byrd. "Please join us in raising these funds."

This land is your land!

Hey, go fly a kite on Earth Day!



Kite flyer successfully launches at last year's festival

All you need for a perfect day of kite-flying is wind, an open grassy field, and a lack of *Kiteus Eatempus* (more commonly known as kite-eating trees).

While Solano County Parks and Solano Land Trust can't do much about ordering the wind around, we can guarantee the other two ingredients for **Lynch Canyon's Third Annual Kite Festival on Saturday, April 23, 2011** from noon to 4 p.m.

It's a family friendly event, but kids of all ages and ability levels are welcome. The festival is free but there is a \$5 parking fee for access to Lynch Canyon.

People around the world have been flying kites for centuries. Kites have been used to fight evil spirits, bless harvests, carry messages, advance science, win wars, learn about wind and weather, teach kids about science, and last but not least, to bring joy. Learn more about kiting and its history, and how to get started as a novice at www.nationalkitemonth.org.

In addition to celebrating Earth Day, you can also help celebrate Solano Land Trust's birthday! Twenty-five years ago, Solano Land Trust was born on April 23. [Click here](#) for more information on the the kite festival.

Celebrate Solano County's culinary gold at the Farm Fresh Feast

By Deanna Mott, Associate Director



The tables are set and waiting for you

We are busy preparing for the second Farm Fresh Feast at Russ Lester's Dixon Ridge Farms, and this year's line-up is certain to delight attendees. Last year's event sold out early, so [buy your tickets now](#) to join us on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

The festivities will begin with wine tastings from Wooden Valley Winery and Purple Pearl, King Andrews, and Mangles Vineyards. Access Adventure will take guests on a serene carriage ride through the canopied walnut orchards, and Russ Lester will lead a tour of his state-of-the-art, sustainable farming operation.

Local and seasonal ingredients will be the basis for a superb, four-course gourmet meal prepared by award-winning chef

James Aptakin. Chef James is the executive chef at the Hilton Financial District San Francisco, but many will recognize him from his days at Ahi's

Stepping out at the Rush Ranch Open House

Photo by Karen Vittorio

Rush Ranch
21st Annual Open House
& Star Gazing
Saturday, April 30, 2011
[Open house: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.](#)
[Star Gazing: 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.](#)

King-Swett Ranches
Wildflower Hike
Saturday, May 7, 2011
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Lupine in bloom at King Ranch
Photo by Sue Wickham

Lynch Canyon
Guided Hike
Saturday, May 21, 2011
Saturday, May 28, 2011
9 a.m. to Noon

For more event information and directions go to www.solanolandtrust.org

Volunteers Needed

Rush Ranch
25th Anniversary Volunteer Day
Saturday, May 7, 2011
9 a.m. to noon

Lynch Canyon
Ridge Trail Workday
Saturday, May 14, 2011
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Citizen Science Friday
Friday, May 20, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Natalie at volunteer@solanolandtrust.org
(707) 432-0150 x 200

Sightings

What: 40 hikers on a special Bay Nature magazine hike

Seafood and Chophouse in Fairfield. Chef James also donates a good deal of his time cooking for public benefit organizations, and this one's a perfect fit: a farm-to-table event that supports agriculture in Solano County and the philanthropic nature of a chef who hails from this area and supports what we do. Not only is the meal going to be delicious and artfully prepared, but it will be a reminder of the agriculture products that have been, and continue to be, a large part of Solano County's heritage and economy. **We're also very excited to welcome this year's keynote speaker, Karen Ross, the newly appointed secretary of the California Department of Food & Agriculture.**

To top it off, the California Council of Land Trust will present Solano Land Trust with a Joint Resolution in recognition of our 25th anniversary. Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada and Senator Lois Wolk have been invited to help present the award. We know that what we are doing is important for this community, and it's gratifying to know that others recognize our work and support our efforts.

Prior to May 1, single tickets are \$110. After May 1, they are \$125. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.solanolandtrust.org.

