



Solano Land Trust News February 2014



In this Issue

[Lynch Canyon Open on Mondays](#)

[Trail Crew is on a Roll](#)

[A Foggy Encounter](#)

[Jepson Prairie Field Notes](#)

[Student Scientist Emily Allan](#)

[Raptor Fever!](#)

[Polly Gusa Remembered](#)

[Mistletoe & Oaks](#)

[Thank You Business Partners](#)

Get Moving Outside

King-Swett Ranches

Nature Hike

Saturday, March 1

Saturday, April 5

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RSVP* to Jim at

(916) 870-4824 or

james.walsh@landcare.com

Please forward to a friend using the link at the bottom.

Lynch Canyon News: Now open on Mondays!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director

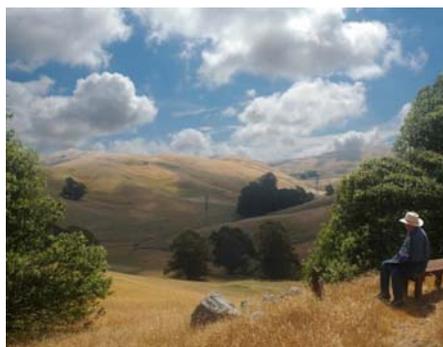


Photo by Dave Reider

First you heard the news that Lynch Canyon is open year round on weekends through next October. Now there's more good news: Lynch Canyon is open on Mondays through October, too!

You might notice a few improvements when you head out to Lynch Canyon. Thanks to our Citizen Scientists, the bluebird boxes are all

cleaned out. Now we need people to help monitor the residents of the boxes. Are you interested? Contact Sue Wickham at (707) 432-0150 x207, or sue@solanolandtrust.org.

Thanks to Ken Poerner and the trail crew, the trails are in really good shape. Even the parking lot is cleaned up thanks to County Ranger Diana Paradis. Say "hi" if you see her out there. We're very fortunate to have Diana working at Lynch Canyon!

This is the first time in many years that park hours have been expanded, so don't delay, head on out to Lynch Canyon the next chance you have to enjoy this spectacular place.

More Lynch Canyon News: Trail crew makes running smoother

Ken Poerner, Land Steward

A hardcore group of volunteers, led by Willy Karmazsin and George



Photo by Ken W. Davis

**Lynch Canyon
Birds of Prey Hike**

Sunday, March 2
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
RSVP* to Mary Beth at
(707) 685-5908 or

mbcrittendon@comcast.net

**Lynch Canyon
Power Hike**

Sunday, March 9
9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
RSVP* to

johnfederowicz@yahoo.com

**Lynch Canyon
Power Hike & Jog**

Saturday, March 29
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
RSVP* to Natalie at
(707) 432-0150 x 200 or

volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Nature Hike**

Saturday, February 8
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[Registration required](#)



Photo by Aleta George

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Fitness Hikes**

Monday, February 17
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[Registration required](#)

Friday, February 21
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

[Registration required](#)

Sunday, March 16
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



**A runner on the
South Valley Trail.**

Photo by
Dave Reider

Schandelmier, are doing great trail work on the second Saturday of every month at Lynch Canyon.

Willy brings his passion and energy, and George brings his big toys. George is a landscape contractor who brings his walk-behind or small ride-on Bobcat to our workdays. He definitely moves the dirt. With the dry weather we have been working on the South Valley Trail, the "almost home" trail for runners at the Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike.

Normally, the trails are not as accessible in the winter, but this year's minimal rainfall has made working on the natural-surface trails just right.

There's always plenty of trail work to be done, and our three-hour, once-a-month workdays help to maintain and upgrade the nine miles of Lynch Canyon trails. The day starts at 9 a.m. and ends by noon. No experience is necessary. Just show up, we have plenty of tools.

[Contact Ken Poerner to help.](#)

Rockville Trails Preserve: Docent loses sight of trail (but not his humor) in fog

Norm Meier, Rockville Trails Preserve docent



Photo by Jorg Fleige

My latest docent-led tour at the ever popular Rockville Trails Preserve was one of the most unusual Solano Land Trust tours I have ever been on. Picture lead docent, Lorenzo Burch, and two support docents, James Chang and myself, with a crew of 18 guests. We set sail about 10 a.m., and were due to return to the departure gate about 2 p.m. The weather report indicated a potential drizzle. "Bring it on," we exclaimed as we headed out via the Cordelia Fault.

The hike meandered along on easy to moderate trails. We stopped occasionally for a bit of fresh air (that's hiker talk for taking a rest during the climb), and to note various species of trees or point out more geological points and views of the Suisun Valley. About midway through the hike, bringing up the rear, I lost sight of the lead hikers AND the lead docent. In fact, I lost sight of Harmonia Hill, the trees, and the fault line. In fact, I lost sight of EVERYTHING and EVERYONE.

