

THE MIDDLE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust



from Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

FALL 2011

Buttes Preservation Contributes to Local Economy

By Mike Hubbart

The new Highway 99 Tudor bypass has created a stir among Sutter County residents and visitors. Those driving up from the south are treated with a grand view of our majestic Sutter Buttes, the icon of the Sacramento Valley. At our Middle Mountain Foundation information booths and hike gatherings, we hear glowing reactions from the community about the impression this makes upon them as north-bound travelers.

Like a monument at the end of a scenic park boulevard, the imposing presence of the Sutter Buttes makes an impressive but unspoken statement about what makes our county such a special place to live. Indeed the name and iconic image of the Buttes is proudly incorporated into many local business names and logos and government seals. Their rugged escarpments, uncluttered with the housing developments like those in the bay area, convey values that emphasize the preservation of Sutter County's agricultural heritage.

The ambiance of our rural setting is so alluring that three fourths of the visitors who come to hike in the Buttes are from outside of the twin cities area! This draw emphasizes an economic potential that is not appreciated by those who see our communities' future growth in terms of construction and expansive development. Those proposed projects merely stimulate a short-term financial gain for a few developers.

The continued preservation of all of our farm and ranch lands and especially the Buttes makes Sutter County a unique California destination similar, yet distinctive from our state's varied locales like the wine country, the old gold rush towns,

or the crystal blue alpine lakes of the Sierras! This is an ongoing and long-term investment in local economy. The Middle Mountain Foundation interpretive programs already bring 1000's of travelers to our area every year!



Driving toward the Buttes on a hazy summer day.

Photo by Mike Hubbart

The county's new general plan just approved this year laudably focuses on the goal of farm land protection. But regrettably, the protection of the Sutter Buttes is diluted by spreading specific references to it throughout the 300 page document. One has the sense that it no longer has the priority it once had in the last general plan where it could be found in the policy document, section four, paragraphs 4l and 4m on page 49.

How this new general plan will protect the Buttes is in the hands of five elected county supervisors who supported a developer-backed initiative that could have opened up one specially designated parcel for more development on

the south side of the Buttes (that was overwhelmingly defeated by voters) and seven appointed planners who quietly approved the subdivision of another farming parcel on the east side of the Buttes into seven potential home sites. Both of those recent decisions provided only short-term benefits to those choosing to develop their land.

It is clear that this new perspective from highway 99 that provides such a grand view of the Sutter Buttes rugged landscape will remain uncluttered with homes only if we all can be proactive in collaborating to achieve long-term solutions that promote the viability of our farming heritage, or by influencing voters to select the officials who will!

Mission

The Middle Mountain Foundation works to protect the land and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations.

Values

- ◆ Protect the natural, cultural, geological, historical, and scenic qualities of the Sutter Buttes.
- ◆ Identify prime agricultural lands and natural areas that preserve and enhance the unique characteristics of the region surrounding the Sutter Buttes.
- ◆ Build partnerships with landowners, community leaders, and developers to balance conservation with economic growth, flood protection, and water quality to help plan better communities.
- ◆ Respect landowners' rights and provide information to those who want to conserve their land.
- ◆ Increase public awareness of the Middle Mountain Foundation's dedication to education, interpretation, and land conservation.
- ◆ Maintain an efficient, effective, and sustainable organization.

The Middle Mountain Foundation acknowledges the following contributors and individuals:

Eleanor Knox, Pete Sands, Mary Spilman Crane, Cory Wilkins, Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, Our Members, Our Volunteers, Our Advisors, and our Hikers!

In Honor of

Donations received in honor of:
Rich Bowder and Mike Hubbartt

In Memory of

Donations received in memory of:
Betty Jean Diplacito,
June Gibson,
Ivan Lemoine,
Shirley Schnabel,
Robert Skaggs,
and Bill Thomas

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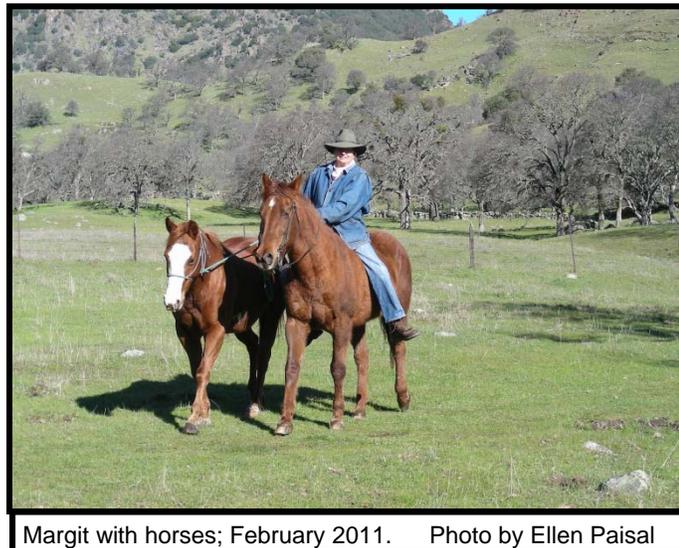
President's Message

