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## Solano Land Trust News - April 2010

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### **Take the challenge:** *Come run (or walk) with me!*

by Nicole Byrd, Executive Director



As many of you know, I've taken the challenge to run the 10k at our Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on June 5. As I train for the run in my flat neighborhood, I have to admit I am nervous about those hills at Lynch Canyon. But the point is to be challenged, right?

We also face many challenges in this economy, including the challenge to keep Lynch Canyon open to the public. One way to do that is to get more people out to Lynch Canyon so that they can see for themselves what a special place it is. A large open space like Lynch Canyon can support the healthy lifestyles that we strive for and want our next generation to value.

Each day, I get a little stronger and more excited about the run. Even more exciting is how many people have taken the challenge to join me, either walking or running. I challenge you to join us too! Here are some in the community who have taken the challenge:

#### 10k Run:

- **Darrin Berardi**, Berardi Chiropractic & Solano Land Trust board member
- **Dan Sykes**, Solano County parks manager
- **Brandon Minto**, Congressman Garamendi's office
- **Anne DeLozier**, Solano Land Trust staff
- **Jessie Olsen**, Solano Land Trust staff
- **Gary McRae**, Edward Jones and Solano Land Trust development committee
- **Rhonda Letcher**, Solano County Farm Bureau

#### 2.5 Mile Community Hike:

- **Anthony Russo**, B & L Properties
- **Scott Greenwood-Meinert**, Gaw Van Male
- **Dawn LaBar**, Lois Wolk's office
- **Mike Fortney**, Place Title
- **Sandy Pearson**, Solano EDC
- **Aleta George**, journalist and Vista's editor
- **Chuck Lomeli**, Solano County treasurer
- **Bob Berman**, Nichols Berman & Solano Land Trust board member
- **Sean Quinn**, Fairfield city manager & Solano Land Trust board member
- **Ian Anderson**, farmer & Solano Land Trust board member
- **Leslie Fay**, Fairfield-Suisun chamber president & CEO

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## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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**Rush Ranch Annual Open House**

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Join Rush Ranch

Educational Council and

Solano Land Trust for family day at the ranch.

New this year:

Ranch-life art station for kids and live bat exhibit!

[www.rushranch.net](http://www.rushranch.net)



The Vaca/Davis West Valley Chorale in 2008

**Second Annual  
Lynch Canyon Kite Festival**  
Sunday, May 2, 2010, 12 p.m.

- **Anita Hawkes**, Vallejo Chamber president & CEO
- **Robin Cox & family**, Solano County health education manager
- **Jim Spering**, Solano County supervisor & Solano Land Trust board member
- **Heather Devaney and son**, First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission

We are meeting at Lynch Canyon for a training run on April 26 at 11:30 a.m. Please join us if you are interested. Those who plan to do the free community walk don't need to pre-register, but you do need to register if you're doing the half-marathon or 10k. For more information go to [lynchcanyontrailrun.com](http://lynchcanyontrailrun.com).

I hope to see many new faces on June 5.

*Nicole Syrd*

## FARM FRESH FEAST

### **Yummy!** Farm Fresh Feast update

by Greg Peterson, Development Director

We have two big announcements regarding the May 8 [Farm Fresh Feast event](#). First, Russ Lester, Solano Land Trust board member and host of the event, has recently been awarded the 2010 Natural Resources Defense Council "[Growing Green Award](#)" as the most sustainable food producer. Congratulations Russ!



**Don't miss your chance to tour Russ's state-of-the-art, sustainable operations facility on May 8.**

Second, the mouth-watering menu has been set for the feast! by chef Lauren Kiino. (Warning, reading the following menu will send you to the refrigerator.):

- Soul Food Farm chicken liver pate on walnut bread with pickled shallots
- Sweet pea rice fritters with crescenza
- 7-minute eggs with smoked trout
- Loma Vista Farm lettuce with early May vegetables
- Anderson Farms "lambchetta"
- Soul Food Farm chicken cooked under a brick and served with olive-oil braised Swiss chard with garlic and lemon, and roasted new potatoes with sea salt and salsa verde.
- Organic walnut financier with roasted strawberries and crème fraiche

Local wines will accompany all of the above. In addition to the great food and tours of Russ's facility, we will have entertainment, wagon rides and a great time for all.

[Tickets are selling fast! Don't miss this exciting event!](#)



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**Explore Lynch Canyon:  
Celebrate Lynch Canyon's Third Anniversary with  
Solano County Parks & Solano Land Trust  
May 15, 2010**

**Full Moon Night Photography Workshop  
at Rush Ranch with Tim Baskerville  
Wednesday, May 26, 2010  
Sponsored by Rush Ranch Educational Council  
Fee Required. Register by May 10 at  
[nichols@thenocturnes.com](mailto:nichols@thenocturnes.com)**

**Lynch Canyon Third Annual Trail Run &  
Community Hike  
Saturday, June 5, 2010  
For group, corporate or individual sponsorship  
opportunities call Greg at (707) 432-0150 x 205  
[www.lynchcanyontrailrun.com](http://www.lynchcanyontrailrun.com)**



## MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Jepson Prairie  
Docent-led Tours  
Now through May 9, 2010  
(Saturdays & Sundays)  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Peak flower season is upon us! Docents report  
that the prairie is ablaze in bloom right now!**



**King-Swett Ranches  
Docent-led Hikes  
June 5, 2010, 9 a.m.**

**Lynch Canyon  
Docent-led Hikes  
April 24, 2010, 9 a.m.  
May 22, 2010, 9 a.m.**

**Rush Ranch Guided walk (9 a.m.)  
Blacksmith demo (10 a.m.)  
Wagon rides (11 a.m.)  
May 15, 2010  
June 19, 2010**

## Welcome aboard Miriam!



Solano Land Trust wants to introduce you to the new Volunteer and Education Coordinator, Miriam Sachs Martin, who will be job sharing and transitioning with our coordinator of the last three years, Teri Engbring. We are delighted to welcome her and look forward to her enthusiasm, experience and skill as an environmental educator and volunteer program manager.

