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Solano Land Trust News September 2010

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Heritage Feast and Art Auction

Saturday, September 25, 2010

[Purchase Tickets Now](#)

For more info contact
Anne DeLozier at
(707) 432-0150 x 209 or
anne@solanolandtrust.org

Upcoming Events

Stars, Planets, Galaxies
Rush Ranch
Sat., Sep. 11, 2010

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

Eat, drink, and buy art at the Heritage Feast & Art Auction 2010



"Lynch Canyon Triptych" by Vallejo artist Susan Schneider will be auctioned at the Heritage Feast

After a two-year break, the Heritage Feast is back! Don't miss your chance to celebrate the Solano County harvest with us, including local food, wine, and art featuring Solano Land Trust properties. [Buy your tickets today!](#)

The event will kick-off with appetizers such as lamb sausage stuffed mushrooms and Solano County wine as guests enjoy the ranch. Festivities will include wagon rides by Access Adventure and a historical display provided by Rush Ranch Educational Council. Come early to preview the art and meet some of our featured artists.

The feast will emphasize locally-sourced fresh produce and meats prepared by Chef Manny Rodriguez of American Canyon. Local food donors include Anderson Ranches, Capay Organic, Erickson Ranch, Larry's Produce, Shooting Star CSA, and more to come. The seasonal dessert will be prepared by MagPies Catering of Fairfield featuring local apples. Local wineries that have graciously provided wine for the evening include Jess

7 p.m.

*King-Swett Ranches
Docent-led Hikes*

First Saturday of every month
Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, 2010
9 a.m.

*Rush Ranch "Getting the
Rush"*

Third Saturday of every
month
Sep. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20,
2010

Interpretive walk (9 a.m.)
Blacksmith demo (10 a.m.)
Wagon rides (11 a.m.)

Lynch Canyon Raptor Tours

Sep. 25, Oct. 23, Nov. 20,
2010
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Raptor ID & Natural History
Workshop & Tour
at Rush Ranch*

Oct. 9, Nov. 6, 2010
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

*King-Swett Ranches
Special Cross-Ranch Hike*

Nov. 6, 2010
7:30 a.m.

[More information about
events](#)

Volunteers Needed

Event staffing needed for:

Heritage Feast
September 25, 2010

*Citizen Science Friday
Land Stewardship*
Third Friday of every month
Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19,
2010
9a.m. to 12 p.m.

*Lynch Canyon Land
Stewardship*
Second Saturday of every
month
Sep. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13,
2010
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Rush Ranch Land Stewardship
First Saturday of every month
Sep. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, 2010
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Contact Natalie at
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org
(707) 432-0150 x 200

Jones Vineyard, LedgeWood Creek Winery, Purple Pearl Vineyards, Vezer Family Vineyard, Wooden Valley Winery, and Winterhawk Winery.

This year's feast includes a very special art auction with local auctioneer Joe Gates. Preparation for the artwork started in March with the Lynch Canyon Artists' Day. Since then the art has been arriving in our offices, and for staff and volunteers it is rewarding to see so many talented people creatively and lovingly representing Solano Land Trust properties. Some new additions to the auction included Nourrot and Lindsay studios art glass vases. Please visit heritagefeast.org for a preview of the pieces being auctioned at the feast. Check back frequently as we continue to update the site with new submissions.

Rounding out the evening will be a silent auction and raffle of a stocked 30-bottle wine refrigerator. Tickets for the raffle are limited so purchase yours today. Buy one for \$10 or six for \$50. [Purchase raffle tickets here.](#)

The Heritage Feast & Art Auction will be held on September 25, 2010, at 5 p.m. at Rush Ranch. [Buy tickets online.](#)

A very special thank you goes out to the Heritage Feast committee volunteers for all their hard work! Also, big thanks to the Camellia Tea Room in Benicia for donating the food and venue for the artist reception event.

