

THE MIDDLE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust



from Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

SPRING 2013

Gaze Into The Buttes

By Michael Hubbartt

Gaze into the Sutter Buttes today and you are witnessing a landscape that human eyes looked upon for centuries. The curiosity or wonder you feel today was the same reaction felt by the indigenous peoples of long, long ago. It was experienced by European explorers and trappers in the early 1800's whose maps and journals described a new land that others might follow. Pioneers and settlers who came to California in the gold rush of 1849 were also intrigued by the small mountain range in the wide and fertile Sacramento Valley. They found that farming the land around the Buttes was a far more reliable livelihood than jostling for a place to pan for gold amid the teeming masses who came west in search of a fortune.

What about us today? Our modern lifestyles are more comfortable and secure. Our lives are busy with work and school schedules. The hustle and bustle of appointments keep us occupied and the technology of modern communication brings the world into our homes. We don't need to go outside like we once did. The countryside is not our livelihood – it and the Sutter Buttes are now just pleasant backdrops to our busy lives. Most see them from their cars.

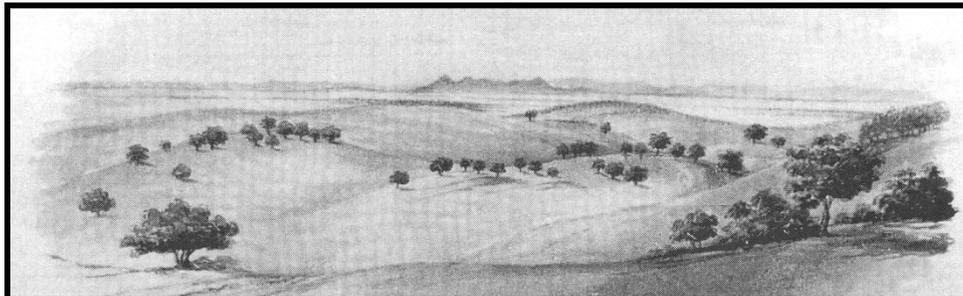
We are always asking the public, and we ask you, how do you feel about the Buttes? This is what we frequently hear from them and from you. "When I

see the Buttes, that is home." It is a good feeling. It is an impression that we share with historic and ancient peoples. Most of us love the uniqueness and rustic setting of the Buttes, and we appreciate the rugged beauty of that natural landscape. It is an asset to the entire community.

But some would like to develop that raw land, to subdivide it so the parts can be sold for profit and building, or to open it for intensive recreational activities. These proposals would create facilities that could attract large numbers of the affluent to "play" in the Buttes.

Come to an educational

program about the Buttes, or take a hike with us. See them from the inside and look out upon the communities around the Buttes. This season we will be bringing in over 30 tours in small intimate groups that will explore all four points of the compass without impacting the landscape or the ranching operations. We are betting that you will have a gratifying experience, that you'll discover how Sutter County's farming and ranching heritage has protected a historic landscape, and we hope you'll be moved to help us keep it that way.



"Sacramento Plain & Buttes, from the foothills."
"Sepia and wash drawing by Henry B. Brown in the spring of 1852. This drawing is #119 in the John Russell Bartlett papers held at the John Carter Brown Library in Providence Rhode Island."

President's Message

By Kathy Larsen

The Mission of the Middle Mountain Foundation

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.

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 Middle Mountain Foundation acknowledges the following contributors and individuals:

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

In Honor of

Donations received in honor of:

Mike Hubbart, A. W. Micheli, Karen Morrison, and Margit and Pete Sands

In Memory of

Donations received in memory of:

Robert Atterbury, Greg Bihlman, Sue Bishop, Troy Bristow, Annette Collins, Mark Cooper, Carroll E. Cox, Jr., Lucille Cull, Janice Wilkerson Eslick, Marilyn Hess, Robert Jenkins, Grayce Reische Leonard, Alma McFadden, David W Meikle, Alphonse Micheli, Audrey Sawtelle, Shirley Schnabel, Robert L. Skaggs, Robert Soost, Richard Storm, Elizabeth (Bette) Sutton, and Lillian Webber

The Education Program is in full swing, with guides leading hikes on all three of our education trails each hike day. The word is spreading--and we're booking schools that have never been in the Buttes before. In addition, this year we have some schools that are coming in on scholarships. The teachers tell us that this is a rare experience for these students. And, it has been a joy for the guides to see their young eyes sparkle as they discover evidence of animals, watch birds soar, and climb high to look out over the valley.

