



Vol. 16 #1

# Solano Land Trust

# VISTAS

[www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)

Fall 2009

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## Solano County board of supervisors votes to keep Lynch Canyon open

*Teri Engbring, Volunteer & Education Coordinator*



*Happy birders at Lynch Canyon*

*Photo: Teri Engbring*

Thanks to a compromise worked out by Solano Land Trust and Solano County, Lynch Canyon will remain open three days a week for another year. Facing revenue losses and a national recession, the board of supervisors has been forced to make many cuts to county services, including cuts to funding for parks. Lynch Canyon, which they operate in partnership with Solano Land Trust, is now open Saturday through Monday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is closed to public access Tuesday through Friday, with some exceptions for education programs.

“We appreciate the board of supervisors’ decision to keep Lynch Canyon open. This decision will provide our citizens with an affordable and healthy way to enjoy the outdoors close to home,” says Executive Director Nicole Byrd. Lynch Canyon has become popular with hikers, trail runners,

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## President's Message

Ian Anderson, *President*



As I write this article, the one word that most comes to mind is "volunteer." I am overwhelmed by gratefulness when I think of how our extended Solano Land Trust family has given of themselves for the betterment of our communities and our lands. If ever there was

a year to talk about how vital volunteerism is to our organization, this is it.

I have to start with our staff. We had short notice that much of our state funding (which had previously been approved) was instantly frozen. Rather than panic, our staff worked together to find a solution that did not include layoffs. As a result, most staff took significant pay cuts to keep our doors open. Since much of the workload has remained, staff commonly comes to work on their day off to "volunteer" to complete needed tasks. Anne DeLozier, our new administrative assistant, volunteered 300 hours before we were able to put her on the payroll in August. Under Marilyn Farley and Nicole Byrd's leadership, our organization is strong and ready to continue our prominence in Solano County.

The organization survives and prospers from the thousands of hours that individuals give of themselves. Our thirteen board members give through a multitude of board and committee meetings. I am sometimes amazed at the good cheer that is common even into the fourth hour of some of the meetings. Just as impressive are the 8,000 hours of volunteer work that is mostly coordinated through Teri Engbring. Getting out on our lands is important and rewarding for all of those who participate.

Volunteering comes in many forms. We are thankful for our Business Partners in Conservation and their significant donations. As an organization looking to the future, we realize that we need to expand this program and build more local funding support to help us fulfill our mission. Our business partners are critical in helping us continue to protect our quality of life here in Solano County through the preservation of working farms and natural areas.

Lastly, each of us has the opportunity to volunteer by becoming a member of Solano Land Trust. As our organization grows, each one of us can expand who we are and give in our own way for the betterment of the lands of Solano County.



## Outgoing Executive Director's Perspective

Marilyn Farley, *Executive Director*

The year 2009 has been an unusual one. The state of California froze our grants in December 2008; the stock market tanked, affecting our endowment investments; we have furloughed most staff on Fridays since January; and, our contract to open Lynch Canyon to the public has been cut back from five to three days a week.

Despite these gloomy external factors, Solano Land Trust is doing well. Staff is to be commended for accepting the furloughs and continuing to be dedicated and committed to our mission. I am proud to say that we worked together to avoid ANY layoffs.

We dealt with the grant freeze in a manner unique in California. The California Council of Land Trusts got wind of the possibility that the state treasurer's office was open to unfreezing grants if the conservation community could find money for them to borrow. We asked Solano County Treasurer Chuck Lomeli if the county would be interested in this investment opportunity, called a "private placement bond." After determining that this was a sound investment opportunity for Solano County, and confirming that the deal would not negatively affect the county's bond rating, he said "yes!" We appreciate that the board of supervisors voted in favor of this action.

Solano Land Trust put together the list of state grant projects to be unfrozen. The list included some of our critical projects, as well as others in Solano County and elsewhere in the region. In total, \$16.5 million in projects were funded. This enabled Solano Land Trust to purchase the Miles Kidwell Conservation Easement and continue work on our Rush Ranch updated master plan.