Lynch Canyon to remain open seasonally



Close encounter. Photo by
Earl Swenerton

Since opening to the public in May 2007, Lynch Canyon has worked its way into the hearts, minds, and weekends of many Solano County residents.

This 1,039-acre property between Vallejo and Fairfield is owned by Solano Land Trust, and is open to the public due to a historic partnership between Solano Land Trust and Solano County.

Nevertheless, this beloved piece of property hasn't escaped budgetary restraints. At the June 2010 Board of Supervisor's budget hearing, funding for the property was cut but thankfully not eliminated. With \$60,000 removed from the 2010-2011 fiscal year budget for Solano County Parks and

Recreation, the operating hours for Lynch were reduced from three days a week to two, and from being open year-round to being open seven months of the year.

The park will be closed to the public after Labor Day weekend and reopen President's Day weekend in 2011. The new operating hours for the coming year will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays & Sundays, February 12 through June 26, 2011. Operating hours beyond June 26 are subject to funding.

Several docent-led events will enable the public to visit Lynch Canyon during closed months. See the next article about fall and winter raptor tours led by Larry Broderick.

Solano Land Trust would like to thank the Solano County Board of Supervisors and applaud their commitment to keep this beloved property accessible to the public. With you, we are pleased that Lynch Canyon will remain open, even at these reduced hours.

Charitable Giving

Solano Land Trust is now part of the [California State Employees Charitable Campaign](#).

This campaign allows state employees to direct regular contributions from their paychecks to participating charitable organizations. If you work for the State of California, we encourage you to choose Solano Land Trust as your nonprofit.

Thank you!

Supporting our Friends

*Arts Benicia
18th Annual Art Auction & Gala*

Friday, September 24th, 2010
Ironhorse Showroom
990 Grant St., Benicia
6-11 p.m.
www.artsbenicia.org
(707) 747.0131

Fun Family Farm Days 2010
October 16 & 17, 2010
www.suisunvalley.com



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



Contact us:

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info@solanolandtrust.org**

Raptors Anyone?

Larry Broderick, Resident raptor specialist



Red-tailed hawk. Photo by Stanley Moore

Solano Land Trust's third season of raptor tours at Lynch Canyon is upon us. In the last two years, hundreds of raptor fans have learned the difference between a ferruginous and a red-tailed hawk, and a prairie falcon from a peregrine. In previous seasons we've also seen bald eagles, golden eagles, ospreys, and many species of hawks and owls.

What a wonderful place Lynch Canyon is, nestled between steep grassland mountainsides and lush, expansive open prairies with stands of oak, eucalyptus, buckeye, and bay laurel. Enhancing this relatively unknown gem is a large pond, good system of trails, and spectacular vistas.

Can you say birding bonanza? Situated below the Pacific Flyway, Lynch Canyon gets a mix of birds of prey. In August and September, winter migrating species join year-round residents and newly fledged raptors. Some of the migrating birds continue south, but others stay for the winter.

Join us! Lynch Canyon tour dates are September 25, October 23, and November 20, 2010. Meet at the Lynch Canyon gate at 9:00 a.m. Bring water, snacks and sun protection. **Please note that the gate will be locked after 9:15 a.m.** (Access to Lynch Canyon from September 2010 through February 11, 2011 is permitted only with Solano Land Trust staff or docents.)

Additional raptor tour dates for December through March will be announced soon. I will also co-lead trips this season with Earl Swenerton and Jim Walsh at Jepson Prairie and King-Swett.

Lastly, the Raptor ID Workshop is in its fourth year of evolution with new slides and information. The workshops will be held at Rush Ranch (another raptor hot spot) on October 9 and November 6, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The raptor hike will follow from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hike across the King-Swett Ranches

Sue Wickham, Project Manager

www.solanolandtrust.org



Pond reflection at Vallejo Swett Ranch. Photo by Dave George

On Saturday, November 6, 2010, Solano Land Trust members (and non-members willing to join!) are invited to join us on a hike across the King-Swett Ranches. The 3,930-acre Ranches are only accessible to the public during docent-led events such as this.

