



## Solano Land Trust News December 2013



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### Get Moving Outside

#### King-Swett Ranches Nature Hike

Saturday, January 4

Saturday, February 1

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

RSVP\* to Jim at

(916) 870-4824 or

[james.walsh@landcare.com](mailto:james.walsh@landcare.com)

#### Lynch Canyon Birds of Prey Hikes

Sunday, January 12

Saturday, February 1

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

RSVP\* to Mary Beth at

(707) 685-5908 or

[mbcrittendon@comcast.net](mailto:mbcrittendon@comcast.net)

#### Rockville Trails 2013 Finale Hike

Saturday, December 21

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

### Our gift to you

Deanna Mott, Associate Director



The holiday season is a perfect time to give pause and reflect on the past year. We have much to be thankful for. Most of all we are thankful for the continued support from our donors, partners and volunteers who help us carry out our mission.

Solano Land Trust has the pleasure of helping to preserve the things we all cherish - natural areas and trails for our community to hike, bike and ride their horses, and the agricultural land that farmers and ranchers need to continue their way of life and pass on to future generations.

We make sure these special places remain intact *forever* - for the generations to come. It's *our gift to you* and a commitment we take seriously.

The work we do is an integral part of connecting our community to the land. Working farms and ranchlands add to our community's economic health and pass on traditions and heritage. Natural areas provide recreational opportunities, outdoor classrooms for future conservationists, and a home for plants and animals.

Your annual membership gift helps us preserve and protect agriculture land and natural areas for you and our community. Support from donors like you also helps us attract grant funds from foundations and government agencies. With your year-end donation of \$50 or more, you will receive a beautiful, full-color 2014 calendar as our gift to you. Extra calendars are available for purchase for \$20 and make wonderful gifts! Please contact Debi at [debi@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:debi@solanolandtrust.org) or (707) 432-0150 x 201 to inquire about calendars.

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Pre-registration required**  
[Register online](#) or  
 Call Cathy at (707) 745-1913

**Rockville Trails  
 New Year's Day Hike**  
 Wednesday, January 1  
 Noon to 4 p.m.

**Pre-registration required**  
[Register online](#) or  
 Call Cathy at (707) 745-1913

**Rush Ranch  
 Get the Rush**

Saturday, December 21  
 Saturday, January 18  
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Presented by the

[Rush Ranch Educational  
 Council, Access Adventure, &  
 Solano Land Trust](#)  
 No RSVP necessary

**Rush Ranch  
 Mindfulness on the Marsh**  
 Saturday, January 4  
 Sunday, January 5  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 RSVP\* to Natalie at  
 (707) 432-0150 x 200 or  
[volunteer@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:volunteer@solanolandtrust.org)

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE UNLESS  
 NOTED

For more information on  
 events go to  
 Solano Land Trust's  
[Event Calendar](#)

\* RSVP appreciated but not  
 required

## Volunteers Needed

**Citizen Science Friday**  
 (location varies)  
 Friday, January 17  
 Friday, February 21  
 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
**Pre-registration required**  
 Contact Sue at  
 (707) 432-0150 x 207 or  
[sue@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:sue@solanolandtrust.org)

**Lynch Canyon  
 Trail Crew**  
 Saturday, December 14  
 Saturday, January 11  
 Saturday, February 8  
 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
 RSVP\* to Ken at  
 (707) 580-6277 or  
[ken@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:ken@solanolandtrust.org)

**Rush Ranch**

We are proud of the work we do, and we can only accomplish it with the continued support of our members. Leave a lasting, positive impact that continues beyond your lifetime by including Solano Land Trust in your estate planning. Help leave a legacy that represents the values you hold dear!

[Please give now](#)

Thank you and happy holidays!

## Getting management right: Taking steps to open Rockville Trails Preserve

Sue Wickham, Conservation Manager



Photo by Lorenzo Burchielli

Five plants with California rare plant rankings; seven sensitive natural communities; and a rich species diversity that includes eight species of oaks. These are some of the wonderful things discovered by consultants who contributed to the Rockville Trails Preserve Management Plan.

"Rockville Trails is a place where discoveries are still being made," says botanist Heath Bartosh from Nomad Ecology.

Discovering and listing the land's natural resources is just one aspect of the management plan, which provides guidelines for the first ten years of operation. The plan also addresses public access for hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. The public access section was developed with the help of a group of fantastic volunteers. In the next five years, Solano Land Trust intends to build a staging area, upgrade or construct five miles of trails, and add picnic benches. The project design calls for adding more trails each year, with an eventual 12 miles of trails.



Other sections of the management plan discuss grazing, weed control, and resource protection and enhancement.

What's the timeline? Solano Land Trust will develop a document that evaluates impacts and follows California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. The CEQA document will likely be ready for public comment by June 2014. Simultaneously, we will raise money for needed staff and construction of public access features. We hope to begin

**Trail Crew**

Saturday, January 4  
Saturday, February 1  
9 a.m. to noon  
RSVP\* to Ken at  
(707) 580-6277 or  
[ken@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:ken@solanolandtrust.org)

\* RSVP appreciated but not required

**Save the Date**

**Rush Ranch  
Birds of Prey  
ID Workshop & Hike**  
Sunday, March 16  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Cost: \$10

**Pre-registration required**  
[Register online](#) or  
Call Mary Beth at  
(707) 685-590

**Rush Ranch  
Open House**  
Saturday, April 26  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
[Events Calendar](#)

**Lynch Canyon  
Kite Festival**  
Saturday, May 3  
[Events Calendar](#)

**Lynch Canyon  
Trail Run &  
Community Hike**  
Saturday, June 7  
[www.lynchcanyontrailrun.org](http://www.lynchcanyontrailrun.org)