Many exciting new projects are in the works. We're working on using a George Miller congressional earmark to purchase more land in the Sky Valley Cordelia Hills Open Space. We have rangeland and habitat conservation easements in the works in the western hills and in the Greater Jepson Prairie area. We're working with the Green Valley Landowners Association and others on major open space purchases in Green Valley. We continue to attract new members, volunteers, docents and business partners to support our programs and stewardship of the land.

I wrote a "farewell" last fall. By the time you read this, I will have retired. I plan to remain active in the community and to volunteer for Solano Land Trust to help complete some of these new projects. With Nicole Byrd on board as the new executive director, and with the services of our strong and dedicated board, I know Solano Land Trust is in good hands!



# Incoming Executive Director's Perspective

Nicole Byrd, *Executive Director*

As the incoming executive director I thought I would use this first column to share a little about myself. Since my early college years when my friends and I wandered the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains, my dream has been to protect wild places.

My grandad was a longtime rancher in Colorado and Texas, and over the years he frequently reminded me that ranchers are often the best stewards of the land. Because of his insights, and as I've learned more about farming and ranching, my dream evolved to include our precious agricultural lands in my idea of "wild places."

Here in Solano County our working farms are nurtured and protected by the farmers and ranchers who are the private owners of these lands. Solano Land Trust is successful because we work cooperatively with many different individuals and agencies to accomplish our mission. In addition to partnering with government agencies to purchase and manage land for open space and protect natural resources, we also work with landowners to protect local working farms and ranches. We accomplish everything with the support and partnership of the community. This is why the opportunity and challenge to lead the Solano Land Trust is a dream come true for me.

My goal is for us to become even more connected with the community. I want to work with businesses to support our local schools by getting kids excited about science on our land. We will work to bring even more state and federal dollars into our local agricultural economy through our conservation easement program. And we will continue to promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging folks to exercise while exploring our beautiful properties.

I feel like I am one of the lucky ones who can say, "I followed my heart here." I am honored and excited to be a part of something so wonderful and lasting. I love knowing that my two-year-old son will one day be able to bring his children to visit Solano Land Trust's protected properties, and that we'll still have productive agricultural land to provide us with fresh and local food. What a legacy!

Together with our passionate and committed staff, board members, business partners, contributing members, and hundreds of volunteers, we will continue to protect the places that make Solano County unique.



## Suisun Valley Fun Family Farm Days

Sunday, September 27

Sunday, October 25

Come out for fresh local produce, homemade jams, olive oil tasting, wagon and pony rides, winery tours, live music, and farm animals.

[suisunvalley.com](http://suisunvalley.com)

## New easement purchased in Dixon-Davis greenbelt

Audrey Peller, *Land Transaction Specialist*

Success! After years of work, Solano Land Trust purchased the Miles Kidwell conservation easement in September. This project was a cooperative effort between the California Department of Conservation, the Cities of Dixon and Davis, and the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. The Miles and Kidwell Farms consist of 488 acres of prime farmland within the Dixon-Davis Greenbelt, directly north of I-80 near the "Milk Farm" sign.

This is the third conservation easement to be secured in the Dixon-Davis greenbelt. The

196-acre McConoghy North/Ebey Laughton easement is immediately to the north. The 254-acre McConoghy South easement is across I-80. Together, Solano Land Trust and the two cities have protected 938 acres of farmland with excellent soil ideal for growing row crops such as alfalfa, ryegrass, wheat, tomatoes, grapevine seed, corn, sunflowers, and coriander.

Solano Land Trust has long recognized the potential for intense development pressure along this segment of the Dixon Ridge. It is an attractive

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# Open for learning! New interpretive exhibits educate visitors about Rush Ranch

Sarah Ferner, Education Coordinator, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve



Lee Wilder Snider points to her marsh mural at its unveiling

Photo: Teri Engbring

## Workshop on road building

Rush Ranch Nature Center  
October 7, 2009, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

San Francisco Bay NERR and Solano Land Trust present a workshop on unpaved road design and maintenance for ranchers, farmers, land managers, and equipment operators. Register online at [www.sfbaynerr.org/training/](http://www.sfbaynerr.org/training/) or contact Sue Wickham with Solano Land Trust at (707) 432-0150 x 207 or [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org).