By Margit Sands

I am looking forward to the changing of the seasons and leaving the summer heat behind. At this time of year there is always a yearning for the fall rains and the return of the green grass on the hillside. That also means it is time to start our fall hiking season. Come and enjoy the Sutter Buttes in their fall dress.

For the first time we will have a rugged trail run, "Hill of a Run," on Nov. 12, 2011. It will be held on the north side of the Sutter Buttes on the Shaeffer Ranch. What could be better than running in the hills of the Sutter Buttes?

To introduce our new 2012 calendar, we had a "Meet the Photographers" reception at the Community Memorial Museum in Yuba City, in late August. It was a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Keep the Middle Mountain Foundation in your thoughts as this calendar year winds down with a purchase of our 2012 calendar for all those special people during the holidays.



Margit with horses; February 2011. Photo by Ellen Paisal

From The Sacramento Bee, Wednesday, July 8, 1970:

Where Butte Went

Editor of The Bee—Sir: While flying a United Air Lines DCS trainer in the Sacramento airport pattern, I noticed the Sutter Buttes sticking up bright and clear. It reminded me that the top two inches of the highest butte lies quietly in Colorado.

How did it get to Colorado?

As a young man, my father, Charles E. Beck (born in Yolo, Calif., in 1869), climbed to the top and removed the top piece. In the years following, his collection of artifacts has made its way to my home in Aurora, Colo.

C. L. Beck

Fifth-Generation Landowner Weds in Sutter Buttes

By Tyrone Shaeffer

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, more than 200 family and friends witnessed the wedding of Dannelle Ruth Shaeffer and John Bosie Spaeth in a meadow surrounded by wildflowers on the Myers-Shaeffer Ranch in the Sutter Buttes.

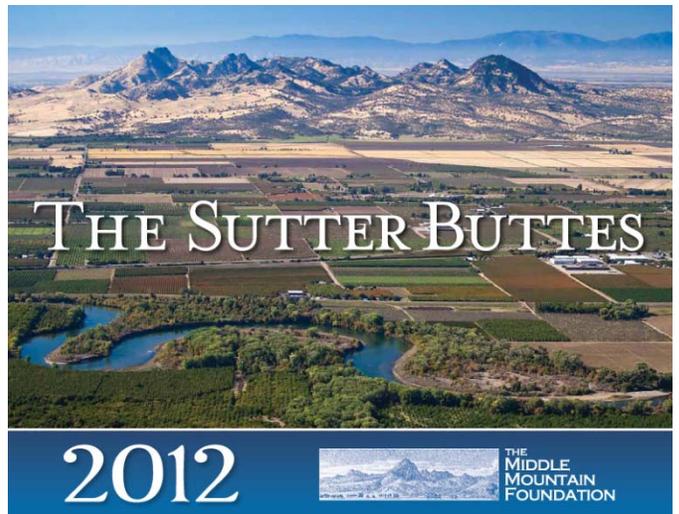
Dannelle is the daughter of Gary and Ruth Shaeffer of Clovis. She is the granddaughter of Raymond and Yolanda Shaeffer of Gridley. She is the great-granddaughter of the late John and Gladys (Myers) Shaeffer, great-great-granddaughter of John and Anna (Marr) Myers, and the great-great-great-granddaughter of John Henry and Nancy (Taylor Kincaid) Myers. John and Nancy settled in the Sutter Buttes in 1860 where they engaged in wheat and cattle farming.



Danelle Shaeffer & John Spaeth on their Wedding Day
Photo by Moments to Remember Photography, Michelle Chandler, April 2011

SUTTER BUTTES 2012 CALENDARS

These beautiful full-color calendars are available at the Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, PIP Printing, Sunsweet Gift Shop, and Walgreens in Yuba City and various other retail stores around the area. And they are available on our website (www.middlemountain.org). Check the website for locations in Chico, Fair Oaks, Marysville, Oroville, and Sacramento. More locations will be added throughout the fall. Don't miss out on a year of enjoying these images, as well as having a keepsake for future years.



