

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Board Bios, 2019

JOE REUSSER serves as our current Board President, serves on the Stewardship Committee and heads the calendar committee. Joe is a life-long resident of Yuba and Sutter counties, having grown up on a cattle ranch in the foothills east of Marysville. He is a Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes an interpretive guide and docent. He has a BA Degree from California State University-Sacramento and is an accomplished photographer. His hobbies include a love of the outdoors, hiking and backpacking and travel photography, although not necessarily in that order. Retired from a career in agricultural equipment repair and maintenance, he lives in Yuba City with his wife, Julie.

MIKE HUBBARTT serves as Vice President and a Past-President of SBRLT. He is also the Newsletter Writer, and the Guide Coordinator. Mike leads hikes, coordinates guide's training meetings, writes the semi-annual newsletter and makes public appearances to promote the Foundation's preservation goals. A former teacher, he currently works with as an interpreter at the Oroville Visitor Center. Mike is the author of "The Sutter Buttes" in the Images of America Series, which is a history of the families of the Sutter Buttes. He enjoys hiking, backpacking, gardening, woodworking, and reading.

BABS COTTER serves as Secretary and as a Board Director and a Backup Guide for SBRLT. Until her retirement in 2002, she taught elementary school for 38 years, retiring from Butte Vista School where she was also Teaching Vice-Principal. Growing up in Chico, Babs spent summers at the family's cabin in the Sierra, developing a love for the outdoors, and a strong desire to preserve our natural landscape. Babs is also an active volunteer with the American Cancer Society, the local Community Memorial Museum, and PEO Sisterhood. She lives in Yuba City with her husband, Morris. They have two grown children and two granddaughters. She continues to spend time at the family cabin, and also enjoys gardening, hiking, and spending time with her granddaughters.

SPENCER MORRISON serves as Treasurer and Guide for SBRLT. Spencer is a Sutter County native. He has a background in hospitality, coaching, and accounting. He has been an accounting supervisor and manager at the City of Yuba City since 2003. He was elected as City Treasurer for the City of Yuba City in November 2012. He began volunteering for the Middle Mountain Foundation in 2004. He became Treasurer for the Foundation in January 2008.

JULIE STARK serves as a Board Director for SBRLT, Project Manager for the West Butte School Restoration and a Liaison to the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County. She has worked at the Museum for 18 years where she currently is the Director/Curator until her retirement this past year. A prominent focus of the museum is the history of the Sutter Buttes. Julie received her BA degree from CSUC, and has a background in library work and teaching. She is a native of Chico and enjoys her leisure time gardening, flying, and antiquing.

CAROLYN BROWN serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She recently retired from Caltrans and worked for the State as an Environmental Planner (Natural Science) much of her work career, doing biological resource surveys, impact analysis, environmental report preparation and regulatory compliance. For the last 12 years of work, she supervised the Environmental Stewardship Branch for Caltrans' North Region, in which the focus of her job was biological mitigation – issues, partnerships, development, implementation, and the long-term management of mitigation lands. She has always been interested in the natural history of the Sutter Buttes and upon her recent retirement, began volunteering as a BuG for the Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes (a long time desire of hers). Becoming involved with SBRLT seemed a natural extension of her work with MMIH as well as her interest in land stewardship – she is excited to become involved in our local efforts and projects. Hobbies focus on outdoor activities including hiking, biking, camping, botanizing, gardening, and also travel! Life is good!

WALT ANDERSON is Director Emeritus/Naturalist for SBRLT. He pioneered the programs of access and interpretation in 1976 that evolved into the organization of today. Currently Professor of Environmental Studies at the innovative Prescott College in Arizona, Walt is also an accomplished photographer, artist, and guide of international expeditions. His second book, Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes, appeared in 2004.

RICK GEDDES had served as President from 2015-2017 and currently Director Emeritus. He has lived in the Yuba-Sutter area for 30 years. Having cycled through and around the Buttes for many years, he took his first hike in 2012 and was hooked. He brings to the Board an agricultural background having spent a career working with rice, walnut, almond and row crop growers and understands the role the farmer/landowner plays in land preservation. Hobbies include camping, cycling, hiking and boating with wife Cindy. For more information on Rick, visit his work profile [here](#).

DR. EMMA BLACKTHORNE serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She has had a long and distinguished career spanning the fields of anthropology, education, executive management, and criminal justice. She speaks, reads or writes more than 15 languages and has traveled to every region of the world. She currently continues to teach anthropology to students in the Yuba-Sutter community as a professor with the Yuba Community College District. Dr. Blackthorne has been in executive management since 2007, has started two businesses, and has been involved with the leadership of numerous nonprofit organizations. She serves as the Director of the North Central Adult Education Consortium as well as accepting leadership of the Marysville Youth and Community Center.

MARGIT SANDS serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She hails from a family whose history is closely tied to the region. Her family has owned a ranch in the heart of the Sutter Buttes since 1898, and Margit considers herself fortunate to have grown up working cattle on the ranch, and finds that her appreciation for the Sutter Buttes grows with each passing year. She has retired from her lifelong career of teaching elementary school, primarily at Manzanita School in Gridley. Now she devotes more time to the cattle operation with some side interests of playing her flute and sewing. She also is the Charter Hike Coordinator for our sister organization, Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes.

SANDY MAYO serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She joined SBRLT in August 2018 and is a recent transplant to Northern California, moving to Yuba City in July 2017. She is the daughter of an immigrant and veteran and grew up camping, hiking and backpacking in the San Bernardino Mountains and the Sierras. Sandy is a long time educator, beginning as a high school mathematics teacher, eventually teaching mathematics in the community colleges. She has worked her way up the administrative ladder, from director to dean to Vice President of Instruction to College President to Vice Chancellor of Education and Planning for the Yuba Community College District. Sandy is excited about getting involved in the community and supporting land conservation.