

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

(Formerly The Middle Mountain Foundation)



from Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

FALL 2013

MIDDLE MOUNTAIN Is the Heart of Our Organization

By Michael Hubbartt

A body, or a mind, or a business, or an organization that is healthy and dynamic will continue to grow, to evolve, and to change. And yet its soul remains.

The transition from The Middle Mountain Foundation to the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust may seem a sudden and abrupt departure from the focus or mission of who we are perceived to be, but a historical perspective reveals the continuity and consistency of our growth and our role in the community. The perception that MMF has been an organization that provides public access into the private range lands of the Sutter Buttes is accurate, but incomplete.

How our presence in the community has evolved is a reflection of the persona, the passion, and the vision of our leaders. But our heritage of revealing the wonder of a natural and historical landscape to promote its protection remains unchanged.

Our roots extend back to 1976 when naturalist Walt Anderson worked with one Buttes landowner to create the West Butte Sanctuary Company to lead educational hikes. It grew and became Sutter Buttes Naturalists in 1979. Generous cooperation of property owners and landscape preservation was a recurring theme.

Ira Heinrich took the reins of our organization in the late 1980's and registered it as a non-profit corporation. Inspired by the reverence of the land by local indigenous cultures, he renamed it The Middle Mountain Foundation. Additionally, we accepted a donation—200 acres that comprise most of North Butte in 1996.

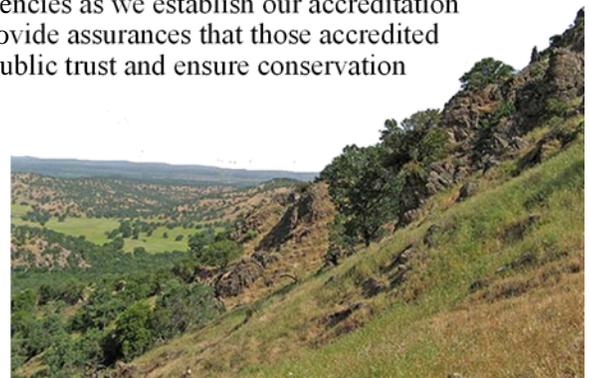
In the late 1990's MMF evolved into a board-driven organization and soon accepted another parcel of land and initiated negotiations with four other Buttes-area ranchers. We then merged with the Yuba Sutter Land Trust in 2006 and acquired their two conservation easements.

With our homes in Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa counties, all within sight of the beloved Sutter Buttes, we have moved to interact with our neighbors, and proactively seek to preserve those spaces that contribute the pleasant pastoral atmosphere of our farm and range lands. Having maintained a public presence as an advocate for the Sutter Buttes these past decades, we have established our credibility among the California land trust community.

We will now be held to a higher standard under state and federal agencies as we establish our accreditation by the nationwide Land Trust Alliance. Their review and oversight provide assurances that those accredited organizations will have the resources and wherewithal to uphold the public trust and ensure conservation efforts that are maintained and monitored in perpetuity.

From this perspective, the Buttes are just one block in the historic stone wall of range and farmland and open space, albeit perhaps best characterized as a keystone, for it is the one that draws our eyes, our imagination, and our heart. This keystone, the Sutter Buttes, symbolizes the need to preserve the most productive farmlands and beautiful rangelands in all of California.

The Buttes remain at the heart of our organization and the public who support our work.



President's Message

By Kathy Larsen

The Mission of the

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

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

Goals

- ◆ Promote voluntary and public land conservation and a land appreciation ethic in the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding regions.
- ◆ Obtain, manage, and monitor easements and enforce restrictions.
- ◆ Maintain an efficient, effective, and sustainable organization.

Special Thank You

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust acknowledges the following contributors and individuals:

Eleanor Knox, Pete Sands, Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, Our Members, Our Volunteers, and our Hikers!

In Honor of

Donations received in honor of:

Raymond F. Shaeffer

In Memory of

Donations received in memory of:

Patsy D. Bibelheimer, Ken Calhoun,
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Sandra Summy Fenocchio, Ed Holden,
Robert Jenkins, Geoff Kauffman,
Alma McFadden, Larry Matchett,
David M. Morrison, Cheryl Tarke Peacock,
Percy Rideout, Alice Dow Rose,
Dave Teja, Bill Thomas,
And Woon Chee Wong, Herbert Zelinsky

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is a 501c(3) non-profit organization; Federal Tax ID #68-0204641

THINGS, THEY ARE A CHANGING

...or rather, they have changed. The most obvious change is our name from Middle Mountain Foundation (MMF) to Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (SBRLT). As we expand out into the surrounding landscape, the Board felt that a name that reflects that focus would more clearly represent our land trust mission. Very specifically, the SBRLT works on land preservation projects in Sutter, Colusa, and Yuba counties.