Perhaps the most noticeable of several recent improvements at Rush Ranch are the colorful new interpretive exhibits at the nature center. Visitors to the ranch can now compare the size of their hand to the size of a grizzly bear's footprint, study real nests of different ranch birds, and get an up-close look at an alkali tiger beetle. Perhaps the most striking feature of the exhibits is the beautiful new murals painted by Benicia-based artist Lee Wilder Snider. The larger of the two murals illustrates a cross section of the marsh and slough where visitors can discover what animals lurk in the dense marsh plants and in the slough's muddy waters. Snider captured life in the marsh at dusk in springtime with all the dynamic rejuvenation that comes to the marsh in that season. She was precise with every detail—even making sure the ruddy duck's beak was the perfect shade of bright blue for breeding season. Tactile tiles with imprints of animal tracks, interesting plants, and artifacts line the bottom of the mural and are ready to engage even the youngest of visitors with life in the estuary.

Inside the nature center, two of the exhibit areas focus on the ranch's most obvious habitats of expansive grasslands and tidal marsh. The third area highlights the lesser known, but important transition zone between the dry grasslands and soggy marshlands. In this exhibit, visitors can spin an interactive field guide that lands on dried specimens, colorful photos, and fun facts about the plants of Rush Ranch. Each of the three exhibit areas includes replicas of skulls and eggs, as well as trays of objects found at the ranch such as feathers and owl pellets. The objects on the trays will be regularly changed, so if you discover something exciting while exploring the ranch, please leave it where you find it and notify Solano Land Trust or National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) staff.

Rush Ranch is also featured at a new exhibit at the Aquarium of the Bay at San Francisco's Pier 39. The aquarium's exhibit features a floor-to-ceiling map of the entire San Francisco estuary, with digital screens that introduce visitors to the animals and plants that live at Rush Ranch and China Camp State Park (the other component of San Francisco Bay NERR). The interpretive exhibits at Rush Ranch, the aquarium exhibit, and seven new outdoor exhibits at China Camp were unveiled in late July. This dynamic new series of thematically connected exhibits were all funded by a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to San Francisco State University, which is the lead partner of San Francisco Bay NERR.

## Lynch Canyon kept open

Continued from page 1

equestrians, birders, mountain bikers, and families looking for a beautiful place in Solano County to escape, exercise, and explore nature together.

Solano County and Solano Land Trust proudly provide access to this 1,040-acre working cattle ranch with more than ten miles of maintained trails ranging from flat, wide roads to scenic trails that ascend to 1,000-foot-high ridges. These woodlands and grass-covered valleys in the hills between Vallejo and Fairfield offer spectacular views, secluded picnic sites, and diverse plant life. Solano Land Trust offers special family events and regularly scheduled guided tours and nature walks by trained docents and rangers.

For more information visit [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org), or contact Volunteer and Education Coordinator Teri Engbring at [teri@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:teri@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 200.



# Volunteers help Solano Land Trust nurture the land and shape trails

Sue Wickham, Program Manager



North Coast Slope Soarers help to wrangle a wayward water tank.

Photo: Sue Wickham

During the last rainy season, volunteers joined Solano Land Trust staff for restoration workdays at Lynch Canyon and King-Swett Ranches. School groups, community groups, and individuals, helped us dig, plant, monitor, collect seed, and build enclosures for several great projects. Here's a taste of what we accomplished.

At Lynch Canyon, community volunteers completed a project started by Rodriguez High School students and the Center for Land-based Learning. They planted and enclosed over 100 trees and shrubs, and installed temporary drip irrigation. They also monitored and enclosed native trees and shrubs that were planted last year as seeds. The enclosures are

needed to keep hungry cattle from browsing on new shoots. Check out this fenced site as you stroll just east of the parking lot.

At Eastern Swett Ranch, Solano Community College students helped to inventory valley oaks and protect new seedlings. This unique spot has the only group of valley oaks on the King-Swett Ranches. We will continue to inventory and protect these stately natives.

The North Coast Slope Soarers volunteered as a team to monitor and replant trees in over 200 cages they had helped to install over the last few seasons. They also assisted with a wayward water tank and mowed the entrance to King Ranch. This season we will continue to monitor oaks and buckeyes in the southern corner of King Ranch and at Bullfrog Pond, which provides habitat to endangered California red-legged frogs.

