

## Anne DeLozier

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**From:** Solano Land Trust <info@solanolandtrust.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2012 3:20 PM  
**To:** Anne DeLozier  
**Subject:** Solano Land Trust News: Rockville Trails, oaks, & conservation easements

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## Solano Land Trust News February 2012

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### In this Issue

[Rockville Trails](#)

[Oak stewardship workshop](#)

[Solano Land Trust celebrates a new conservation easement](#)

[Community trail day](#)

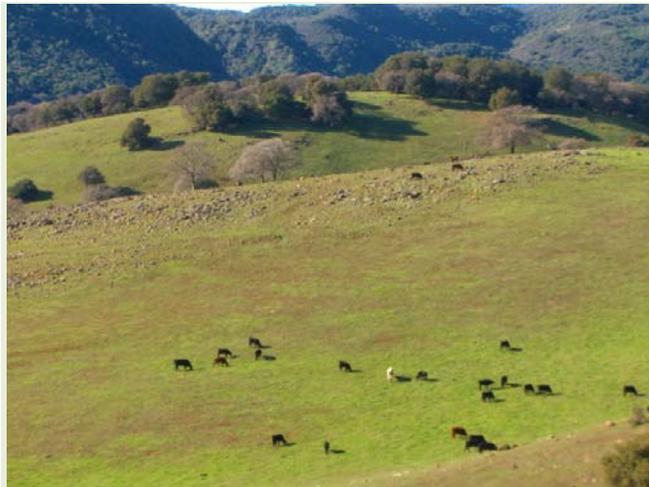
[Raptors & San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival](#)

### Get Moving Outside

**Jepson Prairie  
Wildflower and Aquatic Life**  
March 10 through May 13  
Saturdays and Sundays  
10 a.m. to noon  
No RSVP needed

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

The goal to protect Rockville Trails is nearly at hand and we need your help



**A vista to be treasured by all at Rockville Trails**  
Photo by Lorenzo Burchielli

Solano Land Trust is grateful to the Green Valley Landowner's Association (GVLA) for its tenacious fight against development plans for Rockville Trails, and its vision for seeing it as an open space for all to enjoy.



**Tadpole shrimp**  
Photo by Doug Wirtz

**King-Swett Ranches  
Docent-led Hike**

Saturday, February 4  
Saturday, March 3  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

[RSVP requested but not required](#)

**Lynch Canyon  
Birds of Prey Hike**

Sunday, February 12  
(Part of the 16th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival)  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Note: Meet at Lynch Canyon at 10 a.m. sharp. Gate will be locked except for tour's start and end times.

[RSVP requested but not required](#)

**Lynch Canyon  
Opening Day!**

(in partnership with Solano County Parks)  
Saturday, March 17  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Open Saturdays and Sundays thru October 7, 2012

**Lynch Canyon  
Birds of Prey Hike**

Saturday, March 17  
(Opening Day!)  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[RSVP requested but not required](#)

**Rush Ranch  
Get the Rush!**

(Nature walk, blacksmith demonstrations, and more)  
Saturday, February 18  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Saturday, March 17  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

(NOTE: There are no wagon rides in winter)

For more event information and directions go to [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)

**Volunteers Needed**

**Vallejo-Swett Ranch/**

GVLA president and now-retired environmental engineer Larry Burch learned about plans to develop Rockville Trails in 1980. He felt passionate enough about opposing the development that he wrote 33 pages in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report. Larry and his family are just one of the 250 families who belong to the GVLA, formed in the 1970s to preserve and enhance the rural character of Green Valley.

The GVLA continued to resist iterations of proposals for the property. "The project kept going away and coming back," says Burch. "We just had to fight the fight."

Eventually there was a lawsuit and the parties involved were at loggerheads. When the recession hit, the time was ripe for a solution and the property owner asked Solano Land Trust if they were interested in buying the property. The purchase of the property falls within Solano Land Trust's mission to permanently protect and preserve farmland, rangeland and open space in Solano County. The organization is pleased to participate in the settlement of the decades-long dispute and to see the land become a park.

The GVLA and all interested parties breathed a sigh of relief at this turn of events, but the property is not out of the woods yet. In buying the property, Solano Land Trust is in the midst of the largest fundraising campaign in its history.