Say hello to our new employees

Ken Poerner, Land Steward



Monatte McGee
Photo by Ken Poerner

Monatte McGee is the new Rush Ranch steward. She was hired in November 2010 to support use of all Rush Ranch facilities by the public, visiting scientists, and other user groups. She was introduced to Rush Ranch through volunteering for Access Adventure, and has become a valued and important part of that organization and of Solano Land Trust. She is proud of her work with No Barriers and their contribution to Rush Ranch's Native Plant Garden. Her great talent is using her vivacious personality to get others to help with the tasks at the ranch.

Robert Garcia is our new field steward. He was hired in February 2011 to support field operations on all of our properties. Robert grew up in Dixon, and the past ten years managing his fabrication shop after several other career ventures has worked as a horse ranch manager, rodeo co-manager of a wild-bachelor's degree in agribusiness at Cal Poly talent is his dry jokes



Robert Garcia
Photo by Ken Poerner

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Tracy Ellison

Tracy Ellison is the newest member of the Solano Land Trust staff and will be working as the Conservation Project Coordinator. She comes to us from the Suisun Valley Fund, a program that supports the sustainability and profitability of agriculture in Suisun Valley. For the last six years she supported and worked alongside landowners and growers as ag ambassador, helping to advance awareness of local produce, wine, and olive oil. She supported and built strong lines of communication between landowners, growers and the outside community, which will fit right in with her new role at Solano Land Trust where Tracy will be concentrating on outreach for conservation agreements. Tracy grew-up in rural Fresno County as a daughter of an Ag teacher, and was involved in 4-H and FFA, raised and showed livestock, and participated in public speaking and leadership opportunities.

Solano Land Trust helps support the biggest fundraiser in Solano County

Deanna Mott, Associate Director

Where: Jepson Prairie
When: April 17, 2011
Who: Editor Aleta George who wrote an article about Jepson in the [April Issue of Bay Nature](#)

What: Young scientists at work
Where: Jepson Prairie
When: 25th anniversary tour, April 9, 2011
Who: Nicole Byrd



Budding scientists
Photo by Natalie DuMont

What: Solano Community College biology students and professor John Nogue monitoring oak trees

Where: Eastern Swett Ranch
When: April 9, 2011
Who: Sue Wickham

What: Nesting western bluebirds
Where: Lynch Canyon birdboxes
When: Now
Who: Sue Wickham

Solano Land Trust
has been protecting
working farms and natural areas in
Solano County
since 1986.



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**Executive Director
Nicole Byrd and
Gary Boudreaux**

On April 8, several of us at Solano Land Trust joined forces with other sponsors and supporters of NorthBay Healthcare's hospice and bereavement programs by attending the 24th Annual Wine and Food Jubilee. If you haven't been before, you might want to put it on your bucket list. Executive director Nicole Byrd, Rob Braddock, Solano Land Trust board vice president Darrin Berardi, and staff member Anne DeLozier donned their gala attire and displayed the silent auction sashes like true pageant veterans. My husband and I also attended, as we do every year.

Solano Land Trust believes in giving back to those who support us. NorthBay Healthcare has been a prominent sponsor of the Lynch Canyon Trail Run with cash sponsorships, a first-aid tent, and nurses. We decided this was a perfect opportunity to support a community event while representing Solano Land Trust. For the silent auction we provided four gift baskets, vintage taxidermy birds, and a beautiful framed photograph by Ken Davis. The baskets included entry tickets to our upcoming fundraising events, local wine, and herbs from a local grower. Another basket included a two-night stay at Rush Ranch. This was a unique way to help raise money while also introducing people to the Farm Fresh Feast, Lynch Canyon Trail Run, and Aim For Ag & Open Space events who may not have known about them. There will also be someone staying at Rush Ranch who might otherwise never have visited.

We need to take advantage of more ways to educate the community on who we are, what we do, and how they benefit from our mission. This was an opportunity to reach a different audience than usual, and contribute to a great cause. Anyone who has dealt with bereavement and hospice programs knows the value they provide. We will continue to foster relationships through community involvement and business partnerships, and when that involves good food, good wine and great people, all the better!

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