

E-VISTAS

Solano Land Trust News September 2012

Like us on Facebook 

In this Issue

[Rockville Trails](#)

[Meet the Cooleys](#)

[Celebrate land, art, and harvest](#)

[Raptors are back!](#)

[Capture a Hunter's Moon](#)

[Support Solano County Farmers](#)

[Solano Land Trust Applies for Accreditation](#)

Get Moving Outside

**King-Swett Ranches
Docent-led Hike**
Saturday, October 6
Saturday, November 3

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

Congratulations! You now have a new natural park!

By Deanna Mott, Associate Director

Solano Land Trust triumphs in saving Rockville Trails!



Photo by Lorenzo Burchielli

A collective effort of over 50 people working to raise funds in just over a year has resulted in a win! We have met the 18-month deadline to raise \$13.5 million to protect Rockville Trails, the greater Bay Area's newest natural park. Solano Land Trust board and staff, community members, and Green Valley Landowners Association board members joined forces to help raise the funds needed to close the deal by August 31,

2012. The last push was met with a \$250,000 one-year loan from the Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

Now the work begins to develop a management plan to identify natural resources, inventory agricultural infrastructure, and start the process of opening the park to the public. An intensive docent training program will begin this fall and we hope to offer docent-led hikes by spring of 2013. We are very excited to be able to share this extraordinary property with

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Lynch Canyon
Raptor Migration Tours**
Sunday, September 9
Saturday, September 29
Sunday, October 7 (last day
Lynch Canyon is open in 2012)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
RSVP requested to [Mary
Beth](#) or 707-685-5908

**Rush Ranch
Get the Rush!**
Saturday, September 15
Saturday, October 20
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
[See website for activities and
times](#)

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

Volunteers Needed

**Citizen Science Friday
(Locations TBD)**
Friday, October 19
Friday, November 16
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
RSVP to (707) 432-0150 x 207
or sue@solanolandtrust.org

**Rush Ranch
Volunteer Day**
Saturday, October 6
Saturday, November 3
9 a.m. to noon
No RSVP needed

More Events

**Heritage Feast
& Art Auction**
Rush Ranch
Saturday, October 13
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
[Buy tickets now](#)



Art work by
Susan Schneider

**Full Moon Night
Photography Workshop**
Rush Ranch
Monday, October 29
3 p.m. until late
Limited to 15 participants

the public. It will be a different experience than most people are used to in Solano County!



View from the mesa (note Mount Diablo on the far right)
Photo by Michael A. Heathman

The regional value of this property was made clear by the phenomenal support of our fundraising efforts, including individuals. Nearly half-a-million dollars came from 422 donors, with 225 of them new to Solano Land Trust. Of those, 107 donors gave more than \$500, with an average gift of \$2,400. These donors will be acknowledged at the donor recognition area at the property's entrance. We are hoping that the community will continue to support the project over the next year to help us pay back the \$250,000 bridge loan and finish building the endowment fund.

Thanks to each and every one of you, we have a new, natural park in Solano County!

[Donate Now](#)

Meet the Cooleys: The farmers behind the shades of Cool Patch Pumpkins and the world's largest corn maze

By Aleta George, Editor



This world-class corn maze is not for the weak of heart. Those colorful oblong dots are trailers for a semi!

In 2007 Matt and Mark Cooley broke the world's record for the largest corn maze in the world. When their father saw it before he died in 2002, the maze covered ten acres. This year it's 50, holds the record for being the largest in the Guinness Book of World Records, and has been a question on

Jeopardy. "My dad would be so proud of us, the town, and the county," says Matt Cooley. "He lived to be a farmer."

[Meet the Farmer](#)

Celebrate land, art, and harvest at the Heritage Feast and Art Auction

REGISTER by October 1.
Contact Susan at
nichols@thenocturnes.com or
(707) 645-9860

[More information](#)



Art work by
Carlyle Johnson

Community Events

Lake Solano Guided Tour

Saturday, October 6
Saturday, October 20
10 a.m. to noon

[More info](#)

28th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day

Saturday, September 15
Hill Slough near Rush Ranch
Contact [Ken Poerner](#) at (707)
580-6277

Solano Grown 2nd Birthday Bash

Winterhawk Winery
Sunday, October 14
1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

[More info](#)

Dixon Lambtown

Saturday, October 6
Sunday, October 7
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
\$2 for adults
\$1 for kids

5 and under are free!

[More info](#)

Sightings

What: Prairie falcon flying over
the Rush hills, sizing up a large
blackbird flock doing its own
acrobatic show

Where: Rush Ranch

When: Friday, August 17 **Who:**
Land steward Ken Poerner



Jack Batson's unusual
bidding style

Join Solano Land Trust on Saturday,
October 13 at Rush Ranch to celebrate
art, land, and local agriculture at the
Heritage Feast and Art Auction.

For a year, professional artists Susan
Schneider, Deanna Forbes, and more
than a dozen others have been seen
painting, sketching, and taking
pictures at Rush Ranch, Lynch Canyon,
Jepson Prairie, King-Swett Ranches and
Rockville Trails for "Seeing Solano:
Solano Land Trust Through the Eyes of
Artists." The resulting art work has

tantalized viewers at shows at the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum,
Benicia Public Library and Vacaville Museum.