Many teachers use the hike experience as an opportunity for a writing assignment--which they then send on to the guides. These are but a few of the many comments from the students about their day in the Sutter Buttes.

- When we climbed up high in the volcano, we could see where our school was. I never thought I could see my school from a volcano.
- We poured some water on some dry moss and it turned bright green. I thought it was magic, but the guide said it was nature.
- Catlyn found a smooth rock that had come down the streams in the Sierra mountains. Then it was pushed up high when the Sutter Buttes volcano came up. Catlyn found it one million years later. I can't believe it sat in that spot for so many years.
- It was so windy at the top of the overlook, we held up our arms and pretended we could fly. Birds are lucky. They don't have to pretend.
- My favorite part the hike was when we learned how to set up a snare in front of a hole. I wanted to see what happened, but my teacher said my mom would worry about me if I sat under a tree all night.
- I wish I could be a bat. They eat a lot, and I like to eat a lot.
- We found a piece of skin from an animal. It had long brown hair on one side, and was dirty clean on the other. I didn't know skin was so thin. It is amazing that it holds our insides in.
- When the wind blew the rain on my face, it felt like my face was popping.
- It was cool when I found the lizard. It tickled my hand. I never hiked before.
- Thank you for guiding us through the Sutter Buttes. It was the best! You know some guides are really boring and it feels like you're going to pass out because they're talking too much? Well, you didn't do that at all. You answered every question fast and you were interesting.
- What I liked best was the silent walk. I heard the leaves being crushed under my feet. I could hear the wind and the birds in the trees above me.
- When we pounded the acorns on the grinding rocks, I learned that the Maidu people had to work really hard just to have one meal.
- I really liked learning about the cow poop, and that flies lay their eggs in the poop. When the eggs hatch, the larva feed on the poop. I learned that I never want to be a fly. I liked the climbing because I love adventure, nature, and getting real dirty.

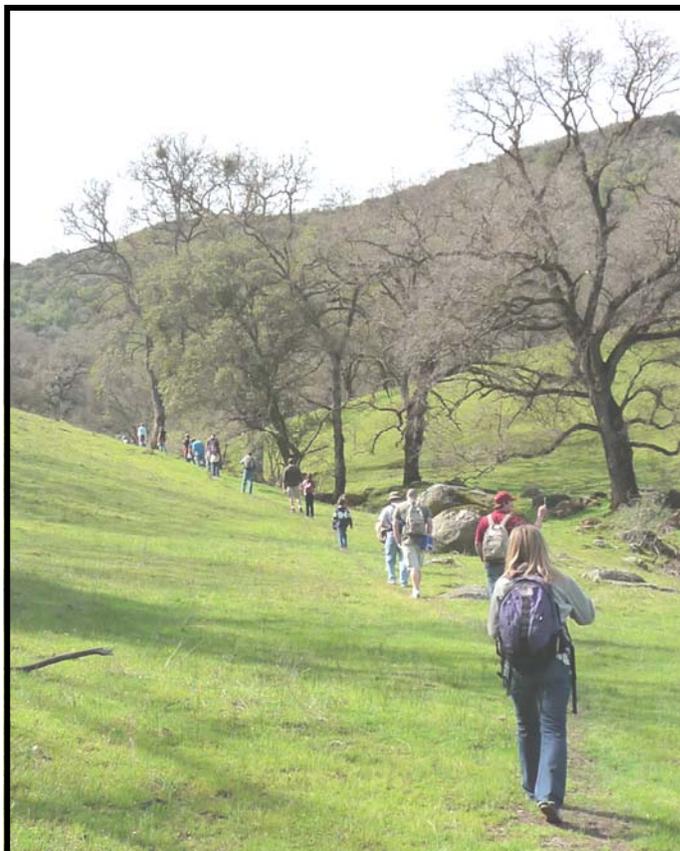
Wkh#P b9db#P rxqwdl#lrxqgdwlrq#l#d#834f+6 #lrxq0aurilw# rjdcqjdwlrq#lghhuldw(#G#6.9 ; 03 53 79 74#