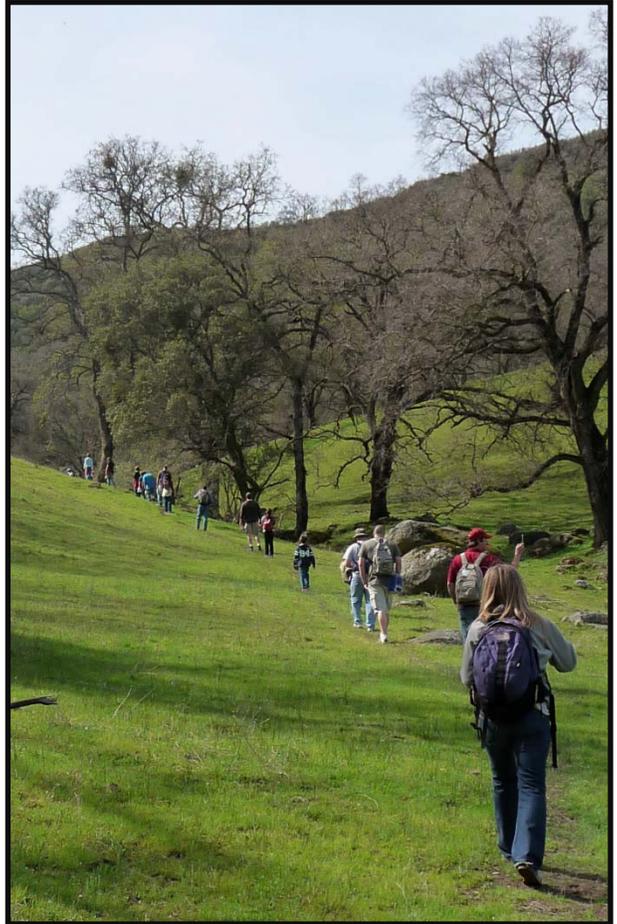
Education Program

The Middle Mountain Foundation Education Program has developed curriculum standards-based hikes to enhance classroom lessons in geology, ecology, and biology, as well as local history. The school hikes run from late October through the end of April.

During the last spring hiking season, nearly 1200 local students came into the Buttes for a day of hiking and experiencing the natural setting of the landscape of the Sutter Buttes. Sixth graders focused on its geologic history and formations; fourth graders learned of the many adaptations plants and animals have developed to enable them to compete successfully; and third graders participated in grinding acorns on grinding rocks, and learned about the ways the Maidu people used the Buttes as a source of food.

School hikes can be designed to enable students to see relationships between wildlife and plant life, to encounter geological forces that have shaped our local landscape, and to experience how the local indigenous Maidu, the early explorers, and finally the settlers and ranchers used the land. The curriculum is designed to complement each grade level, third through sixth. In addition, hikes can be designed to meet specific needs of a variety of grade levels.

Discovery treks and structured learning activities are geared to promote observational skills, as well as reflective reactions to modern society's relationship with the environment. Visit the website for more information and to schedule your outing: www.middlemountain.org.



Education Program Silent Walk
Photo from Education Program files.

Business Sponsors/Supporters

The Middle Mountain Foundation would like to thank and acknowledge the generous support of the following sponsors. Their donations—financial, time, and space—help to make our work possible.

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HALLOWEEN

GRAVEYARD LIT NIGHT:

TALES TO HORRIFY AND DELIGHT

Don't miss this presentation by Aondreaa, The Storytaylor, and her ghoulish friends!

Friday, October 21
7:00 pm
Community Memorial Museum
1333 Butte House Road
Yuba City

Free Admission

Recommend for middle school and above.

Middle Mountain Interpretive Program

The MMF Interpretive Program events provide access to the privately owned Sutter Buttes' interior. Guides share its unique origin and history and examine with you a natural ecology that has become increasingly rare in our time. The different events and diverse guides each offer a singular experience in the Buttes.

A typical day in the Buttes begins by 8:00 am and ends around 3:30 pm (*unless otherwise noted*). Events are scheduled and will proceed in all but the most severe weather conditions. Participants of **all events** should be prepared to expect uneven footing, stepping over rocks and boulders, crossing streams, and hill climbing.

