



Solano Land Trust News April 2012

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Get Moving Outside

**Jepson Prairie
Wildflower & Aquatic
Life Walks**
Saturdays and Sundays
(Tentatively through May 13)
10 a.m. to noon
Donation suggested



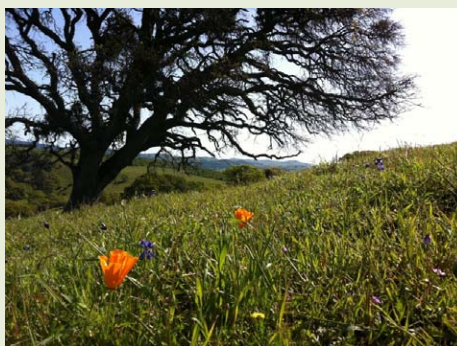
**Fairy shrimp at
Jepson Prairie,**
Seeing Solano artist
Susan Schneider

Seeing Solano II & Earth

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

Momentum is building for Rockville Trails

by Deanna Mott, Associate Director



**California poppies come to life at
Rockville Trails**

Photo by Nicole Byrd

When the Solano Land Trust board of directors voted to purchase Rockville Trails, we knew it would be the biggest fundraising challenge the organization has ever faced. Just as we began our campaign in July 2011 to raise \$13.5 million, individuals and foundations were tightening their belts

and budgets and reducing their philanthropic giving. But when an opportunity like this comes along, people pull together for the greater good of all. The momentum is building toward our raising \$13.5 million for acquiring Rockville Trails!

Anonymous donor pledges \$200,000 matching gift

An anonymous donor has pledged a \$200,000 challenge grant that will match dollar for dollar every gift we receive from private Rockville Trails donations (that's you!). We are so grateful for this inspirational gift that encourages others to give. Are you up for the challenge? Let's do it together!

Syar Foundation contributes \$75,000

We recently received a very generous \$75,000 donation from Syar Foundation. "We believe that part of what makes the Bay Area a great place to live is easy access to natural park areas. We hope that other local businesses will join us in supporting this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Susan and Jim Syar, co-presidents of the Syar Foundation.

Day Awareness Program

Benicia Public Library
Saturday, April 21
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Special screening of
*Greenfire: Aldo Leopold and a
Land Ethic for Our Time*
For more info contact Natalie at
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

Rush Ranch

22nd Annual Open House
Saturday, April 28
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hosted by Rush Ranch
Educational Council

King-Swett Ranches Wildflower Hike

Saturday, May 5
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Photo by Karlyn
Lewis

Lynch Canyon 4th Annual Kite Festival

Saturday, May 5
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lynch Canyon Wildflower Hike

Sunday, May 6
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lynch Canyon Evening Hike

Friday, May 18
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RSVP required to
(707) 432-0150 x200 or
volunteer@solanolandtrust.org

Rush Ranch Get the Rush!

(Blacksmith demonstrations
and [weather permitting] a
nature walk, horse-drawn
wagon rides, and Native
American display)
Saturday, April 21
Saturday, May 19
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rush Ranch Unleash Your Inner Astronomer

Saturday, May 5
7 p.m. start time

Campaign deadline extended

Solano Land Trust negotiated a fundraising extension to July 31, 2012. We've reached the \$10 million benchmark and hope that all businesses, individuals, and the hiking, biking and equestrian community will be a part of this historic effort to protect Rockville Trails forever.

[Please make a donation now.](#)

Sheep shearing at McCormack Ranch

by Aleta George, Editor



The girls head to the salon

Photo by Anne DeLozier

Each spring a centuries-old tradition takes place on sheep farms in the Montezuma Hills and across the West. This year, Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz, operators of the historic McCormack Ranch in the Montezuma Hills, invited Solano Land Trust to watch the annual ritual of sheep shearing. Solano Land Trust holds a conservation agreement with McCormack Ranch.

Under blue skies...

[Read about sheep shearing day at the McCormack Ranch.](#)

Seeing Solano II: Solano Land Trust through the eyes of artists

Twenty-five professional artists and photographers have been trekking across hills, walking along marsh edges, and dipping into oak woodlands to bring Solano Land Trust properties to life on the canvas.