Miriam has two main passions in life: weeds and people. She recently completed a Master's Degree at San Francisco State University, where she studied different methods of controlling invasive plants. She also explored ways to connect people of diverse socio-economic backgrounds to open space. She is bilingual in Spanish and English, and enjoys working with folks of all cultural backgrounds.

Miriam previously worked as assistant preserve manager for the Center for Natural Lands Management in Davis, and as chief preserve steward at Pearson-Arastradero Preserve for Acterra in Palo Alto. Prior to her focus on weeds and people, she taught English as a second language, and citizenship and technology at East Side Adult Education in San José.

A California native, Miriam currently lives in San Mateo. She is very excited to have the opportunity to connect with the volunteers of Solano Land Trust. We welcome her to the Solano Land Trust team.

Please feel free to visit her [website](#).

## Looking at Lynch Canyon through an artist's eye: Art day a colorful success

by Aleta George, Vistas editor



This creatively rendered photo was done by Vacaville photographer Michael Newman. [See more of Michael's work](#).

On 13 March, 70 artists ventured into Lynch Canyon to capture its early-spring beauty. The challenge of some muddy trails aside, the day was inspiring and generated paintings and photographs that will be displayed or sold at several upcoming Solano Land Trust events.

One group that participated in "Through the Artist's Eye-A Day at Lynch Canyon" was First Impressions, a nonprofit that matches young people interested in photography with an adult willing to teach those skills. As

Find out more information about events at:

[www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)



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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have some fun and be part of our team!

Event staffing needed for:

Rush Ranch Open House, April 24

Lynch Canyon Kite Festival, May 2

Lynch Third Anniversary, May 15

Lynch Trail Run & Community Hike, June 5

Contact: [volunteers@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:volunteers@solanolandtrust.org)

Habitat restoration help needed for:

Furlough Fridays, May 21, June 18

Lynch Land & Trail Improvements, May 8, June 12

Rush Ranch Improvement Days, May 1, June 5

Contact: [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org)

## OTHER EVENTS

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Day at the Ranch

Saturday, May 22, 2010

The Joyful Ranch Foundation is hosting an old-time ranch day at the

Hoskins-Pleasants Ranch in Vacaville

Contact: [joyfulranch@onramp113.org](mailto:joyfulranch@onramp113.org) or call

Ethel Hoskins at (707) 448-2288

these young adults from San Francisco and their mentors milled around the parking lot preparing for the hike, I pointed out a family of ground squirrels and offered my binoculars to two of the girls, their jeans painted with graffiti from belt to bottom. Accustomed to sharing, they each put an eye to one of the eyepieces. That didn't work so they took turns watching the squirrels who were sitting up on their hind legs watching for raptors.

This special event sponsored by Solano County Parks and Solano Land Trust generated artwork for Solano Land Trust's Heritage Feast and Art Show in September. Look for a portfolio of art that will be displayed on our website soon.

For more information about upcoming events that will feature the art contact Development Director Greg Peterson at [greg@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:greg@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 205.

## Vallejo's Chamber of Commerce president visits Solano Land Trust properties

by Greg Peterson, Development Director



On a beautiful spring day in March, Anita Hawkes, President and CEO of the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce, took a break from her work and visited three of Solano Land Trust's properties: King Ranch, Vallejo-Swett Ranch and Lynch

Canyon. The air was cool and the sky was clear and the views of Vallejo and the surrounding Bay Area were spectacular.

"From atop King Ranch I was amazed to be above the raptors as they soared through the air," she said. "To see a coyote was frosting on the cake." She was also fascinated by the meadowlarks, the state bird of her home state of Montana.

Hawkes was joined by Solano Land Trust Executive Director Nicole Byrd, who acted as tour guide; Development Director Greg Peterson; and Harry Englebright, Solano Land Trust volunteer and member of the Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group. Hawkes and Byrd are looking for more ways the Vallejo Chamber and Solano Land Trust can educate Vallejo residents about these amazing natural areas in their own backyards. As a start, the Vallejo Chamber board of directors will hold a planning conference at Rush Ranch later this spring. Hawkes also wants to spend more time hiking at Lynch Canyon and has taken the challenge to do the [Lynch Canyon Community Hike](#) on June 5.

The King and Swett Ranches are open for monthly [docent-led tours](#).



## Sightings

*Here's what visitors, docents, and staff are seeing on our properties (Please visit [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org) for days/hours that our properties are open to the public.)*



Well-known botanist, Steve Edwards, from the Tilden Botanic Garden in Berkeley was seen photographing flora at the **King-Swett Ranches** in late March.

On March 16, teacher Michael Stern brought 60 fourth-grade class students from Wardlaw Elementary School in Vallejo to **Lynch Canyon** for a field trip. "We saw many birds, including a bird that lays its eggs on the road," said one student. Another child saw "lots of wild animals" and learned that "some eagles can be golden."

Doug Wirtz and his mom, Clarice Wirtz, were hiking the east side of King Hill when Carol spotted a horned lark nest and eggs.

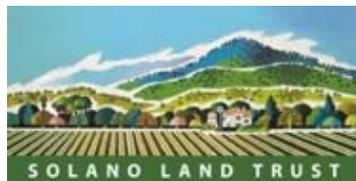


Ken Poerner watched a juvenile peregrine falcon tear apart its lunch (probably a small bird) at **Jepson Prairie** in late March.

These hikers were seen wildflower hunting at **Vallejo Swett Ranch** in early April.



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



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