A Travis Air Force Base squadron repaired trails where Vallejo Swett Ranch interfaces with Blue Rock Springs Park. This was a huge project undertaken by the 571st Global Mobility Readiness Squadron as an outdoor team-building activity. The crew made quick work of a new trail and repaired the damage from extensive illegal trails. Volunteers followed up with finessing the trail surfaces and adding signs. This season, we will again (unfortunately) try to discourage illegal trails and get the hikers back on track. Eagle Scouts have promised some new signs for this area.

In addition to our restoration projects, we have vegetation-monitoring crews at Jepson Prairie and Rush Ranch each spring and fall.

Each watershed contains unique physical and biological factors to which life has adapted. We strive to continue nature's selection by using local watershed seeds for our restoration projects. This season we will collect seeds throughout the Lynch and King-Swett Ranches.

Join us this coming season to collect seeds, restore and monitor vegetation, and work on trails. Let us know what your skills and interests are and we will find a satisfying project for you. Check the restoration volunteer schedule on the back of this newsletter. Individuals can just show up. We welcome groups too, but please call ahead so we can prepare. Join us!



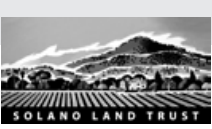
A member of the North Coast Slope Soarers repairs tree enclosures at King Ranch.

Photo: Sue Wickham



Rodriguez High School students installing tree enclosures at Lynch Canyon

Photo: Sue Wickham



*Doris is at home hiking or helping to build trails*

Photo: Janet Delaney,  
[www.janetdelaney.com](http://www.janetdelaney.com)

## Rent Rush Ranch for your private event!

The Nature Center meeting room, picnic/camping area, and guesthouse are available to private groups. The meeting room has a partial kitchen and seating for 80 individuals. The picnic area has a masonry barbecue, fire pit, and 16 wooden picnic tables. You can also reserve the entire ranch for your wedding or event!

Learn more at [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org) or call Anne at (707) 432-0150 x 209.

# Volunteer profile: Doris Klein braids a life on land and sea

Aleta George, Vistas editor

If you've had the pleasure of hiking with Doris Klein on a sunny day, you're accustomed to seeing her in a floppy shade hat. Below the hat her hair is always braided and pinned across the crown of her head. It's not surprising to learn that her hair, when loose, reaches her waist. What is surprising is that she's worn it that way for sixty-two years. Her husband, master sailor "Big Daddy" Bob Klein (who died of leukemia in 1994), said he liked her hairstyle because it didn't get caught in the sailboat rigging. He was only half joking.

For several decades Doris and her husband raced sailboats, and mostly won. Her three children, the youngest of whom is fifty, grew up racing, and all are champion sailors. Doris loves the sea; but she also loves the land, a love she developed as a child while living on the banks of Wyoming's Powder River.

Doris, now 82, was born in Lake County, California. Her parents, Charles and Genevieve Buck, moved the family to Wyoming after Charles lost his job during the Depression. While most men stood broken in bread lines, Doris's father lived off the land where Doris learned to love the big skies and wide-open meadows. After WWII started, the family returned to the Bay Area where Doris met her husband while sailing at Lake Merritt.

Doris was 48 years old before she discovered hiking, after which she never missed a Tuesday hike with the Sierra Club. Tired of driving across three counties to get to organized hikes, she started a Vallejo hiking group, and eventually had as many as 35 people sign up each year (though they didn't all show up for every hike). She led those Thursday morning hikes for 21 years.

Doris is loyal to organizations that she believes in. She has supported Solano Land Trust since it was founded in 1986. She is a member of the Lynch Canyon User Advisory Group and an avid supporter of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Until recently, she led hikes at Lynch Canyon, but has stopped leading regular hikes there so that she can lead a series of Bay Area hikes as a fundraiser for the Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum.

Up until her 77th year, Doris went on a 50-mile hike every summer with girlfriends, and proudly wears a patch signifying her completion of the John Muir trail—even if it did take her 13 years to earn it. She recently strained her hip after a 40-mile backpack trip, and is recuperating slower than she'd like. She doesn't like getting winded after only three miles, but has had enough of resting. "Rest is just a four-letter word," says Klein, who is big on horizons and considers "adventure" to be her middle name.

