



Solano Land Trust News February 2015



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Get Moving Outside

- Jepson Prairie Flower & Critter Walks**
Saturdays and Sundays
March 14 to May 10
10 a.m. to Noon
[RSVP if more than 5](#)
- King-Swett Ranches Nature Hike**
Saturday, March 7
Saturday, April 4
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[RSVP*](#)

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

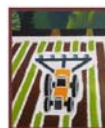
The future bodes well for Wooden Valley Winery

Aleta George, *Vistas* editor



Ron Lanza demonstrates how to prune
Photo by Aleta George

Wooden Valley Winery has been a community fixture in Suisun Valley for 82 years, with three generations of the Lanza family crafting wine from the Suisun Valley appellation for nearly as long. Tradition and renovation are key to the family's success. Learn more about Solano County's oldest winery in our series [Meet the Farmers of Solano County](#).



Meet the Farmers of Solano County
Challenges, personal stories, and the occasional recipe

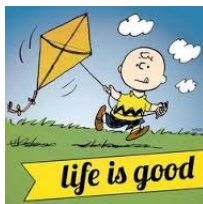
Calling all friends of bluebirds

**Lynch Canyon
Valentine's Day
Bird Watching Hike**
(SF Bay Flyway Festival)
Saturday, February 14
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$5 parking fee
[RSVP*](#)

**Lynch Canyon
Bay Area Ridge Trail Hike**
Saturday, February 28
9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$5 parking fee
[RSVP*](#)

**Lynch Canyon
Birds of Prey ID &
Natural History Hike**
Sunday, March 8
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$10 per person
[Pre-registration &
Pre-payment required](#)
(space is limited)

**Lynch Canyon
7th Annual Kite Festival**
Saturday, April 11
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
\$5 parking fee
No RSVP



**Rockville Trails Preserve
Holiday Hike**
Monday, February 16
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[RSVP*](#)

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Tales and Trails Hike**
Saturday, February 28
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
[Pre-registration required](#)

**Rockville Trails Preserve
Hiking and Yoga**
Saturday, March 21
8:45 a.m. to Noon
Space is limited
[Pre-registration required](#)

**Rush Ranch
"Get the Rush"
Blacksmithing & more**
Saturday, February 21
Saturday, March 21



**Western bluebird adult
feeding chick in 2014.**
Photo by
Michael Gene Stewart

slots available at Rush Ranch.

Training for monitors is on Thursday, March 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Solano Land Trust's office; and Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lynch Canyon.

Contact Sue Wickham [by email](#) or call (707) 432-0150 x 207.

Join in the fun (and proverbial happiness) by becoming a bluebird monitor at Lynch Canyon or Rush Ranch!

Trained monitors will join a small group to observe up to 12 nesting boxes on a bluebird trail about once a week during nesting season. Participants will enjoy being outside, hiking flat ground and meeting new friends. And of course, getting to know a few bluebirds very well!!

Training consists of one indoor program at Solano Land Trust's office in Fairfield and one outdoor monitoring activity at either Lynch Canyon or Rush Ranch. If you want to be a trail captain we have

Birders flock to Lynch Canyon for a glimpse of golden eagles



**Birders in search of golden eagles
at Lynch Canyon**
Photo by Aleta George

In early January a group of birders from [The Bird Rescue Center](#) in Santa Rosa took a field trip to Lynch Canyon to see golden eagles. Lynch Canyon didn't disappoint!



Christina Nelson reported by email that the group saw two adult golden eagles on the ground, then on fence posts, and then flying around. At one point two golden eagles, two harriers and a red-tailed hawk were all soaring together until the red-tail dove on a golden. They also saw numerous rough-legged hawks and a couple of white-tailed kites. "We look forward to returning!" said Nelson.

Saturday, April 18
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No RSVP

**Rush Ranch
Spring Equinox Walk**
Friday, March 20
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
[RSVP*](#)

**Rush Ranch
Birds of Prey ID
Workshop & Hike**
Sunday, March 22
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
\$10 per person
[Pre-registration &
Pre-payment required](#)

**25th Annual
Rush Ranch Open House**
Saturday, April 25
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Free!

[More info on events](#)

* RSVP requested but not required.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Volunteers Needed

Citizen Science Friday
Friday, February 13
Friday, March 13
Friday, April 10
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
[Pre-registration required](#)

**Lynch Canyon
Trail Crew**
Saturday, February 14
Saturday, March 14
Saturday, April 11
9 a.m. to Noon
[RSVP*](#)

**Rush Ranch
Ranch Crew**
Saturday, March 7
Saturday, April 4
9 a.m. to Noon
[RSVP*](#)

**Bluebird Program
Install and prepare boxes**
Tuesday, February 17
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Train Monitors
Thursday, March 5 &
Saturday, March 7
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
[Contact Sue](#)

Golden eagle
Photo by
Tom Muehleisen

Save the 25th for the 25th!



