



Solano Land Trust News April 2014



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Happy spring from Solano Land Trust!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director

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Get Moving Outside

King-Swett Ranches Nature Hike

Saturday, April 12

Saturday, May 3

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RSVP* (916) 870-4824 or

james.walsh@landcare.com

Lynch Canyon Nature Hike

Monday, April 14

Monday, May 12

9 a.m. to Noon

No RSVP

Lynch Canyon Trail Run Practice

7-8K Jog

Saturday, April 26



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

Thank you for supporting the work we do to help shape the quality of life in Solano County. Your commitment to help us preserve farmland and open space is a testament to your belief that we all share the responsibility to take care of the places we love. Your generous support helps create a home and community we can be proud of and enjoy today, and that future generations can enjoy forever.

Try to imagine how Solano County would look and feel if there were no open, rolling hills; no cattle or sheep grazing under majestic oak trees; no raptors soaring through clear, clean expanses of sky; and no local produce to be enjoyed at the farmers' markets. It would be quite a different place to live, work, and play, wouldn't it?

With you on our team we have been able to play a key role in making sure our community reflects these intrinsic qualities. For those of us who appreciate quality farming and ranching as a way of life, and who love natural areas where we can enjoy the outdoors and all it has to offer, we understand that we need to stay involved in protecting and preserving the lands of Solano County.

Please watch your mailbox in the next couple of weeks for a way to continue your support and commitment to preserving Solano's way of life. Your support is evident in our community!

Event Highlight: John Muir Laws is a draw at Lynch Canyon

9 a.m. to Noon
10K Jog
Saturday, May 31
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
RSVP to
sftvolunteers@gmail.com

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Geology Exploration Hike**
Saturday, April 19
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Advance registration req'd](#)
Saturday, May 24
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Advance registration req'd](#)
or call Lorenzo at
(707) 330-7263

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Fitness Hike**
Friday, May 9
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
[Advance registration required](#)
or call Cathy at
(707) 745-1913

**Rockville Trails Preserve
From Cobblestones to
Counterfeiters Hike**
Saturday, May 17
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[Advance registration required](#)
or call John at (707) 718-3498

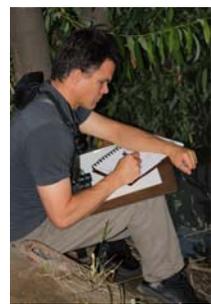
**Rush Ranch
Get the Rush**
Saturday, April 19
Saturday, May 17
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No RSVP



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

**Rush Ranch
Earth Day Hike**
Tuesday, April 22
3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
RSVP (707) 745-8322

**Rush Ranch
Kayak Suisun Marsh**
Saturday, May 10
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
BYO kayak or canoe
Cost: \$10
[Advance registration req'd](#)
or call Natalie at
(707) 432-0150 x200



Naturalist, educator, and artist John Muir Laws is coming to Lynch Canyon on Sunday, May 25, to lead a nature journaling workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. He is one of the most engaging naturalists in California, and you don't want to miss this free event geared for the whole family! If you have ever had an interest in adding nature journaling - sketching what you see - to your outdoor experiences, Laws will inspire you to get started.

Trained as a wildlife biologist, Laws teaches workshops, gives public lectures, and writes books and field guides to connect people to nature through art and field journaling. He is author and artist of *The Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, *The Laws Pocket Guide Set: San Francisco Bay Area*, and *The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds*. He is also the primary author of CA Native Plant Society Curriculum, *Opening the World Through Journaling: Integrating Art, Science, and Language Arts*, available for [free download here](#).

Laws is the founder and leader of the [Nature Journal Club](#), a group of artists and naturalists who meet monthly. The Lynch Canyon outing is a field trip for the club, and all are welcome to join them. For an on-the-trail potluck bring a spoon, bowl, and something to share. For nature journaling bring a pencil and field journal.



[Learn more.](#)

Lynch Canyon News: Getting a head start on the trails

Karen Peitz, Lynch Canyon docent



Two runners having fun at the trail run

Photo by Teri Engbring

Business Insider listed Lynch Canyon as having one of the 12 most challenging trail runs in America. For most trail runners that's a draw!

Whether you are in it to win or just to finish the Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on Saturday, June 7, get a head start and join me for a trail jog and fast walk at Lynch Canyon on the last Saturday in April and May.

No matter if you plan to do the 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, or 2.5-mile hike, these guided power hike / jogs will be good practice. Anyone who wants to get in shape for summer or pursue their own personal health and exercise goals is also invited.

Meet at the Lynch Canyon parking lot at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, for a 7-8K walk-jog. Meet at 8 a.m. on Saturday, May 31, for a 10K walk-jog. Bring \$5 for parking and plenty of drinking water.

To register for the 7th Annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run go to lynchcanyontrailrun.org. You don't have to pre-register for the community hike (it's free!).