Since the interpretation/hike program in the Sutter Buttes has been the heart and soul of the organization for many years, it was decided to keep Middle Mountain as the name attached to that program. The Middle Mountain Interpretation Program operates as a significant outreach program for the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust. Its hike schedule will continue to be published in the SBRLT semi-annual newsletter.

Also, check out our new website! New colors, additional information, and an expanded format will enable you to keep current on all of our activities: sutterbutteslandtrust.org.

In January, we hired Coleen Morehead as our new Executive Director. She replaces Mike Darnell, who has moved into a consulting role for us and into a full-time position in a family business. Mike will continue to be a liaison with on-going projects, as well as working with Coleen on new projects. Coleen brings marketing and business experience to our organization, as well as a strong vision and leadership. Additional staffing changes include the newly created position of Administrative Services Coordinator, which has been filled by Kim Mansfield, and the services of Vincent Rogers, a recent UC Berkeley graduate with a major in geography. As an intern, he will help us with monitoring and stewardship responsibilities.

We continue to work toward completing the extensive requirements to apply for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance. Information we've learned on the process is that even when all the requirements are complete and the application is ready to be submitted, it has become a "lottery" situation to get chosen for review. This is a result of the large number of land trusts applying for accreditation and the insufficient number of people available to review the applications. Once the application is accepted, it could be another year before the process is completed. Undaunted, we are carrying on...

In the meantime, we continue to spread our message through presentations to community groups, our interpretation program, and participation in community events. We encourage you to be a part of that effort. Virtually all of us are volunteers: Some join us through the hike program, others offer their business skills, and some offer help with events. Call the office and offer up your expertise ... even if that "expertise" is just your interest. Your interest can also be demonstrated by sending us a donation or encouraging others to become new members.

Education Program

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust Education Program continues to grow. The "Ed Guides" have already taken steps in anticipation of a busy Hike Season. Last September, Ed Guides led an invitational hike for local teachers, which was an enjoyable and informative preview for teachers and a review for guides. We have recruited several new back-up guides to ensure adequate coverage during multi-class hikes. If you or anyone you know would like to participate in our Education Program, please contact our office (530-755-3568). Despite economic constraints, interest remains high for school outings.

Hikes are held from late October into April and are 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, the teacher can choose from selected activities.

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. The proximity and accessibility of the natural Sutter Buttes landscape make an incomparable classroom without walls where educational experiences become lifetime memories. Visit the website for more information and to schedule your outing: <http://sutterbutteslandtrust.org/visit-the-buttles/educaton-program/>.



Students in the Buttes.

(Ed Program files)

Wanted!

Professional-quality Sutter Buttes **Photographs** for the **2015 CALENDAR**

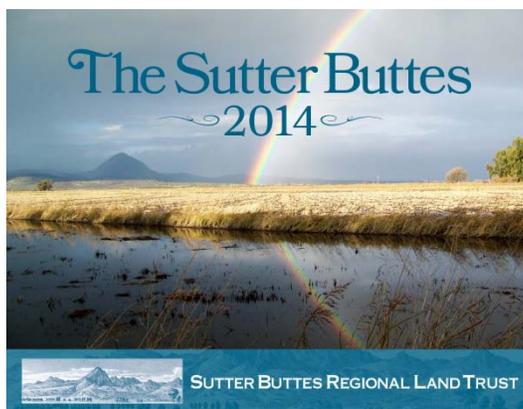
Each page will have one large landscape-oriented photo (that highlights an aspect of the Buttes) and several smaller thumbnails. Send slides or disc to Brian Hausback, Geology Department, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819; 916-278-6521. Send digital photos to: hausback@csus.edu. The digital file names must begin with your last name. Submittals are limited to 10 full page photographs per year (thumbnails are unlimited). Full resolution will be required for chosen page photographs. The

submittal deadline is March 11, 2014. Images must allow for 1/4" bleed. Join some hikes this fall/winter and be ready to submit in March!

Also...BECOME A SPONSOR

You can have your name and/or your company's name on a 2015 calendar month. Tell everyone you love the Sutter Buttes with a donation to the Calendar Project for 2015. The cost is \$300 for your own month on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact: Karen Morrison at mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-671-6116.



Our New Website!

By Coleen Morehead

You likely noticed that our name has changed. And, we are very excited to be expanding our efforts as a regional land trust. For the past 25 years the *Middle Mountain Foundation* has long been working toward promoting good land conservation values. Through our comprehensive Education and Interpretive program, we have provided countless guided hikes into the Sutter Buttes through limited access agreements with local property owners. The goal of the program was to enhance conservation awareness by bringing people directly into the Sutter Buttes.