Some events are acceptable for smaller **children**, but many are not. All of our outings are educational experiences. We find that no outings or events are appropriate for toddlers. We suggest that hikes rated 3 or 4 **MAY** be suitable for children 12 or older, but it depends on the child and the hike. Please **inform the hike coordinator** when making your reservations if you are considering bringing children to an event or hike.

Open Events: Reserve a date for the open events (pages 6 & 7) at mmfhikes@yahoo.com or call Karen at 530-671-6116. Cost for open events is \$35 per person *unless otherwise stated*. Prepayment is expected. The fee is used to pay the guides, reimburse the landowners, and for liability insurance. Any remainder is used for our conservation and education work.

Charter Events: Organizations or groups of ten or more may schedule a charter outing by contacting

Margit at sandsmp@comcast.net or 530-846-5142. The cost for charter hikes is \$300 minimum for the first ten people, and \$30 for each additional person.

Note: Guides do not carry change. If you have made arrangements to pay the day of the outing, do so with a check or money order made out to the Middle Mountain Foundation (or MMF).

General Event and Hike Ratings

Event Ratings are a guideline to help you to choose an outing that matches your fitness and ability.

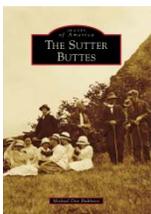
- 1 = Easy:** One to three miles and less than 300 feet elevation gain/loss.
- 2 = Moderate:** Two to five miles and generally less than 600 feet elevation gain/loss.
- 3 = Challenging:** Four to six miles with the possibility of multiple elevation gains/losses of 600-900 feet.
- 4 = Difficult:** Four to seven miles and/or elevation gains/losses, likely in excess of 1000 feet.
- 5 = Strenuous:** Six to eight miles with multiple and significant elevation gains/losses.

MMF Web Store

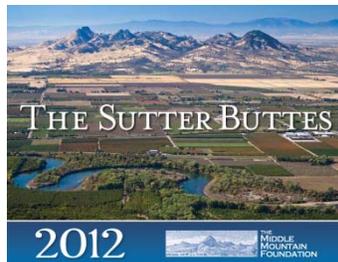
The Middle Mountain Foundation Web Store is located at <http://www.middlemountain.org/body/merchandise/index.html>. The purchase of these items is another way to support our efforts in the Sutter Buttes.

In addition to the items below, we will also have some shirts, hats, and maps at local festivals and fairs.

Walt Anderson's book, "Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes"



"The Sutter Buttes," by Michael Hubbart



Sutter Buttes
2012 Calendar

Previous year's Calendars are also available on the website for collectors (2007-2011).

And now we have an oversized (9" x 4") Sutter Buttes Postcard for sale on our website:



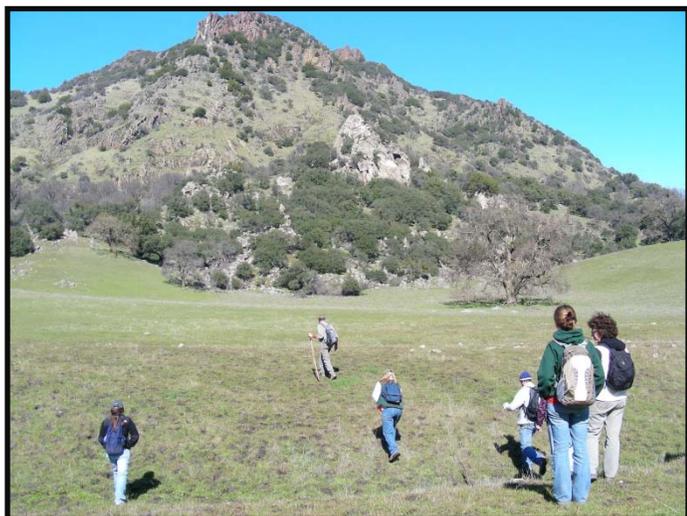
The Sutter Buttes
The World's Smallest Mountain Range

