Anne DeLozier

From: Solano Land Trust <anne@solanolandtrust.org>

Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 11:40 AM

Anne DeLozier To:

Subject: News from Solano Land Trust

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Solano Land Trust News February 2011



Help us reach our goal of 250 new members!

During our 25th anniversary, Solano Land Trust wants to build its community by recruiting 250 new members. To reach that goal, we're offering the reduced membership rate of \$25 to new members only. Join us!

www.solanolandtrust.org

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

Say hello to spring at Lynch Canyon: The trails open on weekends beginning February 12!



Families hiking the trails on a warm spring day Photo by Dave Reider

Starting this weekend, the trails of Lynch Canyon will be open again for hiking, biking, and horseback riding. In cooperation with Solano County Parks, the open space will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays from February 12 through June 26. Operating hours beyond June are Fairfield CA 94533

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Save the Date

Jepson Prairie 25th Anniversary Walk Saturday, April 9, 2011

Rush Ranch 25th Anniversary Walk Saturday, April 16, 2011

Lynch Canyon 3rd Annual Kite Festival Saturday, April 23, 2011

Rush Ranch 21st Annual Open House Saturday, April 30, 2011



Horseshoeing at Rush Ranch Photo by Aleta George

at Russ Lester's Dixon Ridge Farms Saturday, May 21, 2011

4th Annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike Saturday, June 4, 2011

Upcoming Events

Flyway Festival Raptor Tour at Lynch Canyon Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. subject to funding, so come on out, show your support, and don't forget to sign in!

Opening day events on February 12 include a bird-of-prey tour and a volunteer workday. Birding experts Larry Broderick and Jim Walsh will lead the raptor tour starting at 10 a.m. Meet in the parking lot before heading into the hills in search of golden eagles, Cooper's hawks, American kestrels, and white-tailed kites.

Also on opening day, Solano Land Trust and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council will lead a 25th anniversary volunteer workday. Get some fresh air and exercise while helping to inventory old and new trees, or to help with the cleanup and rerouting the Bobcat Trail. If you want to volunteer, please RSVP to Natalie, or call (707) 432-0150 x 200.

The reopening of Lynch Canyon is a perfect kickoff to celebrate Solano Land Trust's 25th anniversary. Come out and show your support for open space, outdoor recreation, and the accomplishments of Solano Land Trust. Please note: There is a \$5 parking fee and dogs aren't allowed.

This land is your land!

Eagle Scouts build their futures at Lynch Canyon and other Solano Land Trust properties

By Ken Poerner, Land Steward



Skylar Tusting poses next to his kiosk bench Photo by John Tusting

While Lynch Canyon was closed, Skylar Tusting, Benicia Troop 7008, was busy improving the place. To earn the coveted Eagle Scout rating, he completed a handsome triangular bench for the base of the new kiosk.

To become an Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout must complete a project before he is 18, putting a minimum of 100 hours into the project. He's also required to do all the fundraising and organizing, and to direct the project from start to finish.

When I started as an employee in 1998, Boy Scouts probably did one Eagle Scout project a year on Solano

Land Trust properties. I soon recognized the opportunity that their projects could provide for both the scouts and Solano Land Trust. The scouts get a variety of different projects to choose from and Solano Land Trust gets much needed projects done on its properties.

I went to several Boy Scout meetings early on to get the word out about Solano Land Trust, but it took a few years for Boy Scouts to discover the opportunity. We now average about seven completed Eagle Scout projects a year, making it a challenge to come up with good projects to keep them busy.

The next time you visit Rush Ranch, take a look around at some of the site improvement projects; chances are, many of them are Eagle Scout projects. Some of the completed projects include: the Kit House patio cover and bird display; the picnic area overhead covers, barbecue, fire pit, food preparation table, water faucets and pads; and fences, trail-side benches, signs, and gates.

Not only do Solano Land Trust properties provide a perfect location for Eagle Scouts to complete their projects, but the added benefit is that it has drawn many kids and adults to our properties who may never have known about us. Now they will never forget their Eagle Scout project and the important open



Eagle at Lynch
Canyon
Photo by
NewmanArtography

Getting the Rush
at Rush Ranch
Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011
Saturday, Mar. 19, 2011
9 a.m. Nature walk
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Blacksmith demo
& Native American display
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Wagon rides

Solano County Park Ranger Hike at Lynch Canyon Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011 Saturday, Mar. 19, 2011 9 a.m. to Noon

> Docent-led Hike at Lynch Canyon Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011 Saturday, Mar. 26, 2011 Time to be announced

Docent-led Hike at King-Swett Ranches Saturday, Mar. 5, 2011 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Raptor Hike at Lynch Canyon Sunday, Mar. 6. 2011 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wildflower & Aquatic Invertebrate Tours Begin at Jepson Prairie Saturdays & Sundays March 12 until Mother's Day 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Blue Heron at Jepson Prairie
Photo by Doug Wirtz

Raptor Workshop & Hike at Rush Ranch Saturday, Mar. 19, 2011 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

More information about events

Volunteers Needed

space it enhances. If you know an Eagle Scout who is looking for an interesting project, send him our way!