**Solano Land Trust  
is hiring**

Click on the positions below  
to learn more:

[Stewardship Director](#)

[Stewardship Coordinator](#)

[Field Steward](#)

**Community Events**

**More Community Hikes**  
[Solano Open Space](#)

**Suisun Valley  
Holiday Wine Celebration**  
Thursday, December 26  
Noon to 5 p.m.  
Cost: \$15  
[More information](#)

**Gary Hutson of Solano Archaeological Services** construction, as funding allows, soon after the CEQA document is approved.  
Photo by Jason Coleman Meanwhile, you can get out on the Rockville Trails Preserve with our awesome docents.  
[Check it out on our events page.](#)

**Meet the Rancher: Bill Bishop Jr. runs cattle and memories at Rockville Trails Preserve**

Aleta George, eVistas Editor



**Bill Bishop Jr. and Baldie**  
Photo by Anne DeLozier

The father and son team that run the Bishop Cattle Company has grazed cattle at Rockville Trails Preserve for more than forty years.

"It's a great little place," says Bishop. "I'm sure glad they never developed it. They came awfully close, I think."

[Click here or below to learn more about Bill Bishop](#)



**Event Highlight: Add these two special hikes at Rockville Trails Preserve to your holiday to-do list**

**Celebrate Winter Solstice**  
Saturday, December 21  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Take a break from holiday-hectic and celebrate the first day of winter on a free guided hike. [Pre-registration required.](#)

## Sightings

**What:** Installing irrigation  
**When:** November 2013  
**Where:** Lynch Canyon  
**Who:** Citizen Scientists



Photo by Sue Wickham

**What:** SLT phenology project  
**When:** October 29 & 30  
**Where:** SF Estuary Conference  
**Who:** Intern Paige Cauffield



**What:** Golden-crowned kinglet  
**When:** Mid-October  
**Where:** Rush Ranch  
**Who:** Tom Muehleisen & Ken Poerner  
**Comment by Poerner:** "This bird is usually seen in the Sierras or on the coast. It was probably just passing through."



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

**What:** Trail riders  
**Where:** Lynch Canyon  
**When:** November  
**Who:** Denise Zavata & friends



Photo by Lawrence David Sanders

**Step into the New Year**  
Wednesday, January 1, 2014  
Noon to 4 p.m.

Start your New Year off on the right foot by joining docents Richard and Cathy on a free guided hike. [Pre-registration is required.](#)

## Seeing golden eagles while helping with Citizen Science at Lynch Canyon

Aleta George, Editor



Photo by Tom Muehleisen

Maggie Ingalls, James Chang and I were crossing the hills with a GPS map that showed where we might find the yarrow, yampah, and sticky monkey flower seeds we were collecting for Solano Land Trust as Citizen Scientists.

We walked up the Tower Trail to reach a cluster of coast live oaks and California bay laurel, and spooked two golden eagles sitting in the shade just four feet on our right. We didn't see

them until they took off. The first one sprung from the ground, banked, and flew off. The second joined the first with its slow and strong wing beat. They were so close we could hear the thu-thu-thu of their wings.

This large, dark-brown raptor can have a wingspan as wide as I am tall.

Lynch Canyon provides a year-round home to adult and juvenile golden eagles and a winter hunting ground for many other birds of prey. See them on a docent-led raptor tour (see [Get Moving Outside](#)) or while helping with Citizen Science (see [Volunteers Needed](#)).

**Other raptor news:** If you see a golden eagle or other raptor that appears to have feather loss around its head, neck, legs, or lower abdomen, contact [Janice Mackey](#) with the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). Some golden eagles in Alameda and Monterey Counties have been found with severe mite infestations or mange, which hampers their ability to maintain a normal body temperature. CDFW is working with researchers and monitoring the situation.

## Mike Rydjord's legacy of kites

Natalie DuMont, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator

**What:** Mountain lion  
**When:** Early December  
**Where:** Hiddenbrooke  
**Who:** Residents, confirmed by CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife

Learn more about mountain lions: [Keep Me Wild](#)



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



Solano Land Trust  
1001 Texas Street,  
Suite C  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 432-0150

[info@solanolandtrust.org](mailto:info@solanolandtrust.org)

[www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)

Editor: Aleta George



**Mike Rydjord at Lynch Canyon**

Photo by Doug Wirtz

Our annual Kite Festival is the amazing legacy of Mike Rydjord (September 8, 1946 - November 2, 2013).

The festival, now in its sixth year, delights people of all ages. Children, families and friends come together to celebrate the many colors and shapes floating in the sky.

The most fun part of the day for Mike was "just keeping the flyers happy." You'd find him on the grassy field, which he referred to as "the flight area," where he helped first-timers get airborne and discussed technique with more experienced flyers.

It was a natural fit since Mike was a pilot and flight instructor. He loved the air, the wind, and the land. Mike's wife, Linda, summed it up when she said, "He always encouraged others to open their eyes and take it all in."

We dedicate the 6th Annual Lynch Canyon Kite Festival on **Saturday, May 3, 2014** to Mike. Come fly a kite in his honor!

**Thank you Solano Land Trust Business Partners in Conservation.**

**We can't do it without you.**



A special thank you goes to EDF Renewable Energy and Potrero Hills Landfill for underwriting our 2014 calendar.

Carpenter's Union  
Medic Ambulance  
Navy Federal Credit Union  
Reveille Farms & Tolenas Spring Cattle Co.  
Robben Ranch

[\(See full list here\)](#)

Please remember to support those who support us.

[Forward email](#)



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