# Solano Land Trust News
# May 2014

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Thank You Business Partners

Thank You Business Partners

## Get Moving Outside

**King-Swett Ranches Nature Hike**
Saturday, June 7
Saturday, July 5
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
RSVP* (916) 870-4824 or
**james.walsh@landcare.com**

**Lynch Canyon Nature Journaling with John Muir Laws**
Sunday, May 25
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
No RSVP

## Featured Event: Cow wranglers part of the fun at the Lynch Canyon Trail Run

Aleta George, *eVistas* editor

**Brenda, Von, and Beau make it a family day**

The Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike is the only trail run in the San Francisco Bay Area with cow wranglers. Organizers added wranglers in 2011 to allow runners to fully concentrate on the course that winds through hills where cattle graze.

"I've run trail races throughout the US and Lynch Canyon's wranglers are truly unique," says Chris Abess, founder and committee chair. "Not only do the wranglers provide an added layer of protection for the event, the runners and hikers love them. Bringing two different trail user groups together to enjoy Lynch Canyon and benefit Solano Land Trust is awesome."

Wrangler Von Boyenger and runner Brenda Blinn (winner of the 2013 half-marathon, women's division) make the event a family affair with their rescue horse Beau, a 14-year-old chestnut Arabian. Blinn goes to Lynch Canyon nearly every weekend to train for the 100-mile races she usually runs as an ultra runner. As an environmental scientist with the CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, she has worked on projects on the property. "It's land that's dear to my heart," she says.

About a dozen wranglers will volunteer for the **Seventh Annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on Saturday, June 7, 2014**, which includes a half-marathon, 10K, 5K and 2.5-mile hike. This will be the fourth year that wrangler captain Denise Zavat and her husband Marshall, a competitive roper, will volunteer. Also on hand to "hip-hip" the cows off the trails are Sue Edwards, Vicki Dawson, Sharon Taylor, Kim D'Amelio, Jane Patterson, Mindy McCuen, Lynn Carvalho, Lesa Broadman, Jenni Moser, Diana Tziouvaras, Theresa Young-Clyde, and Tracy & Buzz Gould.

**Lynch Canyon**
**Trail Run Practice**
10K Power Hike/Jog
Saturday, May 31
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
RSVP to
**sltvolunteers@gmail.com**

**Lynch Canyon**
**7th Annual Trail Run & Community Hike**
Saturday, June 7
8:00 a.m. start time
**Pre-registration recommended for runners**

**Lynch Canyon**
**3rd Annual**
**Fireworks Viewing Hike**
Friday, July 4
7 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.
Cost: $10
**Registration required**

**Rockville Trails Preserve**
**From Cobblestones to Counterfeiters Hike**
Saturday, May 17
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
**Registration required**

**Rockville Trails Preserve**
**Geology & Nature Hike**
Saturday, May 24
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
**Registration required**

**Rockville Trails Preserve**
**Nature Hike**
Saturday, May 31
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
**Registration required**

**Rush Ranch**
**Astronomy Night**
Friday, May 16
Friday, June 27
Saturday, July 26
7 p.m. start time
No RSVP

**Rush Ranch**
**Guided Walk**
Saturday, May 17
10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
No RSVP

**Rush Ranch**
**Get the Rush: Blacksmithing & more**
Saturday, May 17
Saturday, June 21
Saturday, July 19
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No RSVP

**Rush Ranch**

**First encounter**
Photo by Aleta George

The runners aren't the only participants who appreciate the horses and wranglers. Last year, a Vallejo resident saw and touched a horse for the first time while on the community hike.

**Advance registration for runners is recommended**. No registration is required for the community hike.

## Lynch Canyon News: From race to restoration

Deanna Mott, Associate Director

**Click image for full-sized map**

Soon after the dust settles from the Lynch Canyon Trail Run & Community Hike, big trucks will take their place on Lynch Canyon Road and begin a long-awaited project in which the creek at Lynch Canyon will undergo major restoration. The Lynch Canyon watershed will benefit from erosion control, especially after riparian vegetation is restored in parts of the creek area.

For visitors, that means that **Lynch Canyon will be closed on Mondays from June 8 to July 18**, and certain roads and trails will be off-limits. On weekends you can still access the South Valley, Kestrel, Prairie Ridge, Middle Valley and North Ridge trails, but Lynch Road will be closed from the corral junction to the Tower Trail during construction. New trees, shrubs and perennials will be planted once the rainy season begins. We will maintain and monitor the area for ten years. Let us know if you want to volunteer to help with this!

