

Anne DeLozier

From: Solano Land Trust <info@solanolandtrust.org>
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 10:40 AM
To: Anne DeLozier
Subject: News from Solano Land Trust

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Solano Land Trust News May 2011



Make our 25th anniversary a year to remember!

Donate now to help us buy Rockville Trails, 1,500 acres of rolling hills, oak woodlands, and rocky outcrops between Suisun Valley and Green Valley Roads.

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The Farm Fresh Feast is this weekend: Last chance to buy tickets!

Deanna Mott, Associate Director



Russ Lester, owner of Dixon Ridge Farms is your host

"Eat locally and sustainably," wrote Chez Panisse chef Alice Waters in *The Art of Simple Food*. Many of the farmers who supply food for her Berkeley restaurant are in Solano County, so you don't need to go to Berkeley for a local and sustainable meal. Join us for a farm-to-table meal right at the source at the Farm Fresh Feast on Sat., May 21, at 5 p.m.

The evening will begin with a wine tasting from six local wineries, carriage rides through the organic walnut orchard, and tours of Russ Lester's energy efficient facility. Then sit down with old and new friends to a meal prepared by **Food Network award-winning chef James Aptakin**.

The scrumptious, fresh, and local four-course dinner will include:

- **California Vegetable Specialties** endive stuffed with herbed cheese and spiced **Dixon Ridge Farms** walnuts.

Fairfield, CA 94533

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Save the Date

4th Annual
Lynch Canyon Trail Run and
Community Hike
Saturday, June 4, 2011
[Register now!](#)



Aim for Ag and Open Space
Sporting Clay Shoot
August 20, 2011
[Register now!](#)

Upcoming Events

Please note: Rush Ranch will have limited access May 21 & 28, & June 11, 2011, due to a private event.

King-Swett Ranches
Docent-led Hike
Saturday, June 4, 2011
Saturday, July 2, 2011
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



- Nicoise salad made with **Shooting Star CSA** and **Eatwell Farms** produce and **Soul Food Farms'** eggs.
- Coconut-curry **Anderson Ranch** lamb and Kahlua style roasted "reserve champion" **pork purchased from the Dixon May Fair**. Other produce providers include **Castenada Brothers Produce, Morningsun Herb Farm, and Capay Organic**.
- A spin-off of Chef James' famous peach cobbler made with seasonal strawberries. (Bonus: Guests receive a keepsake recipe card for the strawberry cobbler!)

After dinner, **Karen Ross, Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture**, will speak about the importance of farmland protection to ensure local food sources and provide ecological benefits. This is your chance to hear her vision for the future of California's agriculture.

Don't miss out! Join us for this farm-to-table event to enjoy a fabulous, locally-sourced and seasonal meal, good conversation, and insight into Solano County and California agriculture.

[Buy your tickets now](#) or call Deanna at (707) 432-0150 x 205 for more information.

Restoring land while building youth's connection to nature

Karen Swan, Sacramento Valley Program Coordinator, Center for Land-Based Learning



High school student is proud of the oak tree he has planted.

Each year, 25 students from Rodriguez High School visited the property three times over the school year to explore the hills; watch the raptors and cows; search for frogs and snakes; plant native trees, shrubs, and grasses; install bluebird boxes; collect scientific data; and enjoy the peacefulness of the open space. Through SLEWS, students can connect what they learn in the classroom with on-the-ground restoration.

The SLEWS project at Lynch Canyon was extra-special. The students will never forget bird-watching hikes with Teri Engbring, getting close to cows for the first time, holding a gopher snake, and just being away from the drama of their city lives.

"SLEWS made me want to start hiking again, and exploring creek sides and forests. I really missed seeing the peacefulness of a secret spot in the trees," said one student. Another said, "Seeing animals that I have never seen before, and touch them, made me feel awesome!"

