



## Solano Land Trust News December 2014



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### Get Moving Outside

#### King-Swett Ranches Nature Hike

Saturday, January 3  
Saturday, February 7  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
[RSVP\\*](#)

#### Lynch Canyon Birding Hikes

Saturday, December 20  
Saturday, February 14  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
\$5 parking fee  
[RSVP\\*](#)

#### Rockville Trails Preserve

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

### Trails, habitat, kids, and farms: Together we can do it all!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director



Check out our new  
brochure!

It is hard to believe another year is coming to a close. But we can't jump into the New Year without reflecting on a very busy and successful 2014, thanks to your support and the confidence you have shown in Solano Land Trust.

We have made gains in trails and habitat in and near Lynch Canyon! Lynch Canyon is now open Fridays through Mondays year round, and the California red-legged frog and callippe silverspot butterfly are a signature away from having 283 acres of protected habitat on a conservation easement adjacent to the preserve.

If you get excited about education, you will be happy to know we are finding more ways to provide unique opportunities and natural outdoor classrooms for young people. We also support farm conservation in Solano County by helping family farms remain strong, and are discussing more ways to help farmers and ranchers preserve their land and agricultural heritage.



We are able to do these things because your contributions have helped to make Solano Land Trust a more capable and

**Hike for Exercise & Views**  
[Saturday, December 13](#)  
[Saturday, January 10](#)  
[Saturday, February 7](#)

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Click on above dates to RSVP

**Rockville Trails Preserve**  
**New Year's Day Hike**

Thursday, January 1, 2015

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

[RSVP\\*](#)

**Rockville Trails Preserve**  
**Holiday Hike**

Monday, January 19

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[RSVP\\*](#)

**Rush Ranch**

**"Get the Rush"**

**Blacksmithing & more**

Saturday, December 20

Saturday, January 17

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

No RSVP

**Rush Ranch**

**Birds of Prey ID**

**Workshop & Hike**

Saturday, January 10, 2015

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

\$10 per person

(space is limited)

[Advance registration and](#)  
[Pre-payment required](#)

**Rush Ranch**

**"Bees, Bees, Bees!" lecture**

Saturday, January 24

1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

No RSVP (space is limited)

[More info on events](#)

\* RSVP requested but not required.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

### Volunteers Needed

**Citizen Science Friday**

Wednesday, January 7

Thursday, January 8

Thursday, January 22

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

[Advance registration](#)  
[required](#)

**Lynch Canyon**  
**Trail Crew**

Saturday, December 13

Saturday, January 10

Saturday, February 14

9 a.m. to Noon



reliable community conservation leader. If you haven't already sent your year-end gift, please take a moment to do so. We are sincerely grateful for all of the support we receive and we wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know that if you shop on [Amazon Smile](#) five percent of your purchases will be donated to your charity of choice? It's just like shopping on Amazon, because it's the same

company! Here is how it works: go to Amazon Smile and log in like you normally would on Amazon. Then, type in Solano Land Trust

as the charity you wish to support. It's that easy; happy shopping!

## Lynch Canyon open four days a week!



**Lynch Canyon is now open for exploration Fridays-Mondays**

Get your hiking boots, bikes, and horses at the ready! Lynch Canyon is open to the public year-round Fridays through Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A shout out goes to Solano County Board of Supervisors and Solano County Parks for providing additional funding to make this happen.

## New farmers set seed and their futures at Collins Farm

Aleta George, Editor



**New farmers Jay Cuff and Katie Fyrie**

More than bees are buzzing at [Collins Farm](#), a 195-acre farm owned by Rich and Shelly Collins and protected by a conservation agreement held by Solano Land Trust.

Two recent graduates of the Center for Land-based Learning [California Farm Academy](#) are setting down roots here as farmers. Katie

Fyrie, 25, graduated with a biology degree from UC Berkeley, but couldn't see herself working in a lab. She joined the Academy and the experience led to a partnership with Emma Torbet at [Cloverleaf Farm](#), a four-acre orchard on the Collins Farm.