MMF Education Program

The MMF Education Program continues to grow. The "Ed Guides" have already taken steps in anticipation of a busy Spring Hike Season. In 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. Despite economic constraints, interest remains high for school outings. We are also preparing pre-hike classroom presentations to augment our standards-based outdoor program.

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: www.middlemountain.org.



Students take a silent walk.

(Ed Program files)

Wanted!

Professional-quality Sutter Buttes **Photographs** for the **2014 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

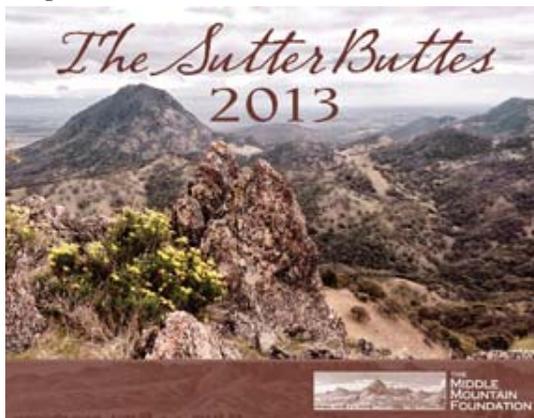
submission deadline is March 6, 2013. Images must allow for 1/4" bleed.

Also...BECOME A SPONSOR

You can have your name and/or your company's name on a 2014 calendar month. Tell everyone you love the Sutter Buttes with a donation to the Calendar Project for 2014. The cost is \$300 for your own month on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact: Karen Morrison at
mmfhikes@yahoo.com

or 530-671-6116.



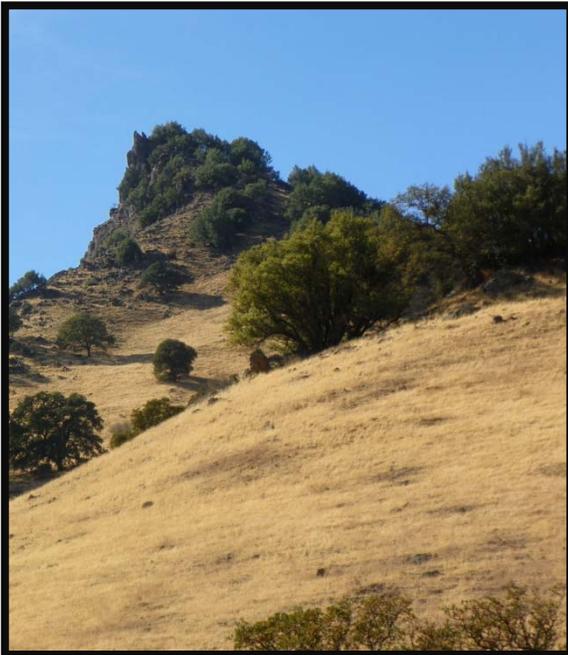
Sunset Serenade

This is a fund-raising event and costs \$100 per person. It will be held on **Saturday, May 4**. It features an afternoon stroll or hike, hor d'oeuvres, wine, a catered dinner, classical music, extraordinary desserts, a pleasant company, and items for a silent auction and drawing, all in an enchanting outdoor setting at the base of North Butte. Pre-registration is required. Details will be sent to you when you register. If you have questions, contact Karen at 530-671-6116 or mmfhikes@yahoo.com. Sorry, there is no member discount for this event.