## Rockville Trails: We reached our $2 million endowment goal!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director

Photo by Tom Muehleisen

Less than two years after we purchased Rockville Trails Preserve, we have reached our $2 million goal for a stewardship endowment!

When Solano Land Trust embarked on the campaign for Rockville Trails, the board of directors set the ambitious goal to raise an endowment to help

**Bats Got You Buggin'?**
Saturday, June 7
1:30 p.m. start time
No RSVP

**More info on events**

* RSVP requested but not required. All events are free unless otherwise note.

## Volunteers Needed

**Citizen Science Friday**
Friday, May 16
Friday, June 20
Friday, July 18
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Advance registration required
**sue@solanolandtrust.org**

**Lynch Canyon Trail Crew**
Saturday, June 14
Saturday, July 12
9 a.m. to Noon
RSVP **ken@solanolandtrust.org**

**Rush Ranch Trail Crew**
Saturday, July 5
9 a.m. to Noon
RSVP **ken@solanolandtrust.org**

**Volunteers needed for events**
Contact Natalie at
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
**volunteer@solanolandtrust.org**

* RSVP appreciated but not required

## Save the Date

**4th Annual Aim for Ag & Open Space Sporting Clay Shoot & Luncheon**
Saturday, August 16
8:30 a.m. start time
**Register online**

## Community News

**Living in the Shadows Leadership Today event**
May 31 & June 1
**leadershiptoday27@gmail.com**
Solano Land Trust's Conservation Project Coordinator Tracy Ellison is chair of this event.

**Solano County Farm Bureau 6th Annual Summer Fundraiser**

us care for the property and share it with the community forever. We were able to raise these funds with a mix of gifts from individuals and local tax assessment funds, which were established to protect and care for local open spaces.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to help us meet this goal! Knowing our endowment goal has been met frees us to focus on fundraising efforts required to get the park open to the public.
We are now undergoing the environmental review process and busy making plans to identify where the parking lot will be constructed.

## Meet the Karaounis: Vacaville farm offers "Nature's Bounty"

**Ali, Ahmad, & Lourdes**
Photo by Aleta George

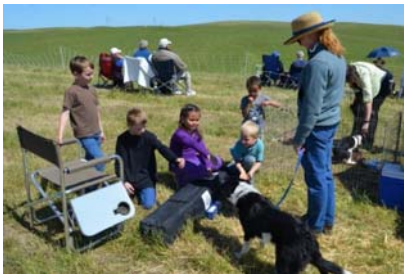
Nature's Bounty in Vacaville sells farm-fresh goat, lamb, beef, and whole young roasting chickens that are slaughtered onsite.

People from all over the San Francisco Bay Area come to the farm to procure their all-natural, halal meat. Some customers come from as far as Oregon and San Diego.

**Meet the Karaounis**

## Rancher and farmbudsman team up for sheep dog trials

Michelle Stephens, Solano and Yolo County Farmbudsman



**Kids meet sheep dogs**
Photo by Nicole Byrd

Sheep farmer Jeanne McCormick wanted to try something new this year by hosting a three-day sheep dog trial at her historic ranch in Rio Vista.

Branching out into the world of agritourism can be intimidating for farmers due to the permits needed to go from basic agricultural activities to a more public stage. Jeanne contacted me, Solano and Yolo Counties farmbudsman, to help. Jeanne and I discussed her goals for the event and what potential permits were needed. I worked with the county's planning, building, and environmental health departments, and with their help was able to avoid what initially was going to be $1,000 worth of permitting. Savings such as these can mean the success or failure of an event.

"It was a great help to have Michelle working on the project," said Jeanne. "I was able to focus on the event planning while she worked with the county on the permits."

Tri-tip, horseshoes, & volleyball!
Saturday, June 28
(707) 449-8044

**11th Annual Fun Shoot**
**Suisun RCD**
Birds Landing
July 25
**More info**

**Visions of the Wild**
**Summer Arts Camp**
Vallejo Community
Arts Foundation
July 7-18
**broreilly@gmail.com**

King-Swett Ranches dyptich by Susan Schneider

**Visions of the Wild:**
**A Festival Connecting Nature, Culture & Community**
Wednesday, September 3 - Saturday, September 6
**visionsofthewild.org**

## Sightings

**What:** Three-eared rabbit
**When:** Late April
**Where:** Jepson Prairie
**Who:** Aleta George

I'm late!