For more information about her Adventures Afoot call (707) 643-4468 or [dklein@scronline.com](mailto:dklein@scronline.com).

## New Easement Purchase

*Continued from page 3*

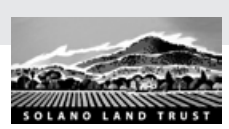
location for rural residential development due to its proximity to large population centers in San Francisco and Sacramento. Demographic studies on farmland conversion in Solano County by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) illustrate these trends. ABAG projections show that the conversion of farmland could lead to an additional loss of 16,000 acres by 2020.

Denny Kidwell's family historically owned and farmed the Miles Farm, which is the northern portion of the property. The revenue from the easement on the Kidwell Ranch allowed him to

repurchase the Miles Farm to expand his farming operation. As part of the transaction, the Miles Farm and Kidwell Ranch became one easement-protected parcel, which ensures that the land will remain protected for agriculture and not be subdivided in the future.

This project was slowed by the state freeze on grant-funded projects. Solano Land Trust worked with state officials and Solano County to broker a sale of private placement bonds for \$16.5 million. This deal enabled the state to release funding for this project (and others) so it could move forward at a time when others remain frozen.

# Thank you Solano Land Trust volunteers!



We extend our sincere thanks to the hundreds of individuals who have shared their time and talents with us in the past year. Some have jumped in for a single event, and others have committed to long-term, in-depth projects as full members of the Solano Land Trust team. Either way, we are enriched by your dedication and personal contribution to education, conservation, management and preservation of agricultural lands and open space in Solano County.