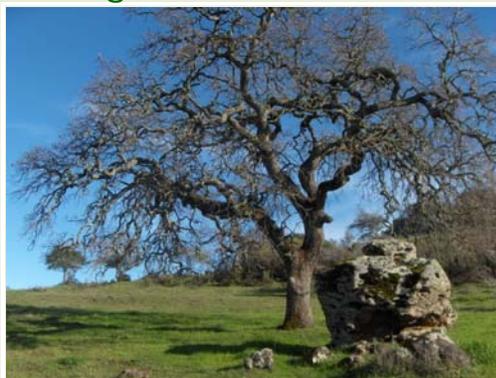
"It's a timed race," says Linda Seifert, chair of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. "It's been a long fight, but we've come to the time when we can touch it, feel it, taste it as protected open space. Now is the time to put personal resources into helping in this effort."

Seifert has a history with the property and with the GVLA, having once served as its president. Now she is on Solano Land Trust's fundraising committee, which is charged with reaching the \$15.5 million goal. "Running a fundraising campaign of this magnitude in this economic environment is challenging, but if everyone gives something, we'll make it to the finish line."

"It would be a tragedy to get this close and not be able to secure the property," says Seifert. "Stopping short should not be an option for anyone."

[Make a donation now.](#)

## Solano Land Trust offers oak stewardship workshop for ranchers and land managers



**Learn to treasure and regenerate oaks like this one at Rockville Trails**  
Photo by Lorenzo Burchielli

Rockville Trails will be the first property that Solano Land Trust owns with extensive oak woodlands. When project manager Sue Wickham looked into up-to-date management ideas, she came across a workshop offered by UC Cooperative Extension and arranged to host one in Solano County. The workshop offered on March 21 (the first of its kind in the county), is designed for ranchers, livestock operators, and

land managers. If this introductory workshop proves popular, there will be more classes including those for property owners.

**Blue Rock Springs Park  
Community Workday on the  
Bay Area Ridge Trail**  
Saturday, February 11  
9 a.m. to noon  
[RSVP requested](#)

**Citizen Science Friday**  
Location TBD  
Friday, February 17  
Friday, March 16  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
RSVP to (707) 432-0150 x 207  
or [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org)

**Lynch Canyon  
Volunteer Day**  
(Sat., February 11 is cancelled)  
Saturday, March 10  
9 a.m. to noon  
[RSVP requested but not  
required](#)  
or call (707) 580-6277

**Rush Ranch  
Volunteer Day**  
Saturday, February 4  
Saturday, March 3  
9 a.m. to noon  
[RSVP requested but not  
required](#) or call (707) 580-  
6277

### Save the Date

#### Oak Woodland Stewardship Workshop

Rush Ranch  
Saturday, March 21  
\$20/person, must register by  
March 1, 2012  
(Limited to 30)

**22nd Annual  
Rush Ranch Open House**  
Saturday, April 28

**4th Annual  
Lynch Canyon Kite Festival**  
May 5, 2012

**5th Annual  
Lynch Canyon Trail Run**  
June 2, 2012

**Aim for Ag & Open Space**  
Birds Landing  
August 11, 2012

**Heritage Feast  
Dinner & Art Auction**  
Rush Ranch  
October 13, 2012

### Community News

"We want to know how to graze while maintaining these beautiful oak woodlands," says Wickham. The all-day workshop will focus on combining livestock operation and regenerating oak woodlands. Participants will spend the morning indoors at the Rush Ranch Nature Center and the afternoon in the field at Lynch Canyon and Rockville Trails. Topics discussed in the field will include fire management, sudden oak death syndrome, oak regeneration, and water quality.

Presenters include Rick Standiford, Morgan Doran, and Steven Swain with UC Cooperative Extension; Janet Mackey, Solano Land Trust; and Jim Allen, Solano County Agriculture Commissioner

#### Oak Woodland Stewardship Workshop

For ranchers, livestock operators, landowners,  
land managers and arborists  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
\$20 fee includes lunch  
(limited to 30 participants)  
[Register Now](#)  
(deadline is March 1, 2012)

For more information contact Sue Wickham at (707) 432-0150 x207 or [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org).

Brought to you by: University of California Continuing Education (UCCE), CALFIRE, Solano Land Trust, Solano Resource Conservation District, and the Solano County Agriculture Commissioner

## Solano Land Trust celebrates its newest conservation easement



**One corner of St Anthony Parish  
Farmland Preserve in Winters**  
Photo by Jorge Fleige

Solano Land Trust and St. Anthony Parish closed escrow last week on three adjacent conservation easements that will protect 595 acres of the St. Anthony Parish Farmland Preserve near Putah Creek in Winters. The California Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program and USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program provided grants for the agreement. The parish, which retains full ownership of the land, plans to use the equity to build a new church in Winters.