Our new name, **Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust**, now reflects the broader mission of strengthening regional land conservation efforts to include not only the Sutter Buttes, but Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa counties as well. As a regional land trust, we hope to increase awareness of the benefits of land conservation throughout this three-county region. Our goal moving forward is to not only continue to share with the community the experiences of visiting the Sutter Buttes, but to better represent the interests of landowners throughout the region.

We believe, as many do, that property is more than a real estate; it is a legacy, a part of our heritage, economy, and all of our future. Please take this opportunity to visit us at www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org to learn more about our programs and to become a part of this expanded mission.



Join us in the Buttes on Sunday, October 20, to connect with Native Ways. Pictured here recently at the Lake Oroville Visitor Center, participants pound acorns into meal as instructed by teacher Joan Noel.

(Photo by M. Hubbartt)

SBRLT Web Store

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust merchandise may be purchased at www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org. The Sutter Buttes Calendars, two Sutter Buttes books, and a Sutter Buttes Postcard are the items available. The purchase of any of these items is another way to support our efforts in the Sutter Buttes.

Business Sponsors and Supporters

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust 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.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| American Cancer Society | Lyon Books |
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| Bidwell Bar Association | Morehead Family Community Pool |
| Bird in Hand | Mountain Sports |
| Blueray Concepts | Myers-Shaeffer Ranch |
| The Brick Coffee House | Pacific Western Traders |
| Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County | Printworx |
| Cordi Winery | Ringtail Vineyards |
| Corner Bike Shop | Rotary of Yuba City |
| Davison Drugs | Sierra Nevada Brewery |
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| Kiwanis Club of Yuba City | Wild Birds Unlimited, Sacramento |
| Klotz Mobile Detail | |
| Lake Oroville Visitor's Center | |

Interpretive Program

The SBRLT Interpretive Program provides access to the privately owned Sutter Buttes' interior. Guides share its unique origins and history and explore with you the diversity of plant and animal life that helps to make this range so appealing to us in modern California.

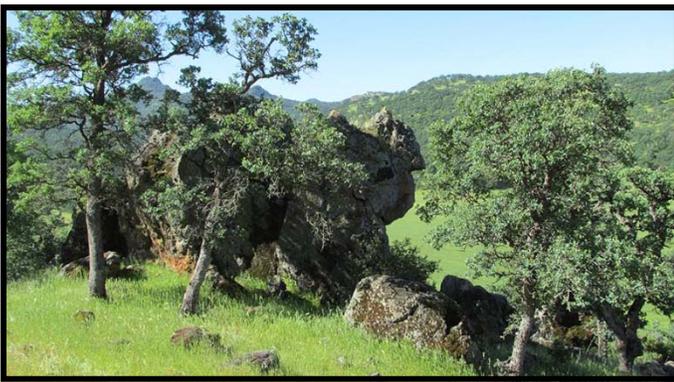
A typical day in the Buttes begins by 8:00 am and ends around 3:30 pm (*unless otherwise noted*). Events are scheduled and **will proceed in all but the most severe weather conditions**. Participants of all events should be prepared to encounter uneven footing, stepping over rocks and boulders, poison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

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 Boots **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 one of the open events at mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org 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 for the wear and tear on their roads, gates, and fences; and pay for liability insurance. Any remainder is used for our conservation and education work.

Charter Events: Organizations or groups may schedule a charter outing by contacting Margit at mmcharters@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-846-5142. The cost for charter hikes is \$300 plus \$30 for each person over ten.

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 Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (or SBRLT).



Sentinel Rock—Shaeffer Ranch

(Photo by K. Morrison)

Fall 2013 Hike Schedule

Saturday... Oct ... 19... Moonlight Stroll—Dean Ranch
 Sunday Oct ... 20... Acorn Meal Preparation
 Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
 Saturday... Oct ... 26... In A Sacred Manner—Dean Ranch
 Summit Ascent—North Butte
 Sunday Oct ... 27... Nature Stroll—Dean Ranch
 Saturday... Nov 2... Photographer's Outing—Dean Ranch
 Saturday... Nov 9... Geology Trek—Bragg Canyon*
 Sunday Nov .. 10... Wild Nature in Buttes—Dean Ranch
 Summit Ascent—North Butte
 Saturday... Nov .. 16... Ridge Hike East—Shaeffer Ranch
 Sunday Nov .. 17... Tres Picos—Dean Ranch
 Saturday.... Nov23... Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon*
 Sunday Nov .. 24... Ridge Hike West—Shaeffer Ranch
 Saturday... Nov .. 30... Nature Study—Dean Ranch
 Saturday... Dec..... 7... Birds in the Buttes—Dean Ranch
 Sunday Dec..... 8... Buttes Transect—High**
 Buttes Transect—Low**
 Saturday... Dec... 14... Canyon Trek—Bragg Canyon*
 Ridge Hike West—Shaeffer Ranch
 Saturday... Jan.... 11... Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon*
 Sunday Jan.... 12... Nature Study—Shaeffer Ranch
 Saturday Jan.....18... Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
 Sunday Jan.... 26... Summit Ascent—North Butte
 Saturday... Feb 1... Buttes Transect—High**
 Buttes Transect—Low**