Chris Abess	Alan Deal	Steve Harvey	Edla Larson	Dave O'Donnell	Don Strauss
Liz Abess	Amara Deal	Raymond Hasey	Leona Lauricella	Jessica Olson	Stephen Stringer
Mary Abess	Jason Deal	Susan Hassett	Al Lavezzo	Grant Ornbaun	Abigail Stockinger
Shawn Addair	Jennifer Deal	Phyllis Hasty	Robin Leong	Mel Orpilla	Derek Stubbs
C. J. Addington	Dave Dean	Ursula Heffernon	Mike Less	Cathy O'Shea	Sandra Stubbs
Brian Anacker	Anne DeLozier	Don Herzog	Russell Lester	Michael O'Shea	Dennis Sullivan
Ian Anderson	Yolanda Dillinger	Jane Hicks	Kira Levin-Stuerzl	Marc Pandone	Karen Swan
Lars Anderson	Jeff Dittmer	Buzz Higgins	Sarah Levin-Stuerzl	Ann Parkinson	Earl Swenerton
Margaret Anderson	Leslie Dittmer	Kathleen Higgins	Monique Ligouri	Scott Parrish	Maylien Swenerton
Frank Andrews	Jean Dolter	Jim Hildebrand	Sascha Lin	Stan Pawlak	John Takeuchi
Cindy Apaka	Sarah Doolittle	Doug Hintz	Jim Litsinger	Alan Plutchok	Mary Takeuchi
Joe (Nilo) Arcilla	Candace Drake	Amber Hoffman	Chuck Lomeli	Alice Plutchok	Marilea Tanner-Linne
Roger Bane	Russ Dugoni	Kathy Hoffman	Jim Lowe	Ken Poerner	Don Taynton
John Barnhill	Brenda Duncan	Jacqueline Hofland	Janis Lubker	John Pointer	Robbin Thorp
Deborah Bartens	Jim Duncan	Jonathan Hofland	Kyla Lubker	Diane Powell	Dan Tolson
Erin Beavers	Lynn Dykehouse	Mariellen Hofland	Paul Lum	Esther Pryor	Mika Tolson
Darrin Berardi	Sue Edwards	Phil Hofland	Dennis Maddox	Jan Quinn	Matt Tunney
Bob Berman	John Eisenbart	Jennifer Hogan	Rebecca Mannion	Sean Quinn	Ryan Tunney
Carol Berman	Mike & Pat Elliott	Dan Homerick	Sean Marquis	Lisa Quintero	Diane Varoz
Zoe Berna	Tiffani Leanne Emerson	Bill Honeycutt	Mort Marsh	David Reider	John Vasquez
Sandra Bettencourt	Laurel Engbring	Karen Houston	James Marshall	Jim Reikowsky	Liz Vasquez
Robert Boardman	Julie English	Mike Houston	Debbie Martin	Todd Rewick	Amber Vierling
Randie Boardman	William Ericson	Russell Huddleston	Connie Mauldin	Mary Ann Rich	Shane Waddell
Jane Bogner	Mary Estep	Bing Huey	Kate Mawdsley	Slow Ries	Genevieve Walden
Teresa Booth	Malcolm Evett	Cheryl Hurd	Mike McCarney	Jennifer Riley	Coleen Walsh
Ryan Boynton	Marilyn Farley	Rachel Hutchinson	Monatte McGee	Jeannette Robertson	Jim Walsh
Larry Broderick	John Fazel	Linda Inderbitzen	Sam McKee	Bonnie Ross	Dave Warner
Brianna Bradford	Mary Lou Fazel	Liz Ingraham	Sherry McKillop	Jessica Roth	Margo Watson
Melissa Bradford	Cheryl Filarsky	John Isaacson	Gary McRae	Margie Russell	Vince Webster
Kenn Browne	Lauren Filarsky	Julie Jacobs	Lindsey McWilliams	Vance Russell	Aileen Weddell
Donna Burla	Jorg Fleige	Peter Jacobsen	J.D. Miller	Mike Rydjord	Barb Welch
Ed Burns	Mimi Fleige	Torsten Jacobsen	Bob Mintzer	Brett Saunders	Roxanne Wellman
Marime Burton	Charles Ford	Tineke Jacobsen	Beth Mintzer	Mike Savino	Tim Wellman
Don Buswell	Alexandra Fraser	Sheri Javius	Dena Mitchell	Dotty Schenk	Ben Wheeler
Juan Cabada	Erik Frenzel	David Jenks	Jane Mitchell	Suzanne Scherff	Chris White
Jim Carr	Michele Frost	Kyle Jenks	Jane Moody	Mary Schiedt	Reid Wickham
Carol Carvalho	Elizabeth Fry	Ryan Jenks	Robert Moody	Michael Schmutz	Ross Wickham
Mike Castell	Ed Gallagher	Nick Jensen	Joel Mooney	Brian Schoenneman	Sue Wickham
Joanne Castro	Joseph Gavazza	James Jerrell	Pat Moran	Janet Schunk	Lee Wilder Snider
Ted Champagne	Maureen Geiger	Bill Johnson	Frank Morris	Katy Sconza	Doug Wirtz
Carl Chang	Aleta George	Katie Johnstone	John Mott-Smith	Pam Seifert	Rollye Wiskerson
Terry Chappell	Roy Gill	Barbara Jones	Pamela Muick	Virgil Sellers	Carol Witham
Jim Christensen	Eldrith Gosney	Jennifer Kaiser	Michael Muir	Lisa Serafini	Maxine Wright
Stephanie Chun	Rusty Gray	Christine Kenaston	Andrea Mummert	Nancy Shaffer	Gary Wyatt
Al Colombano	Joanne Greger	Nick Kenaston	Carla Murphy	Dan Silvia	Charles Yeary
Barbara Comfort	Steve Greger	Esther Kerster	Mark Myers	Eric Simoni	Marcus Yee
Al Cooper	Ann Grove	Justin Kitzes	David Neivelt	Nieves (Little Bear) Sira	Alex Young
Jered Cooper	Meg Grow	Doris Klein	Fred Nelson	Charlie Smith	Lucille Young
Patricia Cooper	Christine Gruhn	Jim Klopstock	Pam Nelson	Lauren Smith	Celia Zavatsky
Susan Cotterel	Charles Hagstrom	Sgt Russell Koch	Moira Neuterman	Linda Sonner	Mike Zeiss
Heide Couch	Burrows Hamilton	Wayne Kocher	John Nogue	Barbara Steinberg	
Nicole Cousino	Doug Hampton	Dan Koster	North Coast	Sam Steiner	
Vicky Crepps-Denny	Dave Hanson	Duane Kromm	Slope Soarers	Jim Steinert	
Mary Beth Crittendon	Leila Harris	Nancie Lagomarsino	Darlene Norwood	Michelle Stevens	
Debbie Dannucci	Phil Harris	Louise Lamb	Rick Norwood	Deborah Stewart	