Now it's time for the work to find a home, and find a home it will at the
Heritage Feast and Art Auction. If 2010's art auction is any indication,
every piece of art will sell. The successful bidders will bring home a
breath of fresh air and a depiction of the land they love, while investing
in an organization they believe in. Fifty percent
of art sales during the live art auction headed
by auctioneer Joe Gates go to Solano Land
Trust.

Art isn't the only reason to come out for a
shared beautiful evening at Rush Ranch. Savor
Solano County's harvest with a locally-sourced
meal prepared by chef Daniel Bell of Chef To Go
Catering. Sip local wines and dip into a dreamy
dessert by MagPies. Take a wagon ride into the
sunset with Access Adventure and watch the
old-time art of red-hot metal tool making at the
ranch's blacksmith shop.



Baby beets from
Tenbrink Farm

Celebrate land.
Celebrate art.
Celebrate Solano County's harvest!

[Buy tickets now](#)

Raptors are back!



Golden eagle flies across the grasses

Photo by Suisun Wildlife Photography

The raptors are back and so is raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick, who
brings 25 years of experience to help us see them. As the golden eagle
family at Lynch Canyon grows, so do the number of people who want to
come out and see them and the other raptors seen on the property.
Come out and see resident, migrating, and over-wintering birds such as
red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawks, and Northern harriers.

The first three tours of the season are on Sunday, September 9;
Saturday, September 29; and Sunday, October 7. All three hikes begin
at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. Meet at the parking area of Lynch Canyon.
RSVP requested to [Mary Beth](#) at (707) 685-5908.



What: Fixing an old-time wagon wheel
Where: Rush Ranch

When: August 2012
Who: Karen Vittorio, Rush Ranch Educational Council board of directors

What: Orion's first morning
Where: Rush Ranch

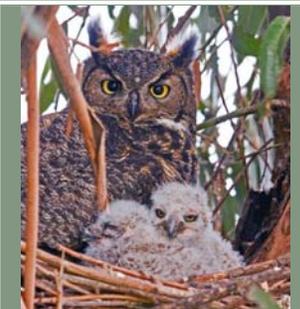


Photo by Tom Muehleisen, Suisun Wildlife Photography

"I took my camera, not knowing if I could catch a photo of the two. I stood outside the corral, and I watched the colt on the ground. Mom laid down next to him and gently placed her leg over him. It was really touching to see."

Photo Essay

Two great horned owls growing up at Rush Ranch, photographed by Tom Muehleisen, Suisun Wildlife Photography



Great horned owl babies are born at Rush Ranch

Capture a "Hunter's Moon" at a Rush Ranch night photography workshop



The old stallion barn at night
 Photo by Tim Baskerville

Join instructor Tim Baskerville of The Nocturnes for a night photography workshop at Rush Ranch on October 29. The workshop includes instruction on night and low-light photography, supplemental light, and light-painting techniques. The workshop is limited to 15.

Here are three tips from

Baskerville on shooting at night :

1. Invest in a good, sturdy tripod. A stable tripod can only help your images (day or night) and is a must for photographing at night in Northern California with its ever-present wind.
2. It is best to get it all (or as much as is possible) done "in-camera" and keep post processing to a minimum. In other words, use the current digital equipment to its full advantage, but think low-tech.
3. Shooting a full moon teaches you about the moon, its phases and lore. Here are a few sites Baskerville recommends:

[United States Naval Observatory \(USNO\)](#)

[Photographer's Ephemeris application](#)

What: Full moon night photography workshop

Who: Tim Baskerville, The Nocturnes

When: Monday, October 29, 3:00 p.m. until late

Where: Rush Ranch

How much: \$100

Registration: Register by October 1 by contacting Susan at (707) 645-9860 or [Pacific Media Arts](#).

A portion of the proceeds go towards the outreach and education programs of the Rush Ranch Educational Council.

Support Solano County Farmers

Many farm stands and farmers' markets are open through September and beyond. Keep local and seasonal food on your table! (Check the websites for closing dates)

Farm stands:

[Castaneda Bros. Produce](#)

[Erickson Ranch](#)

[Larry's Produce](#)

[Saechao Family Farm](#)

[Sunny Slope Orchard](#)

[The Vegetable Patch](#)

[Cal Yee Farm](#)

[Glashoff Farms](#)

[Bridgeway Farms](#)

Farmers' markets:





Growing up



Ready to fly

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

www.solanolandtrust.org

Editor: Aleta George



[Benicia](#)
[Dixon](#)
[Fairfield](#)
[Green Valley](#)
[Vacaville](#)
[Vallejo](#)

Public notice: Solano Land Trust is applying for accreditation with the Land Trust Accreditation Commission

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Solano Land Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. "This process will result in a thorough assessment of the policies and practices we use, and lead to more efficient and effective ways of operating" says Deanna Mott, Solano Land Trust's associate director. "Being accredited will unite us with other land conservation organizations around the county that are governed by strong ethical practices and committed to sound stewardship and transaction principles that strengthen the land trust network.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Solano Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. [See the full list of standards.](#)

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or [email your comment](#). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on Solano Land Trust's application will be most useful by October 28, 2012.

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to anne@solanolandtrust.org by info@solanolandtrust.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).
Solano Land Trust | 1001 Texas St., Suite C | Fairfield | CA | 94533