**What:** 30 American white pelicans
**When:** May 10
**Where:** Suisun Marsh
**Who:** Kayakers on SLT's first-ever kayaking tour

Photo by Bil Paul

**What:** Mrs. Lynch's irises

The event was a success, with a guest judge from the United Kingdom and three days of hard working dogs, stubborn sheep, and a rapt audience. The event also showcased a very important element of working agriculture that people often do not get to see.

To work with Michelle on your project, please contact her at (530) 863-9073 or **michellelinstephens@gmail.com**.

# Solano Land Trust goes to Washington, D.C.

Nicole Byrd, Executive Director

In April, Board President Linda Seifert and I and joined the Land Trust Alliance and land trust leaders from across the country for Land Trust Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C. Our elected officials were excited to meet with us. They share our passion for our communities, and many of them are committed to conservation. Ours is a non-partisan issue.

We met with staffers from Senators Boxer and Feinstein's offices. Additionally, I met with Congressmen Thompson and Garamendi, and staffers from Congressman Cook, Calvert and Congresswoman Sanchez's office. We discussed the critical role that conservation plays in keeping our communities vital and focused on key legislative issues, especially the need to extend the federal tax incentives for landowner-led conservation. Donations of conservation easements had increased to one million acres a year under the incentives, but dropped to almost nothing after they expired in December. Congressman Thompson is a lead sponsor of the legislation to extend the tax provision, and Congressman Garamendi a co-sponsor.

We made a difference. Just one day after land trust representatives met with staff and members of congress, the Senate finance committee voted to extend the tax incentives through 2014 and 2015. The committee action may soon be followed by a vote on the Senate floor, but enactment will hinge on action by the House of Representatives.

Now is the time to let your representative know this issue matters to you and our community.

# Visions of the Wild: Ranger station takes root in downtown Vallejo

Aleta George, Editor

**Vallejo ranger station in action**
Photo by Aleta George

Have you checked out the new ranger station in Vallejo? I visited recently during the Saturday Farmer's Market and found a hub of activity. It's easy to find, just go to the market and look for the sandwich board.

Inside the storefront station, a kid played with animal puppets while his mother and the ranger talked beetles. Another ranger

**When:** Mid-May
**Where:** Lynch Canyon
**Who:** Sue Wickham

**Who:** Nicole Byrd & Deanna Mott
**Where:** LandPaths' Bayer Farm and Rancho Mark West
**When:** May 6

Nicole, Deanna, & LandPaths Craig Anderson & Omar Gallardo

**Who**: Bryson Byrd
**Where**: Lynch Canyon Kite Festival
**When**: May 3
**Who**: Nicole Byrd

Photo by Nicole Byrd

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

Solano Land Trust

directed a wanna-be hiker. "I didn't know there was a place like this in Vallejo!" exclaimed a man who walked in.

The ranger station is gearing up for the **Visions of the Wild Festival** from September 3-6, 2014, to take place in Vallejo. The festival commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, a historic legislation that preserves and protects wilderness in America. The festival in Vallejo will connect nature, culture and community through author talks, a film series, three art shows, panel discussions, and field trips to local wild lands.

"Within a short distance from Vallejo we have opportunities for people to connect with nature and wild lands," says US Forest Service ranger and filmmaker Steven Dunsky. "Even if people don't get to the big-W wilderness areas, we want them to find wild right where they are."

**Connect to Visions of the Wild on Facebook**

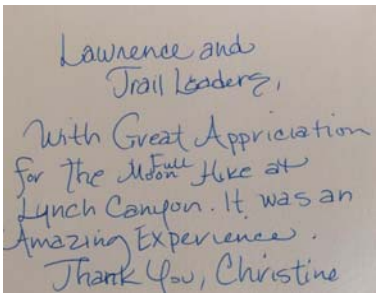
## Volunteers we appreciate you!

Have you volunteered for Solano Land Trust or on Solano Land Trust lands in the past year?

If so, please join us for a potluck camp out at Rush Ranch on Saturday, June 28.

**Click here for details and to RSVP.**

## Featured Event: 3rd Annual Fireworks Viewing Hike at Lynch Canyon




Friday, July 4
Sign up early for this one-of-a-kind experience!
**Registration required**

## Thank you Solano Land Trust Business Partners in Conservation.

## We can't do it without you.

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