*The cost of this hike is \$45 per person.

**The cost of this hike is \$60 per person; we are accessing two properties.

Like Us on FaceBook!



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sutter-Buttes-Regional-Land-Trust/161516166292>

Hike and Event Ratings

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

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

Middle Mountain 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. Cost is \$35 per person unless otherwise noted.

Acorn Meal Preparation: For thousands of years, Native peoples thrived in and around the Middle Mountain (Sutter Buttes). Grinding rocks and an occasional arrowhead are all that remain--a silent vestige of a culture rich in tradition, spirituality, and a connectedness to nature. Three generations of a Maidu family will show you how they prepare acorn meal. Stroll with us through a landscape where almost every plant or animal contributed to their culture. Bring food and water.

1

Sunday, October 20

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 7:00 am. Limit is 12; not suited for younger children.

1

Saturday, December 7

Geology Trek—Bragg Canyon: Discover the violent origins of this tiny mountain range with Volcanologist Brian Hausback. Brian reveals clues to 1.5 million years of geologic history, uniquely accessible here in the center of the Buttes. Bring food and water and wear sturdy hiking boots. Cost is \$45.

3

Saturday, November 9

Nature Study: Explore the depths of a secluded area in the interior of the Buttes. Your guide will help you to see the details and learn about the natural elements that exist here. Bring food and water.

2

Saturday, Nov 30 (*Dean*) Sunday, Jan 12 (*Shaeffer*)



Photographers up for the view. (Photo by K. Morrison)

Photographer’s Outing: This event is designed for photographers of all levels. We will caravan/carpool to a ranch in the interior of the Buttes. There will be several guides so that you may scout and choose different locations for your photos, from level valleys to higher ridges. Bring food and water. Rain will cancel; occasional showers won’t.

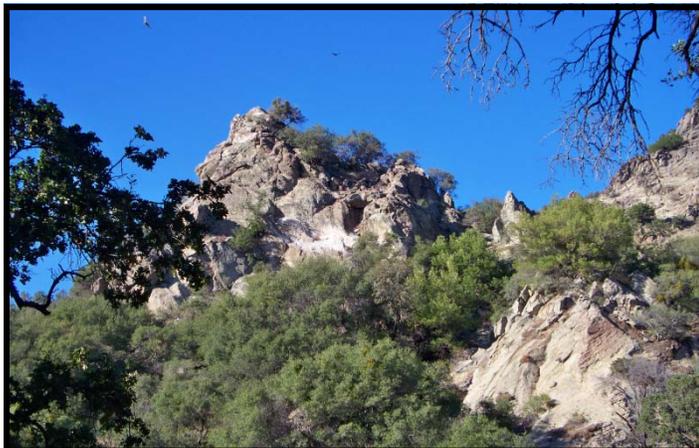
1 TO 3

Saturday, November 2

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.

2

Sunday, November 10



Little North Butte, Dean Ranch.

(Photo by K. Morrison)

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.

1

Saturday, October 26

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 the moon. Bring food, water, and flashlight; you may want an easily-carried cushion or seat. Meet at 3:00 pm. Limit is 15.

2

Saturday, October 19



The nocturnal Ringtail; there may be an opportunity to see one during the Wild Nature in the Buttes outing with Gene Trapp, as scientists are checking the health of one or two.

(Photo by J. Ryan)

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. Cost is \$35 per person unless otherwise noted.