Interpretive Program Schedule Fall 2011

Saturday .. October	22 ..	Bat Research Outing—Dean Rnch
Sunday..... October	23 ..	Gentle Stroll—Dean Ranch Wild Nature in the Buttes—Dean Rnch
Sunday..... October	30 ..	Summit Ascent—North Butte
Saturday .. November	5 ..	Art Outing—Dean Ranch Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
Sunday..... November	6 ..	Photographers' Outing—Dean Ranch
Saturday .. November ..	12 ..	East Ridge Hike—Shaeffer Ranch Moonlight Stroll—Dean Ranch
Sunday..... November ..	13 ..	Geology Trek—Bragg Canyon
Saturday .. November ..	19 ..	Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon West Ridge Hike—Shaeffer Ranch
Sunday..... November ..	20 ..	Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon Summit Ascent—North Butte
Saturday .. November ..	26 ..	Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
Saturday .. December.....	3 ..	Buttes Transect—High* Buttes Transect—Low*
Sunday..... December.....	4 ..	Birds in the Buttes—Dean Ranch Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon
Saturday .. December... ..	10 ..	West Ridge Hike—Shaeffer Ranch
Saturday .. December... ..	17 ..	Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon
Sunday..... December.....	18 ..	Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon
Saturday .. January.....	7 ..	Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
Saturday .. January.....	14 ..	Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon
Sunday..... January.....	15 ..	Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon
Saturday .. January.....	21 ..	West Ridge Hike—Shaeffer Ranch
Saturday .. January.....	28 ..	Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon
Saturday .. February.....	4 ..	Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon
Sunday..... February.....	5 ..	Buttes Transect—High* Buttes Transect—Low*

*The cost of this hike is \$50.00.

“Hill of a Run, The Original Sutter Buttes Trail Run,” will not be held this fall. Look for it in late spring or early fall next year.



North Butte and Hikers, February 2011
Photo by Ellen Paisal

Open Event Information

Workshop Events: These outings will concentrate on a specific topic or aspect as described. There may be an opportunity to stroll or hike during the outing, but that will not be the focus of the event. Detailed “meet and greet” information will be sent upon registration.

Art Outing: Bring your pencils, paints, sketch book, camera, and/or musical instrument and enjoy a day of creativity in the Sutter Buttes. We will stroll and spend some time in a few different areas, exploring a myriad of subjects, both natural and man-made. Bring food and water, plus you may want an easily-carried cushion or seat.
Saturday, November 5 1

Bat Research Outing: A rare opportunity for a limited number of participants to witness mammal biologist, David Wyatt, conducting bat research in the Sutter Buttes. Meet at 2:30 pm. Bring food, drink, and cushion or seat.
Saturday, October 22 1

Birds in the Buttes Hike: Witness the spring migratory birds in and around the Sutter Buttes with the Christmas bird count organizer, Pete Sands. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:30 am. Limit is 12; not suited for younger children.
Sunday, December 4 1

Geology Trek—Bragg Canyon: Discover the violent origins of this tiny mountain range with Volcanologist Brian Hausback. Brian reveals 1.5 million years of geologic history, uniquely accessible here. Bring food and water.
Sunday, November 13 3

In a Sacred Manner: A walk with Stan Padilla focuses on the reverence for life and balances the mythology, botany, geology, mineralogy of the Buttes with active hiking and contemplative free time.
May be scheduled at a later date; check the website 1

Moonlight Stroll: Observation and reflection on nature’s balance will be our focus on this meander through oak groves and gentle hillsides under the lunar glow of a full moon. Bring food, water, and flashlight; you may want an easily-carried cushion or seat. Meet at 2:00 pm. Limit is 15.
Saturday, November 12 2

Native Californians & Sutter Buttes: The Middle Mountains have always been recognized as a special place to the Native Peoples. Journey back to a time with Chuck Kritzon when the Middle Mountains provided everything one needed to thrive in this rich land. Bring food and water.
May be scheduled at a later date; check the website 2

Photographers’ Outing: This event is designed for photographers of all levels. We will caravan/carpool into the Dean Ranch in the interior of the Buttes. There will be several guides so that you may choose different locations and levels of hiking for your professional quality photos. Bring food and water. Meet by 1:00 pm. 1 to 3

Sunday, November 6

Wild Nature in the Buttes: Learn about the exciting diversity of animals and plants in the Buttes, and the fascinating adaptations that allow them to survive here. Your leader will be Gene Trapp, Professor Emeritus of Bio. Sci. at CSU Sacramento. Bring food and water and wear sturdy boots with ankle support. Walking sticks are very helpful.

3

Sunday, October 23



Hike Events: These outings will each cover a broad outline of information about the Sutter Buttes in general and a property in particular. Detailed “meet and greet” information will be sent upon registration.

Buttes Transect Hike—Higher: Traverse the craggy central volcanic core of the Sutter Buttes. This is a very strenuous, "aggressive," and physically demanding hike that requires strength, stamina, and good, solid boots. Our hiking route climbs steeply to a natural ridge that will provide expansive panoramas of the Buttes and beyond. Total will be 7-8 miles with about 1900 feet of elevation gain and 1200 feet of elevation loss. Only register if you are in top physical shape. Cost is \$50. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:30 am. Limit is 15.