Under the agreement, the parish retains full ownership of the land while farming or leasing it for agricultural purposes. Non-agricultural development will not be allowed except for housing for farm families or workers. Conservation agreements help to protect top-grade soil for local food production, and preserve the economics of agriculture. According to the Solano County Department of Agriculture, the value of agricultural production in 2010 was nearly \$260,000,000, a three percent rise from the previous year.

"We welcome St. Anthony Parish to our land trust community as we partner to preserve essential agricultural lands," says Executive Director Nicole Byrd. To date, Solano Land Trust has protected 20,636 acres of land in the county including 8,448 acres of farmland.

The St. Anthony Farmland Preserve is near Putah Creek on the Dixon Ridge, an alluvial fan of high-quality soils. Solano Land Trust has identified Dixon Ridge as a priority agriculture preservation area along with Vaca, Lagoon, Suisun and Green Valleys.

[Learn more about conservation easements.](#)

**Film & discussion:**

*The Last Crop & the Future of California Agriculture*

Thursday, Feb 9

UC Davis Campus

Free Admission

[More info here](#)

**Center for Land-Based Learning Dinner on the Farm**

Sunday, February 26  
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 per person  
(Limited to 70 Guests)

[More info here](#)

**Sightings**

**What:** Planting valley oaks, blue oaks and buckeyes

**Where:** Lynch Canyon

**When:** January 2012

**Who:** Mare Island Technology Academy & Rodriguez High School students



**What:** Flock of 30 curlews

**Where:** Suisun Hill

**When:** December 26, 2011 & January 23, 2012

**Who:** Aleta George, Editor

**What:** Black rails

**Where:** Rush Ranch

**When:** Mid-January

**Who:** Four birders from Bend, Oregon, who came looking for rails and found them

**What:** Golden eagle, kestrels, a burrowing owl, and red-tailed hawks

**Where:** King-Swett Ranches

**When:** December 12, 2011

**Who:** Maggie Ingalls & Doug Wirtz

**What:** Off-leash dog chasing yearling cows (one jumped over a barbed wire fence)

**Where:** Suisun Hill

**When:** December 26, 2011

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOGS ON A LEASH AT**

**Help needed for community trail day!**



**Someone built those trails you walk on!**

Photo by Sue Wickham

Join Solano Land Trust and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council to help maintain the Blue Rock Springs Park connector trail. We will cleanup and re-contour the trail so it continues to be stable, safe, and beautiful for all to enjoy.

The Ridge Trail comes up from Vallejo's Blue Rock Springs Park through a portion of the Vallejo-Swett Ranch, and connects with a City of Vallejo ridgeline trail. The views of the bay from this ridgeline trail are spectacular. In future, the Ridge Trail will cross the ranch and connect with Hiddenbrooke Open Space.

Bring water and snacks; heavy work gloves; good boots with tread for rough, steep, and slippery terrain; long, sturdy pants and layered clothes that you don't mind getting dirty; and protection from sun, wind, fog and rain.

Meet at the upper parking lot of Blue Rock Springs Park, Vallejo. [Google Map here](#).

RSVP to Sue at (707) 432-0150 x 207 or [sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org).

**Walk California's version of a winter wonderland during the 16th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival**



**Young red-tailed hawk**

Photo by Larry Broderick

More raptor walks? You bet! Winter is the best time to see the golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and falcons soaring above the rolling hills at Lynch Canyon.

There are two more chances this winter to catch raptor fever at Lynch Canyon. Coming right up on Sunday, February 12, during the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, join Larry Broderick and other knowledgeable docents on a walk that's all about looking for (and finding!) birds of prey.

You'll have just one more opportunity on Saturday, March 17, the official re-opening day of Lynch Canyon. From March 17 to October 7, 2012, Lynch Canyon will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The [San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival](#) offers many opportunities to stretch your wings. Check out the full schedule of bird, land, and historical outings at the above link.

**See what Solano Land Trust and its family of land trusts are doing to preserve California's beauty.**



## SUISUN HILL

Solano Land Trust

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



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[Land Trusts: California's Partner for Conserving Land and Water Resources A Photographic Journal 2011](#)

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