Gregory Vasgerdsian, *Jepson Dusk*,
oil on canvas, 9 x 12"

Seeing Solano II is on display at the Benicia Public Library now through May 6. This is the second in a series of exhibits featuring the



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

Volunteers Needed

Citizen Science Friday

Friday, April 20 at Lynch
Friday, May 18, Location TBD
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
RSVP to (707) 432-0150 x 207
or sue@solanolandtrust.org

Lynch Canyon Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 12
9 a.m. to noon
No RSVP needed
Help Solano Land Trust, Solano County Parks, and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council prepare for the Lynch Canyon Trail Run & Community Hike!

Rush Ranch Volunteer Day

Saturday, May 5
9 a.m. to noon
No RSVP needed

Save the Date

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



Getting it done!

Photo by Tom Muehleisen

A Toast to Ag & Open Space
Winterhawk Winery
Sunday, June 24

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

work of artists who are committed to bringing public awareness and support to Solano Land Trust's mission. The growing collection displays the beautiful diversity that is as rich as the land itself. Seeing Solano was co-founded by artists Susan Schneider and Deanna Forbes. Each participating artist will produce a minimum of six original works in any medium for the exhibits, including the culminating dinner and art auction, Heritage Feast 2012, held at Rush Ranch.

[Learn more about the artists](#)

What: Seeing Solano II: Solano Land Trust Through the Eyes of Artists

Where: Benicia Library, 150 East L Street, Benicia, CA 94510

When: Now through May 6 (check [website](#) for library hours)

Earth Day Awareness Program

Join Solano Land Trust and Seeing Solano artists for a special program at the Benicia Library
Saturday, April 21, 2012, 2-5 p.m.

Enjoy a screening of

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time and a Solano Land Trust presentation. For more information contact volunteer@solanolandtrust.org. (707) 432-0150 x 200
or

Earth Day Awareness Program and exhibit are free and open to the public. For address and directions go to www.benicialibrary.org

Jepson Flowers On!



A goldfield's view of Jepson Prairie
Photo by Karlyn Lewis

Jepson Prairie is different every year. Early last month, docents were planning for a shorter season because of the drought. Then the rains arrived and out came fragrant fritillaries, meadowfoam, and golden violets. Flowers aren't the only things to see. Bring your binoculars and look for the big-horned owl in the eucalyptus trees and a variety of birds in Olcott

Lake. In late March, Land Steward Ken Poerner saw greater yellowlegs, avocets, black-bellied plovers, American wigeons, and Northern shovelers.

In early April, docent and licensed dipper C.J. Addington found fairy shrimp, tadpole shrimp, and copepods. There are very few California tiger salamanders in the pool. Apparently, the breeding salamanders decided to sit this year out because of the late rains. Also in April, docent Bing Huey sighted yellow carpet, blow-wives, butter-and-eggs, and "impressive swath's of Fremont's goldfields" in the docent triangle.

Docent-led guided walks are given on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to noon, tentatively scheduled to continue through May 13.

[Learn more & get directions](#)

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

Community Events

**Lake Solano
Beaks, Bills &
Bird Bingo Walk**
Saturday, April 21
10 a.m. to noon
[More info here](#)

**Lake Solano
On Safari for Lake Solano's
Wild Peacocks**
Saturday, May 12
10 a.m. to noon
[More info here](#)

**Suisun Valley
2012 Photo Event**
April 15-July 15
Share your Suisun Valley farm-
to-table photos
[More info here](#)

Sightings

What: Solano College students
monitoring oak trees
Where: Eastern Swett Ranch
When: March 10, 2012



What: Volunteer Virgil Sellers
rebuilding two wooden wagon
wheels using old-time
techniques
Where: Rush Ranch
When: March & April

What: Burrowing owl
Where: Rush Ranch
When: Early April
Who: Photographer Tom
Muehleisen waited patiently for
this owl to come all the way
out its hole for a picture

Don't miss the 22nd Annual Rush Ranch Open House!



**Little Bear and Native
American culture displa**

**Saturday, April 28,
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**It's fun & it's free!
Bring your family and friends!**

Guided marsh discovery hike; Horse-drawn wagon rides; Kid's art activity station; Live bats, birds of prey, & farm animals; Horseshoeing & blacksmithing; Weaving, spinning & carving; Native American culture; Raffle with great prizes; Live music & square dancing; Art show and silent auction; Snack bar with hot grilled items

Exhibitors include California Fish & Game, Suisun Wildlife Center, Audubon Society, SF Bay NERR, Solano Land Trust, CA Native Plant Society, and more!

