



Solano Land Trust News February 2013

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Get Moving Outside

King-Swett Ranches Docent-led Hike

Saturday, February 2

(No public hike on March 2)

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jepson Prairie Docent-led Wildflower & Aquatic Critters Walk

Opening Day!

Saturday, March 16

10 a.m. to Noon

Saturdays & Sundays

thru Mother's Day

Lynch Canyon Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Tour

Saturday, February 9

Sunday, March 3

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RSVP requested (not required) to
Mary Beth at (707) 685-5908 or

mbcrittendon@comcast.net

Lynch Canyon

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

Rockville Trails: Docents in training

By Natalie DuMont, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator



Mindi McCuen lapping up the sun and some pointers

Photo by Natalie DuMont

The dictionary defines a docent as a knowledgeable guide who leads tours. Solano Land Trust's first-ever Rockville Trails docents, in addition to being guides, are also pioneers. They will help Solano Land Trust connect the community to this new natural park, and ensure the safety of all. Guided walks and hikes will begin this spring. Once safe trails and parking are in place, guided mountain bike rides and equestrian rides will also be offered.

The training program has a travel theme. Several topics such as natural history, human history are required "destinations" for the 28 volunteers. Other topics such as native bees, birds of prey, and citizen science are optional "side-trips." Each trainee has a passport that is stamped as they complete their destinations and side-trips. The completed passport is needed to graduate.

"I was born and raised in Green Valley," said Mindi McCuen, a docent in training. "I spent my childhood in the surrounding hills, exploring on foot and by horseback. I am so excited for the opportunity to be a part of sharing and protecting this land!"

Stay tuned for more information about Rockville Trails at solanolandtrust.org.

King-Swett Scene: *Bay Nature* magazine highlights Solano County gem

Opening Day!

Saturday, March 16
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[Go to event calendar](#)

for updates on family-friendly events throughout the day (Lynch Canyon will be open Saturdays and Sundays, March 16 through October 6, 2013)

Rush Ranch

Get the Rush!

[Go to event calendar](#)

for activities

Saturday, February 16
Saturday, March 16
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rush Ranch

Guided Marsh Walk with SF Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Sarah Ferner

Saturday, February 16
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Rush Ranch Nature Center

Birds of Prey ID Workshop & Hike

(season wrap-up)

Sunday, March 17, 2013
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Space is limited
RSVP to Mary Beth at
(707) 685-5908 or

mbscrittendon@comcast.net

For more event information and directions go to

www.solanolandtrust.org

Volunteers Needed

Citizen Science Fridays

Friday, February 15
Friday, March 15

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

RSVP to (707) 432-0150 x207 or
sue@solanolandtrust.org

Rush Ranch

Community Workday

Saturday, February 2
Saturday, March 2
9 a.m. to Noon

RSVP requested (not required) to
(707) 580-6277 or

ken@solanolandtrust.org

Lake Solano

Community Workday

Sunday, February 17
Sunday, March 17
9 a.m. to noon

RSVP required to
(707) 432-0150 x200 or

volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

Represent Solano Land Trust at these community events:



Photo courtesy of *Bay Nature*, January 2013

By Sally Rae Kimmel

["Song of the Meadowlark in Solano County: The sweet soundtrack of the King-Swett Ranches."](#)

by Aleta George (your eVistas editor), delves into the past, present, and possible future of these 4,000 acres in the January-March issue of *Bay Nature* magazine.



Jim Walsh, the docent who has led hikes on the property for eight years, is also profiled in **["A docent and a dream at King-Swett Ranches."](#)**

Solano Land Trust offers docent-led hikes at the King-Swett Ranches on the first Saturday of every month (except this March when a group of *Bay Nature* hikers will hit the trails). You can be one step ahead of them by getting out with Walsh on **Saturday, February 2.**

Photo by Natalie DuMont

[More information and directions.](#)

Rush Ranch Roundup: A peaceful walk for the whole family



Photo by Natalie DuMont

It's a special treat to join Sarah Ferner on a walk at Rush Ranch, an event that is part of the "Get the Rush" activities that occur every third Saturday. Sarah is a trained marine scientist and the education coordinator at the **[San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve \(NERR\)](#)**. Rush Ranch is one of two NERR reserve sites in the San Francisco Bay. The other is China Camp.

On February 16, Sarah will co-lead a walk with a **[Rush Ranch Educational Council](#)** docent. Each monthly walk is a little different, but all are designed to be easy going and informative. "Rush Ranch is such a pleasant place to walk," says Ferner. "It's such an incredibly peaceful place."

Ferner's favorite part of co-leading the hikes (which she only does a few times each year) is when people ask her questions that she doesn't know the answer to. Recently, a Solano Land Trust docent asked how many plants occurred at Rush Ranch. Ferner didn't know, but later found an article showing that there are 44 known plant species at Rush Ranch. There are only 10 species at China Camp (it's tough going for plants to adapt to brackish water, and China Camp is closer to the ocean and its water and soil has higher salinity).