[RSVP here](#)

**Rush Ranch  
Trail Crew**

Saturday, February 7  
9 a.m. to Noon

[RSVP here](#)

\* RSVP appreciated but not required

**Save the Date 2015**

**Lynch Canyon  
7th Annual Kite Festival**  
Saturday, April 11

**Rush Ranch  
25th Annual Open House**  
Saturday, April 25

**Lynch Canyon  
8th Annual Trail Run &  
Community Hike**  
Saturday, June 6  
[lynchcanyontrailrun.org](http://lynchcanyontrailrun.org)

**Birds Landing  
5th Annual Aim for Ag &  
Open Space  
Sporting Clay Shoot &  
Luncheon**  
Saturday, August 8

**Community Events**

**Suisun Valley Vintners &  
Growers Association  
Holiday Wine Celebration**  
Friday, December 26  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
[suisunvalley.com](http://suisunvalley.com)

**Sightings**

**Joshua White and crew  
build and install a  
boardwalk on Bobcat Trail  
at Lynch Canyon**



Jay Cuff is also a recent graduate of the CA Farm Academy. He and Glen Baldwin started the eight-acre [Hearty Fork Farm](#) which they lease from the Collins Farm (Baldwin has since moved on). Cuff grew up working on large farms in Oregon and loved it, but never imagined he could make a living as a farmer without owning his own land. Then he moved to CA and talked to small farmers in Solano and Yolo Counties. "Now I'm seeing it's a legitimate career," says the 41-year-old farmer. "It just takes a lot of hard work and support."

For that support he credits the California Farm Academy, Rich and Shelly Collins, and the [Sacramento's Farm to Fork Movement](#), which promotes locally grown food region-wide.

Soil is the bottom line. The rich loam at Collins Farm is classified as prime farmland by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the California Department of Conservation. The soil and the land is protected in perpetuity by a conservation agreement held by Solano Land Trust, which protects 8,545 acres of agricultural land in Solano County.

**United Airlines helps clean up Paradise**

Ken Poerner, Land Steward



For two wet mornings, hardy volunteers joined staff for planting and cleanup activities at the Paradise Valley Open Space.

Solano Land Trust's smallest conservation easement is a 9.7 acre parcel that encompasses a short reach of Laurel Creek in the northeast corner of Fairfield. It contains created wetlands and numerous large oaks, willows and cottonwood trees. It was conveyed to Solano Land Trust by Winncrest Homes in 1991 as compensatory mitigation for the surrounding Paradise Valley subdivision and for that reason it is not open to the public.

The cleanup and planting project was funded by a United EcoSkies Community Grant. The force behind the project was United Airlines employee and Fairfield resident Linda Elkins. She worked with Solano Land Trust to obtain to obtain the grant, and out we went on two damp, foggy mornings to plant native roses, blackberries, and grasses, and remove and demolish a well-built but abandoned homeless site.

**Save the date for Rush Ranch's 25th Annual Open House**



Mark your calendar on April 25, 2015, for the 25th Annual Rush Ranch Open House. There is nothing like it in the San Francisco Bay Area and this will be a year not to miss!



**Thank you to Joshua and all the other Eagle Scouts who have improved our properties!**

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



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Bring your family and friends and we'll see you there!

## Hot off the Press: *Breeding Birds of Solano County* is the gift of the season



Members of [Napa-Solano Audubon](#) (many of whom are Solano Land Trust members) spent a decade in the field, pouring through historic records, and compiling information about Solano County's breeding birds.

This beautiful book should be on every wish and gift-giving list this season. It's science based and artistically rendered with 350 stunning photographs of local birds. Art, science, and geography are rolled into this must-have coffee table art book full of useful data.

[Click to order here](#)

## Join the Citizen Science team in 2015!



Set down strong roots for the New Year as a Solano Land Trust Citizen Scientist.

Learn about land management, biology, geology, and a whole lot more while helping with projects.

Upcoming dates are January 7, 8, and 22.

[RSVP to Sue Wickham](#)

## Rush Ranch News: Partial trail closure through mid-February 2015

The Marsh and South Pasture Trails will be closed to the public due to seasonal use restrictions some weekends. Please enjoy the Suisun Hill Trail and all other facilities at Rush Ranch during this time. Upcoming closure dates:

- December 12-14
- January 2-4
- January 23-25
- February 6-8
- February 13-15



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