Sunset Serenade May 2012

(Photo by K. Morrison)



Old Man October 2012

(Photo by K. Morrison)

Business Sponsors and 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.

American Cancer Society
Appeal-Democrat
Avid Reader, Davis & Sacramento
Bidwell Bar Association
Bird in Hand
The Brick Coffee House
Comcast Cable, Yuba City
Community Memorial Museum
Corner Bike Shop
Davison Drugs
Family T-Shirt Factory
Feather Falls Casino
Gold Country Bank
Harkey House Bed & Breakfast
Harshbarger ACE Hardware
KNCY Country 103.1
Klotz Mobile Detail
KUBA Radio 1600
Lake Oroville Visitor's Center
Live Oak True Value

Hardware
Lyon Books
Morehead Land LLC
Mountain Sports
New Earth Market
Pacific Western Traders
Printworx
The Sacramento Bee
Sierra Gold Nurseries
Sperbeck's Nursery
Stephen's Farmhouse
Sunny 101.5
Sunsweet Gift Outlet
Sutter Buttes Dusters
Sutter Orchard Supply
Teichert Aggregates, Hallwood Plant
TOR Broadcasting
Wild Birds and Gardens
Wild Birds Unlimited, Sacramento
Yuba Sutter Disposal, Inc.

MMF Web Store

The Middle Mountain Foundation Web store is located at www.middlemountain.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.

Interpretive Program

The MMF Interpretive Program events provide 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 **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 listed below 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 for the wear and tear on their roads, gates, and fences; and 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 sandsmp@comcast.net 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 Middle Mountain Foundation (or MMF).



Twin Peaks November 2012

(Photo by K. Morrison)

Spring 2013 Schedule

Saturday...February.16	....Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon*
Sunday.....February.17	....Brockman Challenge
Saturday...February.23	....Photographer's Outing—Dean
Sunday.....February.24	....Ridge Hike West—Shaeffer Ranch Summit Ascent—North Butte
Saturday...March.....2	....Brockman Challenge
Sunday.....March.....3	....Ridge Hike East—Shaeffer Ranch Summit Ascent—North Butte
Saturday...March.....9	....Geology Trek—Bragg Canyon* Ridge Hike East—Shaeffer Ranch
Sunday.....March.....10	....Ridge Trek—Brockman Canyon
Saturday...March.....16	....Summit Ascent—North Butte Wildflower Study—Shaeffer Rnch
Sunday.....March.....17	....Nature Study—Brockman Canyon
Sunday.....March.....24	....Wildflower Study—Dean Rnch
Saturday...March.....30	....Wildflower Study—Bragg Canyon*
Saturday...April.....6	....Wildflower Study—Shaeffer Rnch Wild Nature in Buttes—Dean Rnch
Sunday.....April.....7	....Gentle Stroll—Dean Ranch Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch Wildflower Study—Brockman
Saturday...April.....13	....Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon* Wildflower Study—Dean Ranch
Sunday.....April.....14	....Birds in the Buttes—Dean Ranch Ridge Hike East—Shaeffer Ranch
Saturday...April.....20	....Art in the Buttes—Dean Ranch Bat Research Outing—Dean Rnch
Saturday...April.....27	....Canyon Trek—Bragg Canyon*
Sunday.....April.....28	....In A Sacred Manner—Dean Ranch Ridge Trek—Dean Ranch
Saturday...May.....4	....Sunset Serenade**
Saturday...May.....11	....Canyon Trek—Bragg Canyon*

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

**MMF Fundraising Hike & Dinner in the Buttes; cost is \$100.

Friend Us on FaceBook!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Middle-Mountain-Foundation/161516166292?ref=hl>

Hike and Event 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.

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.