"WHAT THE," I exclaimed, loud as the proverbial fog horn, as the fog had rolled in so fast that visibility was less than ten feet. Thirty minutes later it was gone. All crew members were accounted for, and no one was

Lynch Canyon Trail Crew

Saturday, February 8
 Saturday, March 8
 Saturday, April 12
 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 RSVP* to Ken at
 (707) 580-6277 or
ken@solanolandtrust.org

Rush Ranch Trail Crew

Saturday, March 1
 Saturday, April 5
 9 a.m. to noon
 RSVP* to Ken at
 (707) 580-6277 or
ken@solanolandtrust.org

Youth Ag Day: Annual Ag-venture for Third Graders

Tuesday, March 18
 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Contact Catherine Ritch at
 (707) 784-2974 or
cmritch@solanocounty.com

Volunteers needed for events
 Contact Natalie at
 (707) 432-0150 x 200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

* RSVP appreciated but not required

Save the Date

**24th Annual
 Rush Ranch Open House**
 Saturday, April 26
 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**6th Annual
 Lynch Canyon Kite Festival**
 Saturday, May 3
 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**7th Annual
 Lynch Canyon Trail Run &
 Community Hike**
 Saturday, June 7
 8 a.m. start time
[Learn more & register here](#)

Community Events

More Community Hikes
[Solano Open Space](#)

**Suisun Valley
 Passport Sunday
 Wine Tasting**
 Sunday, April 13
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cost: \$15



Emily Allan gathers pellets from owl box

and vineyards, and concluded from the skull counts that barn owls are less useful in range lands and vineyards than they are in olive orchards.

The most surprising thing she found was crowdad skulls. "I had never heard of barn owls eating crowdads," she said. "They do not have water resistant feathers, and diving down to get one could be dangerous."



Event Highlight: Raptor fever



Golden eagle flying low
 Photo by Don Bartling

You have a few more chances to get out with raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick and his team for some raptor spotting. On these moderately-paced hikes, Broderick points out birds of prey as he sees them, and shares tips on how to spot them on your own.

Join the fun on Sunday, March 2, at Lynch Canyon, or on Sunday, March 16, learn more at an indoor ID workshop at Rush Ranch. Following the workshop Broderick leads a hike to Suisun Hill where you can put your newly acquired knowledge to the test.

Get raptor fever!
solanolandtrust.org

Polly Gusa remembered



It is with sadness we say goodbye to long-time supporter Polly Gusa, who lost her battle with cancer on January 12. Polly loved to hike Lynch Canyon and Rush Ranch and had a special place in her heart for barn owls. Polly was the docent manager at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

"I feel very fortunate to have known Polly," says Natalie DuMont. "She was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about education and wildlife. She met with me to brainstorm about Solano Land Trust's education program and shared ideas from her years of experience working at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum."

The Celebration of Life honoring Polly will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the [Lindsay Wildlife Museum](#).

[More information](#)



Sightings

What: Flock of white pelicans circling above parking lot
When: November 2013
Where: Lynch Canyon
Who: Roberta Dubois

What: Hikers in love
When: New Year's Day
Where: Rockville Trails
Who: Aleta George



Photo by Aleta George

What: Bench for Mike Rydjord
When: November 30, 2013
Where: Lynch Canyon, South Pasture Trail
Who: Installed by Jonathan White and crew for Eagle Scout Project



Photo by Ken Poerner

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



Solano Land Trust

Science on the Land: What is the relationship between mistletoe and oaks?



The docents were curious about mistletoe and oaks, so volunteer and outreach coordinator, Natalie DuMont, turned to local oak expert Ted Swiecki.

Swiecki says the relationship between an oak tree and mistletoe is one-sided. "An analogy is that of squatters living in an apartment. The oak (landlord) gets nothing from the mistletoe (squatters) but some damage and unreimbursed expenditure on utilities (loss of water). However, the squatters make out like bandits on the deal. The landlord isn't going to go belly up with a couple of bad tenants, but if the whole building fills up with squatters, the landlord can go broke. This sometimes happens in oaks that are in marginal sites and get overloaded with mistletoe - water stress can be so severe that the oak can die back severely and, in rare cases, be killed. Of course the mistletoe dies in that situation too. So it is not advantageous for it to develop such high densities, and there has evidently been some selection that limits such overpopulation."

Learn more about mistletoe:

- www.ipm.ucdavis.edu
- www.hastingsreserve.org

Learn more about oaks from local oak experts:

- Ted Swiecki and Liz Bernhardt, authors of *A Field Guide to Insects and Diseases of California Oaks*. [Download the PDF here.](#)
- Pam Muick, co-author of [Oaks of California](#), is a former executive director of Solano Land Trust and a current docent at Rockville Trails Preserve and Lynch Canyon.

Thank you Solano Land Trust Business Partners in Conservation.

We can't do it without you.



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All Star Rents
Anderson Ranches
Archer & Ficklin
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

[\(See full list here\)](#)

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