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Jane Hicks  
John Isaacson  
Albert Lavezzo  
Russell Lester  
Frank Morris  
Sean Quinn

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*Executive Director*  
Anne DeLozier,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Teri Engbring,  
*Volunteer and Education  
Coordinator*  
Nick Meckler, *Field Steward*  
Jane Moody, *Bookkeeper*  
Jessie Olson,  
*Restoration Planner*  
Audrey Peller,  
*Land Transaction Specialist*  
Gregory Peterson,  
*Development Director*  
Ken Poerner, *Land Steward*  
Ben Wallace,  
*Conservation Project Manager*  
Sue Wickham,  
*Program Manager*  
Aleta George,  
*Editor, SLT Vistas*  
White's Graphics,  
*Graphics, SLT Vistas*  
Logo design based on  
original art by Don Birrell

**Our Mission Statement**

Solano Land Trust is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is the preservation of agricultural lands, open space, and resources through the acquisition of land and conservation easements, education, and land management.

# Activities & Events

For latest news on all of our events and directions to our properties go to [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org).

*All events are free and no reservations are needed unless otherwise noted. For more information contact Teri Engbring at [teri@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:teri@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 200. With the exception of Suisun Hill Trail across from Rush Ranch, dogs are not allowed on Solano Land Trust properties.*

## Jepson Prairie Preserve

Winter rain fills the vernal pools, creating a watery welcome for the special creatures and wildflowers that live here. Come spring, trained docents lead tours on weekends, but for now you can take a self-guided tour in the "Docent Triangle" seven days a week during daylight hours.

## King and Swett Ranches

### Scenic Hikes and Birding

**First Saturday of the month:  
Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, 2009. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
(Dec. 5 is co-led by raptor specialist Larry Broderick)  
Moderate pace. Meet at the Park-and-Ride lot at the Hiddenbrooke Parkway/American Canyon Road exit at I-80.

**Volunteer Restoration Project with Sue  
Fridays, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18, 2009. 9 a.m. to noon.**  
Place and project to be determined. Contact Sue at [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 207.

## Lynch Canyon Open Space

Lynch Canyon is open to the public Sat. through Mon. from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Trail maps at parking lot kiosk. As a Solano County Park, there is a \$5 per-day, per-vehicle parking fee.

### Raptor Tours

**Sundays, Oct. 25, Nov. 21, 2009. 9 a.m. to noon**  
Learn how to identify the raptors of Solano County. Moderate pace.

*Scenic Hike with Docent Dave*  
**Saturdays, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, 2009.  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Moderate difficulty.

### Guided Park Ranger Tour

**Saturdays, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, 2009. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
(Nov. 21 is co-led by raptor specialist Larry Broderick)  
Join park ranger for a guided tour of the park's wildlife, plants, history, grazing operations, etc.

### Volunteer Workdays

**Second Saturday of the month:  
Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, 2009. 9 a.m.**  
Meet at parking lot.

## Rush Ranch Open Space

Open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Suisun Hill Trail is open from dawn to dusk.

### Access Adventure Wagon Rides, Blacksmith Demonstration & Nature Walk

**Saturday, Nov. 21, 2009. 10 a.m. to noon**  
(Note: Nature Walk starts at 9 a.m.)  
Watch or participate in the art of blacksmithing, explore Rush Ranch on a horse-drawn carriage, or "Get the Rush" on a guided nature hike. Extreme weather cancels.

### The National Parks preview party

**Monday, Sept. 28, 2009. 7 p.m.**  
Join us for a screening of *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, with an introduction by Michael Muir, great grandson of John Muir. Light refreshments provided. \$25 per person donation requested to support Access Adventure and Rush Ranch Open Space. RSVP to [greg@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:greg@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 205. (Limited seating available.)

### Raptor Identification Workshop

**Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009. 1 to 3:30 p.m.**  
Lecture and handouts. Put your skills to the test the following Sunday for a raptor tour at Lynch Canyon.

### Volunteer Workdays

**First Saturday of the month:  
Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5, 2009. 9 a.m.**  
Join Ken for outdoor stewardship activities.

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