5

Saturday, December 3 Sunday, February 5



Hikers on the Geology Trek, March, 2011
Photo by Brian Hausback

Buttes Transect Hike—Lower: Traverse the craggy central volcanic core of the Sutter Buttes—mostly on old wagon/maintenance roads. This is not as strenuous and physically demanding as is the higher transect hike, but will involve significant climbing and will be a long day. You will need good, solid boots; a walking stick will be helpful. Total will be 6-7 miles. Only register if you are in very good physical shape. Cost is \$50. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:30 am.

3

Saturday, December 3 Sunday, February 5

Gentle Stroll: This is a leisurely stroll especially suited for casual walkers and nature lovers. Prepare for some moderate climbing and uneven ground. Bring food and water.

1

Sunday, October 23

Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon: This hike will take you through the old central lakebed of the Sutter Buttes Volcano, with an ascent of the walls of the upper canyon; the route will vary. Only register if you are in top physical shape. Bring food and water.

4

Sunday, December 18 Saturday, January 14
Saturday, January 28

Ridge Hike—East Shaeffer Ranch: The Shaeffer Family will host hikers on their ranch on the north side of the Buttes. Hikers will explore this ranch that has been in the same family since 1860, with views of North Butte and Peace Valley. Bring food and water.

2

Saturday, November 12

Ridge Hike—West Shaeffer Ranch: The Shaeffer Family will host hikers on their ranch on the north side of the Buttes. Hikers explore this ranch that has been in the same family since 1860, with views of North Butte, Peace Valley, and the old Titan Missile site. Bring food and water.

3

Saturday, November 19 Saturday, December 10
Saturday, January 21

Ridge Trek—Bragg Canyon: Steady climbing on uneven ground and frequent stops to examine the natural elements provides an excellent view of the Sutter Buttes. Bring food and water.

3

Saturday, November 19 Sunday, November 20
Sunday, December 4 Saturday, December 17
Sunday, January 15 Saturday, February 4

Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch: Steady climbing on uneven ground and frequent stops to examine the natural elements provides an excellent view of the Sutter Buttes. Bring food and water.

3

Saturday, November 5 Saturday, November 26
Saturday, January 7

Summit Ascent: One of our most challenging treks, this route is a steep, 1,000-foot push straight up North Butte; off trail with no easy switchbacks. Only register for this hike if you are in very good physical shape and don't suffer from vertigo. Bring food and water. Limit is 15.

4

Sunday, October 30 Sunday, November 20

THE MIDDLE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

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In this issue: Buttes Preservation Contributes to Local Economy; President's Message; Where Butte Went; Fifth Generation Landowner Weds in Buttes; Sutter Buttes Calendars; Education Program; Business Sponsors/Supporters; Ghost Stories Program; Interpretive Program; Web Store; Fall Hike Information.

Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County Events

1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City 95993
530-822-7141

Through

Nov 27- Clara Sheldon Smith, Art Photographer Exhibit

Oct 19 - Photo Preservation Program with Allan Lamb,
7 pm

Oct 21 - Ghost Stories Program, 7 pm; free event

Oct 27 Ornament-making Workshop, 10 am

Nov 16 - Ornament-making Workshop, 10 am

Dec 3 - Trees and Traditions, A Christmas Gala
5-8 pm; tickets on sale at Museum

Dec 18 - Children's Program and Museum Open House, 1-3
pm. Stories, songs, and refreshments provided.

**Hiking sticks, and the Sutter Buttes Calendar, Book, and
Postcard are available for sale at the Museum!**

Contact Us

The Middle Mountain Foundation is a group of dedicated individuals who work on a part-time basis, most of us volunteering our time. You can reach us:

- On our website: www.middlemountain.org
- By mail: PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992
- Mike Darnell, Land Trust Consultant, 530-755-3568 or mike@middlemountain.org
- Donna Johnson, Administrative Assistant, 530-755-3568 or middlemountain@yahoo.com
- Karen Morrison, Open Hikes Coordinator, mmfhikes@yahoo.com or 530-671-6116
- Margit Sands, Charter Hikes Coordinator, sandsmp@comcast.net or 530-846-5142

Telephone calls and email messages will be returned as soon as possible and our mail on a weekly basis. Please leave detailed messages or requests for information. We appreciate your patience and understanding and, especially, your interest in the Sutter Buttes and surrounding regions.

The Middle Mountain Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit organization; Federal Tax ID #68-0204641.