I am very thankful to all of our SLEWS partners and volunteer mentors for making it possible for me to come back to the beauty of Lynch Canyon and share it with more students. I hope there will be more years of partnerships between Solano Land Trust and the Center for Land-Based Learning so that we can continue to enlighten local youth about

Citizen Science Friday
Locations TBD
Friday, May 20, 2011
Friday, June 17, 2011
Friday, July 15, 2011
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lynch Canyon
Docent-led Guided Hike
Saturday, May 21, 2011
Saturday, May 28, 2011
Saturday, June 18, 2011
Saturday, June 25, 2011
9 a.m. to noon



4th Annual Lynch Canyon Trail
Run & Community Hike
Saturday, June 4, 2011
8 a.m. to finish

[Advance registration required for trail run. Click here.](#)

(No advance registration needed for community hike.)

Rush Ranch
Get the Rush!
(Nature walk, wagon rides,
and more)

Saturday, June 18, 2011
Saturday, July 16, 2011
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more event information and
directions go to
www.solanolandtrust.org

Volunteers Needed

Lynch Canyon
Ridge Trail Workday
Saturday, May 14, 2011
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rush Ranch
Volunteer Day
Saturday, July 2, 2011
9 a.m. to noon

Lynch Canyon
Volunteer Day
Saturday, June 11, 2011
Saturday, July 9, 2011
9 a.m. to noon

Please RSVP to Natalie at
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

the beauty that surrounds them and help them connect to these special places through restoration work.

Hit the trails at the Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike, and bring friends and family

By Aleta George, Editor



Long distance running doesn't have to be a solitary affair. The Fourth Annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on Saturday, June 4, 2011, is designed for friends and families to take to the trails. The 10K or half marathon trail is the toughest in Solano County, taking runners up to 3,000 feet of elevation gain with fantastic views.

Those who participate in the FREE 2.5-mile community hike stay on wide trails with 400 feet of elevation gain. The community hike was added so that everyone could enjoy the scenery, spend a day on the trails, and get some outdoor recreation.

Board Member Darrin Berardi and Executive Director Nicole Byrd happy to hit the trails

"Get outside for you daily dose of green space," said a *New York Times* article, referring to a grassroots movement urging people to get outside. President Obama's America's Great

Outdoors Initiative, and Michelle Obama's Let's Move Outside campaign encourages people to get moving at local parks, ranches, and open spaces. But it's not just the White House that's encouraging people to hit the trails; it's doctors' orders! Health insurers have started campaigns to promote outdoor exercise, and some docs are writing prescriptions for hikes, complete with trail maps.

Proceeds from the Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike support public access and the improvements at Lynch Canyon and to promote the use of its open space for healthy living. Lynch Canyon is part of the Solano County Parks System and owned by Solano Land Trust. Sunset magazine listed Lynch Canyon as one of the "Seven (hidden) wonders of the West."

For more information and to pre-register for the 10K or half-marathon (registration is not required for the community hike) go to www.lynchcanyontrailrun.com.

Sightings



What: Western bluebird eggs (please don't disturb!)
Where: King Ranch
When: April
Who: Janet Mackey noted the nest and eggs one month after the Boy Scouts installed the boxes.



What: Marengo, a new foal
Where: Rush Ranch
When: April
Who: Everyone who meets her falls in love!

What: Black-necked stilt
Where: Jepson Prairie
When: Day after Mother's Day
Who: While docent Jane Hawkes was visiting Jepson, a stilt came up to her car and seemed to say, "Move on. You're too close to my nest!"

What: California clam shrimp
Where: Olcott Lake at Jepson
When: March through May
Who: Docent C.J. Addington
Note: Shrimp are back after being absent during three-year drought.



What: Proud kite handler
Where: Lynch Canyon Kite Festival
When: April 23, 2011
Who: Natalie DuMont

Thanks to our partners and volunteers for another great open house at Rush Ranch this year!

Natalie DuMont, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator



A plaque is dedicated to Rob Schonholtz, a long-time volunteer fondly remembered

Thanks to the all-volunteer [Rush Ranch Educational Council](#), Solano Land Trust and partners celebrated our 21st Annual Open House at Rush Ranch this April. [Access Adventure](#), another all-volunteer organization, offered wheelchair accessible horse-drawn carriages rides to all guests, including those living with disabilities. Staff from the [San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) led a walk teaching guests what's special about the wetlands and transition zones of the marsh. Solano Land Trust is thankful to have these three program partners at Rush Ranch. Please take the time to learn more about them by clicking on their websites above.