Scouts help to attract bluebirds of happiness

By Ken Poerner, Land Steward



Western bluebird Photo by Sam Steiner

While hiking Lynch Canyon, you might notice the bluebird boxes installed atop fence posts. Some were built by Steven Lovenguh in 2009, and some by Will Kane in 2006 for their Eagle Scout projects. Last year, Cub Scouts installed more boxes along Lynch Road.

Western Bluebirds (Sialia mexicana) can be found year round in California. They are small thrushes (think American Robin) up to seven inches in length. Adult males are bright blue on top and on the throat, have an orange breast and sides, a brownish patch on back, and a gray belly and undertail coverts. Adult females have a

duller blue body, wings, and tail than the male, a gray throat, dull orange breast, and a gray belly and undertail coverts.

Western bluebird breeding habitat is semi-open country, excluding desert areas. They nest in cavities or in nest boxes, competing with tree swallows, house sparrows, and European starlings for locations. An easy place to find Western bluebirds is along the lower portion of the Middle Valley Trail in Lynch Canyon Open Space. They can frequently be seen hawking insects adjacent to Lynch Creek.

Due to the loss of natural nesting cavities, Western bluebird populations have decreased throughout most of western North America. Solano Land Trust and volunteers are helping to provide nesting cavities throughout Lynch Canyon to ensure the Western bluebird population doesn't diminish further. Enjoy the Western Bluebirds next time you are at Lynch Canyon.

Ride your bikes to Lynch Canyon!



Now that McGary Road has reopened, residents in Fairfield, Suisun, and Green Valley can spin out to Lynch Canyon on their bikes. The 3.3-mile frontage road that links Red Top Road and Hiddenbrooke Parkway had been closed since 1998 until it reopened in September. Vallejo residents can also ride their bikes to Lynch on a 1.9 mile bike path that hooks up to McGary Road

McGary Road links the Bay Area Ridge Trails in Hiddenbrooke and King-Swett Ranches to the

Ridge Trail in Lynch Canyon. They are part of the greater Bay Area Ridge Trail, a proposed 550-mile trail on the ridges surrounding the bay. Fifty miles of trails are slated for Solano County, and so far 29 miles of those trails have been dedicated. Eventually, McGary Road will hook up with a trail that connects to other Solano County trails such as Rockville Hills.

Check out our new and improved website!

25th Anniversary Volunteer Day at Lynch Canyon Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Citizen Science Friday Friday, Feb. 18, 2011 Friday, Mar. 18, 2011 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

25th Anniversary Volunteer Day at King-Swett Ranches Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. RSVP at (707) 432-0150 x 200

> Volunteer Day at Rush Ranch Saturday, Mar. 5, 2011 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Volunteer Day at Lynch Canyon Saturday, Mar. 12, 2011 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Please RSVP to Natalie at volunteer@solanolandtrust.org (707) 432-0150 x 200

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



Solano Land Trust 1001 Texas Street, Suite C Fairfield, CA 94533 (707) 432-0151 x 209 info@solanolandtrust.org

www.solanolandtrust.org











CALENDER

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary by bringing your friends and family out to volunteer or explore on one of our properties, or by joining us at one of the many events we have planned throughout 2011. We thank you for your support over the past 25 years and hope you will continue to work with us as we move forward.

This land is your land: Explore, play and renew!

25TH ANNIVERSARY NEW MEMBER SPECIAL

New Member Special: In honor of our 25th Anniversary we are offering a special new member rate of \$25. This is a limited-time offer, so join today!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WERSITE!

Did you know that Solano Land Trust turns 25 this year? That's right; we've been

protecting working farms and natural areas since 1986! We're celebrating so much this year that we decided a new and improved website was in order. [read more]

www.solanolandtrust.org

Please take a moment to check out our new and improved website.

Redesigned by Cirkadia, Inc., the new site is more approachable and now includes an up-to-date calendar of events where you can browse upcoming dates, or click on a specific date that you are interested in and see what events we have planned. When you find an event you are interested in, you can download it directly to your electronic calendar!

Our new home page will now be updated frequently to highlight the news of the moment. The secure credit card donation process has also been streamlined. Stay tuned for new additions. The new site is still a work in progress, so please keep checking back for updates.

Sightings

What: A flock of 200-300 American goldfinches and white- and golden-

crowned sparrows flew over hikers in an avian cloud

Where: Lynch Canyon When: Mid November

Who: Docent Jim Walsh & eight hikers



What: Narcissus in bloom

Where: Lynch Canyon lower homestead

When: February

Who: Solano Land Trust staff

What: Prairie falcon hunting shorebirds

Where: Jepson Prairie When: Late January

Who: Larry Broderick and 80 hikers!

What: Tree and shrub monitoring and weeding

Where: Lynch Road at Lynch Canyon

When: Ongoing

Who: SLEWS (Center for Land Based Learning) high school students

Forward email