All events are free unless otherwise noted.
[More info on events.](#)

* RSVP requested but not required

Volunteers Needed

Citizen Science Friday

Friday, April 18
 Friday, May 16
 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Pre-registration required
 (707) 432-0150 x 207 or
sue@solanolandtrust.org

Lynch Canyon Trail Crew

Saturday, April 12
 Saturday, May 10
 9 a.m. to Noon
 RSVP* (707) 580-0292 or
djparadis@solanocounty.com

Rush Ranch Trail Crew

Saturday, May 3
 9 a.m. to Noon
 RSVP* (707) 580-6277 or
ken@solanolandtrust.org

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

* RSVP appreciated but not required

Save the Date

7th Annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run & Community Hike

Saturday, June 7
 8 a.m. start time
[Details and registration](#)

3rd Annual Lynch Canyon Fireworks Viewing Hike

Friday, July 4
 7 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.
 Cost: \$10
[Advance registration req'd](#)

4th Annual Aim for Ag & Open Space Sporting Clay Shoot & Luncheon

Saturday, August 16
 8:30 a.m. start time

Sightings

Calling all volunteers!

If running or walking the trails isn't your thing, join the awesome group of volunteers who make this event happen. Here are a few Facebook postings from runners last year:

"Thank you race director, volunteers and sponsors for a truly wonderful event. You organize a very special race with plenty of community spirit. I love Lynch Canyon!"

"Thanks for making my 6th episode here a super memorable event! Especially thanks to the wonderful staff of volunteers who cheered us on, kept us hydrated, looked out for our safety and fed us delicious treats afterwards! You guys put on an awesome event!"

Contact Natalie at volunteer@solanolandtrust.org.

Jepson Prairie Field Notes: Native bees abuzz on flowers



Photo by Lars Anderson

The Jepson Prairie docents are not leading tours this season due to an expected less-than-showy display of vernal pool flowers and the ongoing drought. A lack of planned weekend visitors has not kept the docents away, however. They are busy observing how the prairie, the pools, and the life that depends on them are responding to the late rains.

Docent Lars Anderson got on his belly in mid-March to take this photo of a native bee pollinating a Yellow Carpet flower during the prairie's usual springtime dance of synchronicity between bees and flowers. Entomologist and Jepson docent Robbin Thorp identified the bee as a male of *Andrena* (*Diandrena*) *blennospermatis* Thorp, a bee that he named in 1969.

Event Highlight: Rush Ranch Open House



Ed Smith, lead singer of Rough Road Ahead
 Photo by Karen Vittorio

Come on down for the the **24th Annual Rush Ranch Open House** on Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It's free fun for the whole family with live music, horse-drawn carriage rides, live demonstrations, exhibits of ranch and marsh life, art show and auction, scientist-led marsh hike, flute-making and much more!

Brought to you by Rush Ranch Educational Council and Solano Land Trust. For directions go to rushranch.net.

Event Highlight: Kite Festival

What: A family fishing
When: Mid-March
Where: Calhoun Slough
Who: Ken Poerner



Photo by Ken Poerner

What: American Avocet
When: Mid-March
Where: Jepson Prairie
Who: Deanna Mott



Photo by Deanna Mott

What: Circular bench seating
When: Mid-March
Where: Rush Ranch
Who: Hunter Nelson & Boy Scout Troop 853



Photo by Monatte McGee

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



Photo by Dave Reider

Let's go fly a kite!
6th Annual Lynch Canyon Kite Festival
Saturday, May 3
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
No RSVP needed. It's free!

No idle hands on sheep shearing day!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director



Photo by Natalie DuMont

On a warm sunny day in March, Nicole Byrd, Natalie DuMont and I visited Anderson Ranch in Birds Landing for sheep shearing day. Solano Land Trust board member Ian Anderson and his wife, Margaret, own about 3,000 head of ewes and 4,200 lambs (sheep under 18 months).

Among the eclectic mix of yard structures, barns made from reclaimed wood, and the stately home built in 1891, the immaculate ranch was the setting for the annual event, which is handled by an Uruguayan crew.

There are no idle hands on a working ranch. We helped Holly, the family dog, herd the animals, and then sorted lambs from ewes as they came out of the chute. There was so much happening simultaneously that it was hard to keep track of what you're supposed to focus on. Ian remained calm; Natalie managed to keep a smile; but Nicole and I didn't keep our composure quite as well!

The ewes were ushered into a long trailer with about six shearing stations where crew members can shear a sheep in about one and a half minutes. The wool is separated by quality and then fed into a machine that packs it into bags weighing about 400 pounds.

It was quite an education! What I learned is that for this farmer every decision has multiple components to it; economics and business alone do not drive decisions. What I learned about myself is that organized chaos is sometimes as good as it gets and flexibility is a huge asset!

That night I dreamt of fences, gates, and chutes with the incessant sound of sheep baaing and bleating! The bruises I had in the morning were real, and I was proud of them.

Thank you Solano Land Trust Business Partners in Conservation.

We can't do it without you.

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

Please remember to support those who support us.

Congratulations to our neighbors at Yolo Land Trust!

Our friends at Yolo Land Trust worked with the City of Davis, the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and family farmers Ranjit and Sukhwant Dhillon to permanently protect the 359-acre Leland Ranch. Thank you Yolo Land Trust!

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