17th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival
Friday, February 8 to
Sunday, February 10
sfbayflywayfestival.com
RSVP required:
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

17th Annual California Duck Days
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Headquarters
Saturday, February 23
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
yolobasin.org
RSVP required:
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

Solano County Fair Youth Ag Day
Tuesday, March 19
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
scfair.com/youthagday
RSVP required:
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

Save the Date

Lynch Canyon 5th Annual Kite Festival
Saturday, April 13
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Rush Ranch 23rd Annual Open House
Saturday, April 27
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
www.rushranch.net

Lynch Canyon 6th Annual Trail Run and Community Hike
Saturday, June 1
8 a.m. to Noon
www.lynchcanyontrailrun.com

Community Events

Lake Solano Park Folklore of Lake Solano Birds
Saturday, February 2
10 a.m. to Noon

Lake Solano Park History and Nature Walk
Saturday, February 9
10 a.m. to Noon

17th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival
Friday, February 8 thru
Sunday, February 10
www.sfbayflywayfestival.com

17th Annual California Duck Days
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Headquarters
Saturday, February 23
[Register here](#)

[Read the full article in the San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science journal here.](#)

Meet Sarah at the wall map outside the Nature Center at Rush Ranch. Check the [Solano Land Trust website](#) for more information, or for confirmation on marsh walks in future months.

On the fence about becoming a docent? Wise up!



Short-eared owl.
Photo by Tom Muehleisen

It's not too late to join the Jepson Prairie docent team and learn from experts in the field. If you're 18 or over, you can help lead tours at the Greater Jepson Prairie Preserve Ecosystem.

Deadline for registration is February 4, and classes begin on Saturday, February 5. The training on Tuesday evenings (Davis) and Saturday mornings (Jepson Prairie) continue until March 2. You will learn about vernal pools, wildflowers, aquatic invertebrates, birds, soil, history and more!

[Sign up here.](#)

Congratulations Tom Muehleisen & Suisun Nature Photography!



Tom's photo of the great-horned owllets that grew up at Rush Ranch last year won first place in the November/December [California Watchable Wildlife Photo Contest](#).

Tom is donating the \$100 prize to Access Adventure in recognition of the two volunteers that rescued the owllets when they fell out of their nest.

Photo of the month: Otters at Hill Slough Bridge



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

Community Notice

Farmbudsman Wanted

The Solano College Small Business Development Center will manage a new Farmbudsman Program approved by the Boards of Solano County, Yolo County and Solano College.

Deadline to respond with RFQ is Feb. 5, 2013

For more information contact Director Charles Eason, Solano College SBDC, at (707) 864-3382 or Charles.Eason@solano.edu

Sightings

What: Juvenile red-tailed hawk
Where: Rush Ranch entrance
When: Early January
Who: Tom Muehleisen



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

What: Invertebrate swimmers in a full Olcott Lake
Where: Jepson Prairie
When: Early January
Who: CJ Addington

What: 600 American goldfinch
Where: Lynch Canyon
When: 2012 Christmas Bird Count
Who: Murray Berner, Napa-Solano Audubon

What: Red-tailed hawk with an owl in its talons (the owl escaped)
Where: King Ranch
When: January 5, 2013
Who: Docent Jim Walsh and hikers

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

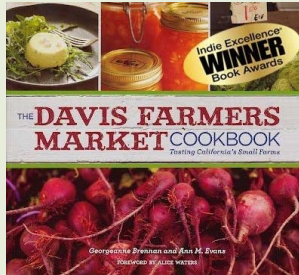


Just before 8 a.m. in mid-January, Tom stopped at the Hill Slough bridge on his way to Rush Ranch. In the early-morning inky water he saw four otters just west of the bridge near the water gate valve. He has been observing otters here and at Rush Ranch and believes that there are four adults and one juvenile.



Stay up on Solano Land Trust's "Photo of the Week"

Our neighbors in Davis can boast of a nationally award-winning cookbook!



The *Davis Farmers Market Cookbook*, by Georgeanne Brennan and Ann M. Evans, recently won the 2012 National Indie Excellence Book Awards for Best Regional Cookbook and the Writer's Digest 2012 Contest for Self-Published books.

The cookbook, which includes more than 85 recipes from apricot pie to pork sausage to canning, is based on items available by season at the Davis Farmer's Market, co-founded in 1976 by Anne M. Evans. You can purchase a copy in Davis at the Farmer's Market or the Avid Reader bookstore, or from Amazon. [Check it out here.](#)

Thank you Solano Land Trust business partners in conservation: We couldn't do it without you

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— LLP —



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- Alta Mesa Group, LLC
- Anderson Ranches
- Archer & Ficklin
- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
- Berardi Chiropractic Clinic
- California Vegetable Specialties
- Carol Witham Consulting
- Conservation Partners (partial list)

We will be thanking our business partners throughout the year. Please remember to support those who support us.

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife announces drawing for Joice Island pig hunt inside the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area down the road from

Solano Land Trust
1001 Texas Street,
Suite C
Fairfield, CA 94533
(707) 432-0150
info@solanolandtrust.org
www.solanolandtrust.org

Editor: Aleta George



Rush Ranch



Photo courtesy of CDFW

Deadline to apply is February 7.

[Application information.](#)

[Forward email](#)



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Solano Land Trust | 1001 Texas St., Suite C | Fairfield | CA | 94533