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 \$60—we are accessing two properties. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:30 am. Limit is 15.
Sunday, December 8 Saturday, February 1

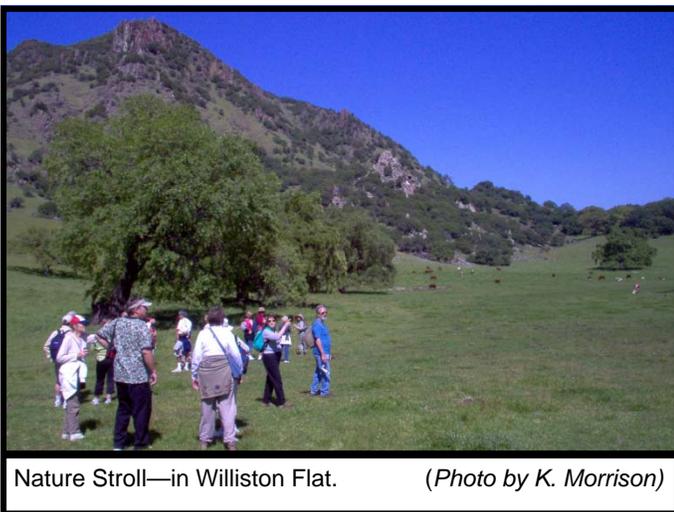
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Buttes Transect Hike—Lower: Traverse the craggy central volcanic core of the Sutter Buttes—mostly on old wagon/maintenance roads. This is not as strenuous and physically demanding as is the higher transect hike, but will involve significant climbing 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 \$60—we are accessing two properties. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:30 am.
Sunday, December 8 Saturday, February 1

3

Canyon Trek—Bragg Canyon: Travel to the center of the Buttes with steady climbing on uneven ground. There will be frequent stops to examine the natural elements providing an excellent view of the Sutter Buttes. Bring food and water. Cost is \$45.
Saturday, November 9 Saturday, December 14

3



Nature Stroll: Join us for a leisurely stroll especially suited for casual walkers and nature lovers. Prepare for some moderate climbing and mostly uneven ground. Bring food and water.
Sunday, April 7

1

Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon: The Steidlmayer family hosts walks deep into the Sutter Buttes. This ascent will take you up the walls of the upper canyon; the route will vary. Only register for this hike if you are in top physical shape. Bring food and water. Limit is 15. Cost is \$45.
Saturday, November 23 Saturday, January 11

4

Ridge Hike—East Shaeffer Ranch: The Shaeffer Family will host hikers on their ranch on the north side of the Buttes. Explore this ranch that has been in the same family since the 1860’s. Hike will include possible views of North Butte and Peace Valley (weather dependent). Lassen can often be seen in the distance. Bring food and water.
Saturday, November 16

2



Interesting rock—Shaeffer Ranch. (Photo by K. Morrison)

Ridge Hike—West 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 the 1860’s. Hike will include possible views of North Butte, Peace Valley, and the old Titan Missile site (weather dependent). Shasta and Lassen can frequently be seen in the distance. Bring food and water.
Sunday, November 24 Saturday, December 14

3

Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch: Steady climbing on uneven ground and frequent stops to examine the natural elements provide an excellent view of the Sutter Buttes. Bring food and water.
Sunday, October 20 Saturday, January 18

3

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.
Saturday, October 26 Sunday, November 10
Sunday, January 26

4

Tres Picos: This hike is for those who want a rugged, challenging outing. It will include summiting North Butte, Old Man, and Pigeon Peak. Only register if you are in top physical shape. Bring food and water. A hiking stick can be helpful. Limit is 15. Meet at 7:00 am.
Sunday, November 17

5



SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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Newsletter: Writer—Michael Hubbart
Editor—Karen Morrison
Printing—Printworx

In this issue: Middle Mountain is the Heart of Our Organization; President's Message; Education Program; Sutter Buttes Calendar; Our New Website; Learn About Native Ways; Business Sponsors and Supporters; Interpretive Program; Fall 2013 Hike Schedule; Workshop Events; Hike Events; Museum Events; Contact Us.

Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County Events

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

Sept. 13 -

Nov. 16 Victorian Dress exhibit

Oct. 8 Volunteer Appreciation Event, 10 am

Oct. 12 Sutter County Historical Society mtg.
11:30 am

Oct. 30 &

Nov. 14 Christmas Ornament Workshops, 10 am

Dec. 5 Decoration Day at Museum, 9 am

Dec. 7 Trees & Traditions fundraising gala, 5-8 pm

Dec. 15 Children's Program & Open House, 1-3 pm

**Sutter Buttes Calendars, Books, and other items
are available for sale at the Museum.**

Contact Us

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust 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.sutterbutteslandtrust.org
- By mail: PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992-3359
- Kim Mansfield, Administrative Services Coordinator, 530-755-3568 or info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
- Coleen Morehead, Executive Director, 530-755-3568 or executivedirector@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
- Karen Morrison, Open Hikes Coordinator, mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-671-6116
- Margit Sands, Charter Hikes Coordinator, mmcharters@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-846-514

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.

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