[Get directions or learn more](#)

Flying kites with my big sister

by Diausané Dennis



**Diausané Dennis flies her
first kite at Lynch Canyon**
Photo by Anne DeLozier

Editor's note: Anne DeLozier, Solano Land Trust's office manager and stewardship coordinator, has been a big sister to Diausané Dennis for five years. Last year they attended the Lynch Canyon Kite Festival. Anne asked Diausané to write about her experience.

My experience at the Lynch Canyon Kite Festival was exciting, wonderful, and fun. Getting a chance to be with the other Big Brother Big Sister couples was a really nice experience, and to see all the smiles on everyone's faces was a good feeling.

All the different designs, colors, and figures of the kites were just amazing. I got to see dragons, birds, frogs, butterflies, and diamond-shaped kites in blues, reds, yellows, greens, and pinks.

I never had the chance to fly a kite before. Getting my very first kite into the air and letting it soar into the sky made me feel pretty accomplished. Lynch Canyon is so peaceful and beautiful. I saw amazing birds and cute cows!



**Burrowing owl at
Rush Ranch**
Photo by Tom
Muehleisen

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

Local Farms

Check out what's clucking at
Soul Food Farms in Vacaville:

- Egg and chicken CSA
- Cooking classes
- Farm tours

[Soul Food Farms](#)

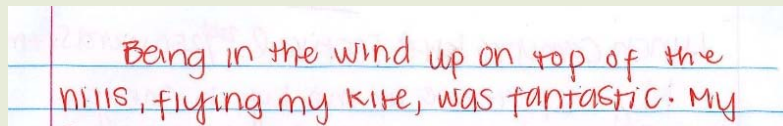
Dip into artisan olive oil made
with olives grown and milled in
Suisun Valley.

[IL FIORELLO Olive Oil Company](#)

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



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www.solanolandtrust.org



I came with my Big Sister Anne DeLozier. We had our own contest on who could get their kite highest in the sky and fly it the longest! I don't remember who won, but I know we had an amazing time.

I can't attend this year because I will be going to my first and only Junior Prom! Exciting, right?! I hope the Festival goes well! Have lots of fun!!!

Love always, Anne DeLozier's little sister, Diausané Dennis

Calling all volunteers!

by Eleanor Meadows, Volunteer

Of all the times over the past twenty years that I drove east on I-80 from Benicia, or through American Canyon, I never knew that right over the hill and between these two thoroughfares was the beautiful Lynch Canyon. Now, I never pass by without picturing it one of two ways. One memory is that of a sunny, spring day with lots of families sprinkled on the pasture picnicking and flying kites. The other memory is of a rainy stormy day with brave, determined runners crossing a finish line drenched, muddy, and smiling.

Discovering Lynch Canyon might never have happened if I hadn't volunteered for Solano Land Trust. My goal for both days was met - to make a contribution to land conservation. But in discovering Lynch Canyon, I received more than I gave and am looking forward to volunteering again.

Join me on Saturday, May 12, from 9 a.m. to noon to prepare the trails and pasture for the Lynch Canyon Trail Run.

Solano Land Trust also needs day-of volunteers for upcoming spring events including the Rush Ranch Open House, the Kite Festival, and the Lynch Canyon Trail Run. Contact Natalie DuMont at (707) 429-3529 x 200 or volunteer@solanolandtrust.org.

May the best tree protection win!

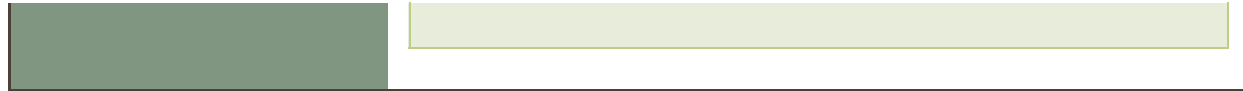


**Tree planting experiment at
Lynch Canyon**

Project manager Sue Wickham and MIT Academy students planted buckeye seeds, valley oak seeds and seedlings, and blue oak seedlings at Lynch Canyon in an experiment to see what kind of tree protection holds up best to cattle. She used five different kinds of protection, three kinds of tall tubes and two kinds of

cages.

She is looking for volunteers to help water the trees. If you frequent Lynch Canyon and can spare ten minutes per trip to help water, contact Sue at (707) 429-3529 x 207 or sue@solanolandtrust.org.



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