

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Board Bios, 2022

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.

JULIE STARK serves as a Secretary and is 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 antiques.

DR. EMMA BLACKTHORNE serves as Treasurer and is 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.

BABS COTTER serves as a Board Director 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.

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.

SAMANTHA SMALLWOOD serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She is currently in the process of earning her B.A. in Geography, which she hopes will help her to further understand, protect, and conserve our environment. She grew up in Northern California, and as such, has always loved the great outdoors. California's incredible mountain ranges, lakes, rivers, valleys, and stunning coastlines inspired her life-long hobbies of backpacking, trail running, and kayaking. When she's not outside, Sam enjoys spending time with her family and volunteering.

RACHEL REIN serves as a Board Director for SBRLT. She is a citizen scientist, civic activist, writer, educator, and artist. She is currently pursuing an MFA. Her passions include genealogical DNA testing, data visualization, deep dive research, digital documentation, gaming, hand-coding HTML and CSS, and discovering new fruit to try. Rachel has made over 22,000 edits to Wikipedia. She volunteers with California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP), the non-profit of the Nisenan Tribe, and serves on the Editorial Board of her local newspaper. She produces a local voter guide each election and created LandEmpty, which helps consumers find reusable alternatives to disposable products.

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 lived in the Yuba-Sutter area for 30 years before moving to Nevada to be closer to his grandchildren. 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.