April 25, 2015, is the day to come out for the 25th Annual Rush Ranch Open House. Bring your family and friends for music; art; live demonstrations of wool spinning, wheat weaving, horse shoeing, blacksmithing, and square dancing. The chuck wagon will be open for grub!

Jepson Prairie's Olcott is looking good!



Photo taken on February 2, 2015

Tours start on Saturday, March 14.
Check out what's new at Jepson Prairie for the coming season in the March *Vistas*. See you at the Prairie!

Range management tour makes a stop at Rush Ranch and Jepson Prairie



A group attending the 68th Annual Society for Range Management Meeting held in Sacramento January 31-February 6, stopped at Rush Ranch on a field trip to learn about vegetation classification and its value for range management. The field trip was led by Todd Keeler-Wolf, a senior vegetation specialist with CA Fish & Wildlife and co-author of *A Manual of*

19th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival
at Mare Island
Host SLT booth
February 14 & 15
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
[Contact Natalie](#)

20th Annual California Duck Days Festival
at Yolo Bypass
Host SLT booth
Saturday, February 21
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
[Contact Natalie](#)

13th Annual Youth Ag Day Solano County Fairgrounds
Host Solano County booth
Tuesday, March 17
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
[Contact Kelley](#)

* RSVP appreciated but not required

Save the Date 2015

Lynch Canyon 8th Annual Trail Run & Community Hike
Saturday, June 6
lynchcanyontrailrun.org

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

Community Events

San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival
February 13 to 15
[More info](#)

McCormack Sheep & Grain Sheep Dog Trial
Montezuma Hills, Rio Vista
March 27-29
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
[Get tickets](#)

Suisun Valley Passport Sunday
April 12
[More info](#)

Rising Tides Workshop

Solano County Supervisors Jim Spering & John Vasquez invite you to a workshop on

NERR interim director Mike Vassey and Todd Keeler-Wolf *California Vegetation, Second Edition.*
Photo by Aleta George

In Memoriam: Don Johnson was a friend to many in Suisun Valley

Tracy Ellison, Conservation Project Coordinator



Don Johnson had a big heart. He was very unassuming and quiet at times, but he always had a presence in the Suisun Valley and Solano County Agriculture community. He was a charter member on the Solano County Agricultural Advisory Committee for 12 years and a member of the Suisun Valley Growers and Vintners' Association.

The community knew him best in recent years for his philanthropic spirit. He supported fundraising and outreach efforts by providing an opportunity for local nonprofits to gather at Winterhawk Winery in Suisun Valley.

Solano Land Trust was fortunate to have a friend in Don and hosted A Toast to Ag & Open Space events at his winery. This helped bring awareness to Solano Land Trust and the work we do to promote agriculture in the county. We will miss Don and his community spirit.

Renown land experts to speak at Soul Food Farms



Alexis Koefoed is bringing education to Soul Food Farm with FarmSchool, a new lecture series.

"Grazing on Grasslands 101" is an all-day event featuring Allan Savory, founder of the Savory Institute, and Nicolette Hahn Niman, author, environmental lawyer, and rancher.

[Learn more and buy tickets here.](#)

Hot News: Congratulations to Jenny Lester Moffitt on her recent appointment as deputy secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Jenny is the daughter of Russ Lester, a long-time Solano Land Trust board member (who recently stepped down) and proud father indeed!

Sighting: Thanks to an Eagle Scout Jepson Prairie has two new bridges

**Planning for Storms, Tides,
and Rising Sea Levels in
Solano County**

Friday, February 27
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Solano County Event Center
[RSVP Here](#)

Presented with San Francisco
Bay Conservation and
Development Commission

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



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Photo by Doug Wirtz

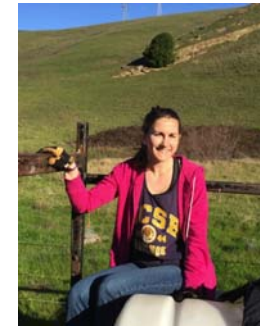
Docent Doug Wirtz sighted a pair of new bridges at Jepson Prairie. He discovered that the bridges were made by Joshua Durkin for his Eagle Scout project. Durkin organized Boy Scout Troop 488 after discussing and planning the project

with Land Steward Ken Poerner. "Solano Land Trust has benefited from the continued commitment of the Boy Scouts in improving access to our preserves," says Wirtz. "On behalf of Solano Land Trust and the Jepson Docent program, THANK YOU Josh!!!"

More sightings: Lynch Canyon



Solano County Parks Ranger Eric DePaul and family at Lynch Canyon on a sunny Sunday.



Fundraising Assistant Samantha Penko planting trees at Lynch Canyon.

[Forward email](#)



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