Once you step onto these protected lands, you will forget that you are surrounded by the cities of Benicia, Fairfield, and Vallejo. The grasslands, oak woodlands and riparian corridors provide habitat for many species including those that are rare and endangered. November is a great time to see raptors, and you are likely to spot golden eagles, Northern harriers, burrowing owls, and red-tailed, Swainson's and Cooper's hawks.

There are three hikes to choose from, and all three are for experienced hikers. Few roads and trails are available and uneven ground dominates this hill and valley terrain. The payoff will be spectacular views, an opportunity to learn about the land, and to lunch in the shade of The Orchards (included in the admission fee).

The hikes start at 8 a.m. at King Ranch where you'll gain a view of the Suisun Marsh (and the Sierras on a clear day) and get in some bird watching. The four-mile interpretive hike option will gain 700 feet, be slower paced with more stops to discuss flora and fauna, and end at around noon with lunch. The four-mile endurance hike option will gain 900 feet and end around noon with lunch. Those who sign up for the six-mile endurance hike will continue after lunch into the Vallejo Swett hills. This hike gains 1,500 feet and ends at Blue Springs Rock Park at around 3 p.m. The endurance hikes will be faster paced with fewer stops.

For Solano Land Trust members, all hikes are \$10 per person, which includes lunch and a shuttle (all hikes are one-way). Non-members pay \$60, which includes membership, lunch, and the shuttle. We're limiting the hike to 30 people, so reserve your spot by contacting Anne at Solano Land Trust (707) 432-0150 x 209 or anne@solanolandtrust.org.

Come enjoy this special day on the King-Swett Ranches!

Welcome Solano Land Trust's new volunteer and outreach coordinator Natalie DuMont



It's wonderful to be back home! I grew up in Vacaville, and since early childhood my parents exposed me to

what makes Solano County special. I remember walking in the woods and along the creek by our house, fishing in Putah Creek, riding through Suisun Valley, hiking in the hills, strolling through the pumpkin patch, and visiting farmers markets. Starting with my first letter to the editor at age seven, I knew I wanted to share with others how precious our land is and how valuable it is to preserve it.

In school I was always interested in social and environmental studies. I went off to college and earned a bachelor's degree in human biology and a master's degree in earth systems from Stanford University. I gained experience teaching environmental education to all ages through Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford Sierra Camp, and Stanford Travel. Since graduating I've had an interesting mix of job experiences including working for Stanford University, Greenbelt Alliance, and Google. Though my jobs have varied, my passion for social and environmental causes has continued.

On a personal note, I love interacting with people, spending time outdoors, dancing, and traveling. I recently volunteered at a preschool in Tanzania, Africa. See my photos [here](#).

I'm thrilled to be Solano Land Trust's new volunteer and outreach coordinator. I look forward to reaching out to the community, building and maintaining partnerships in environmental education, and supporting you, the 300-plus skilled and dedicated volunteers who are the life blood of Solano Land Trust!

Great news! We met the challenge from our anonymous donor to raise \$20,000

Nicole Byrd, Executive Director

A big thank you to our anonymous donor, and everyone who helped Solano Land Trust raise \$20,000 last quarter! We were given \$20,000 with the condition that we match that total by June 30. It was truly down to the wire, with so many donors pulling through in the last week, the last day, and the last frantic hours. Solano Land Trust employees also pitched in.

It is great to know that our donors found it in their hearts to help us out in this tough economy. Thanks to your gifts and this generous offer, the money you donated was doubled, which netted Solano Land Trust \$40,000. This greatly helps us in our efforts to keep protecting working farms and natural areas in Solano County.

Our work, though, is never done. An easy and fun way to contribute is to attend or sponsor the Heritage Feast and Art Auction on September 25. For more information, see www.heritagefeast.org.

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