Hundreds of guests visited Rush Ranch during the open house. Children and adults wandered around the many booths and interactive stations. Kids got to work an antique water pump while adults learned about its inner workings. There were constant "ooohs" and "aaahs" around the live owls and falcons, which remained calm while people admired their beautiful feathers and observed their behavior. Guests got a close look at live bats and local wildlife too. They also got to watch antique wool spinners and touch hand-crafted Native American tools and decorations. Children created art while adults enjoyed a local art exhibit and auction. Live music played while square dancers swirled in the courtyard. At the end of the day, guests went home with raffle prizes, local art purchases, and big smiles. Some returned that evening to enjoy star gazing.

Hosting twenty-one open houses of this caliber is no small feat. It would not be possible without the leadership of Mary Takeuchi of the Rush Ranch Educational Council. Mary has organized every open house since the first one. Thank you Mary! She had the help of over one hundred volunteers, from the performers to the exhibitors to the behind-the-scenes crew. Volunteer contributions like these are golden. Thank you to all involved!

Broadening the range of supporters in our aim for agriculture and open space

Aleta George, Editor



This spring, Executive Director Nicole Byrd and Board Vice President Darrin Berardi attended an event with 150 Suisun Marsh duck club owners. Solano Land Trust is reaching out to its Rush Ranch neighbors, including the hunting community.

"We're talking about how we can work collaboratively to serve the public, benefit the marsh, and improve public access," says Berardi. Solano Land Trust wants to reach out to different demographics than we're used to, he adds.

One effort to expand the reach of the organization is the Aim for Ag and Open Space Sporting Clay Shoot and Luncheon on August 20, 2011. Golf tournaments may be the norm for fundraisers in some communities, but in this community it's clay shoots.

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



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"It's like a golf tournament with shotguns," says Berardi, the brainchild and board member behind the event. "This will be a fun event for beginning and advanced shooters alike, and it will benefit the great work we do."

Sporting clay shoots are better than trap shoots, he says, because the stations are varied and challenging. Each \$75 entry includes 50 target sporting clay shoots, ammo, eye/ear protection, and a shooter's gift. Safety instructions and a free (optional) beginner's clinic are given before the shoot, and a catered lunch with a hosted beer and wine bar will be served afterwards.

For shooter sign-up, go to www.solanolandtrust.org. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Associate Director Deanna Mott at (707) 432-0150 x 205 or deanna@solanolandtrust.org.

Solano Land Trust staff participates in grass monitoring at Jepson Prairie

Ben Wallace, Conservation Project Manager



Staff taking a break from surveying grasses at Jepson Prairie

In late April, a hardy team of Solano Land Trust staff and volunteers participated in the 11th annual Jepson Prairie Vegetation Transect Monitoring project. Volunteers work with experienced team leaders from Solano Land Trust and UC Davis to monitor a suite of species during the peak of the bloom in the vernal pools. The method involves groups of three to five people walking transect lines across Jepson Prairie to identify seven native and eleven non-native species, and to assign each a "cover class" from 0 to 3 within a series of plots.

On the first day, the entire Solano Land Trust staff participated in the monitoring as part of its annual "staff field day," a teambuilding event that enables everyone, from the office manager to the executive director, to participate in field work on a different preserve each year. (Last year they planted trees for a restoration project at Lynch Canyon on a cold January day.) At Jepson, the crews enjoyed perfect weather and a beautiful day on the prairie while completing two of the most challenging transects.

On the second day, more than a dozen community volunteers turned up to lend a hand. It turned out to be a typically windy prairie day, but the intrepid volunteers and their team leaders completed all of the remaining transects. After working with more volunteers to enter the data, I will prepare tables and charts and analyze the results across years. The data helps preserve managers detect trends in the plant community so they can modify management practices or develop new research questions. The long-term data set may also provide a historical record of gradual shifts that occur at Jepson Prairie due to climate change. This project is one of many research projects that take place at Jepson Prairie.

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