Art in the Buttes: Bring your pencils, paints, sketch book, and musical instrument and enjoy a day of creativity in the Sutter Buttes. We will stroll and spend some time in a couple of different areas, exploring a myriad of subjects, both natural and man-made. Rain will cancel.
Saturday, April 20

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 and water.
Saturday, April 20

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 7:00 am. Limit is 12; not suited for younger children.
Sunday, April 14

1



Brian Hausback finds granite in the Sutter Buttes.
(Photo by K. Morrison)

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.
Saturday, March 9

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.
Sunday, April 28

1

Nature Study—Brockman Canyon: Explore the depths of a secluded canyon area of the Buttes. Your guide will help you to see the details and learn about the natural elements that exists here. Bring food and water.
Sunday, March 17

3

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, February 23

Sunset Serenade: This is a fund-raising event and costs \$100 per person. Pre-registration is required. For more information, see Page 4.

1 to 3

Saturday, May 4



Spring wildflowers and rocks. (Photo by K. Morrison)

Wildflower Study—Canyon Experience: Spring rains cause the dry Buttes hillsides to turn into a verdant, colorful, wildflower garden. Bring your hand-lens and wildflower field guide. Trek will be about 6 miles with a significant elevation gain. Bring food and water. Cost for Bragg is \$45.

3

Saturday, March 30 (Bragg) Sunday, April 7 (Brockman)

Wildflower Study: Spring rains cause the dry Buttes hillsides to turn into a verdant, colorful, wildflower garden. Bring your hand-lens and wildflower field guide. Bring food and water.

2

Sat, March 16 (Shaeffer) Sunday, March 24 (Dean)
Sat, April 6 (Shaeffer) Saturday, April 13 (Dean)

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

Saturday, April 6



The nocturnal Ringtail.
(Photo by S. Morrison)

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.

Brockman Challenge: This is a 6-mile strenuous and steep ascent between the tallest of ridge tops. It is a narrow trail that traverses a precipitous incline with a 1000-foot elevation gain. Mid-way you will be peering deep into the hidden valleys below. Bring food and water. 4

Sunday, February 17 Saturday, March 2

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. 3

Saturday, April 27 Saturday, May 11



Gentle Stroll Hikers stop for lunch. (Photo by K. Morrison)

Gentle Stroll: Join us for a leisurely stroll especially suited for casual walkers and nature lovers. Prepare for some moderate climbing and mostly uneven ground. There will likely be late wildflowers. Bring food and water. 1

Sunday, April 7

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. 4

Saturday, February 16 Saturday, April 13

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 the 1860’s. Hikes will be on the east or west ridge, with possible views of North Butte and Peace Valley. Bring food and water. 2

Sunday, March 3 Saturday, March 9
Sunday, April 14

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. Bring food and water. 3

Sunday, February 24

Ridge Trek—Brockman Canyon: Explore the depths of Brockman Canyon, a little-seen area of the Buttes. Your guide will help you to see the details and learn about the natural elements that exist here. The wildflowers should be starting to appear. Bring food and water. 3

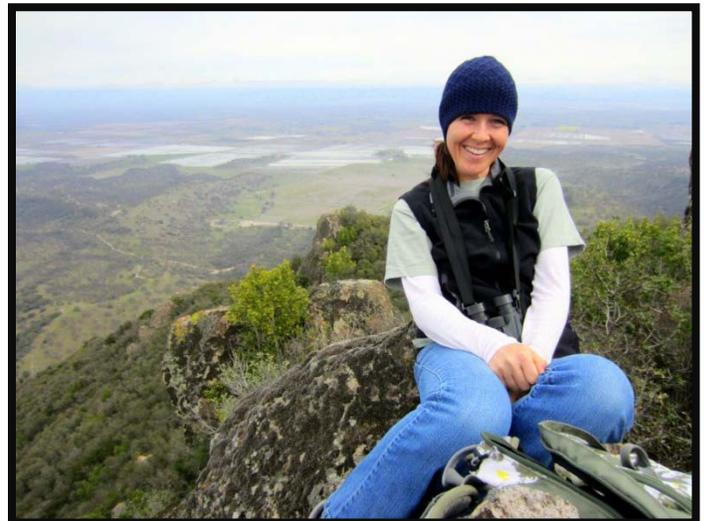
Sunday, March 10

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. 3

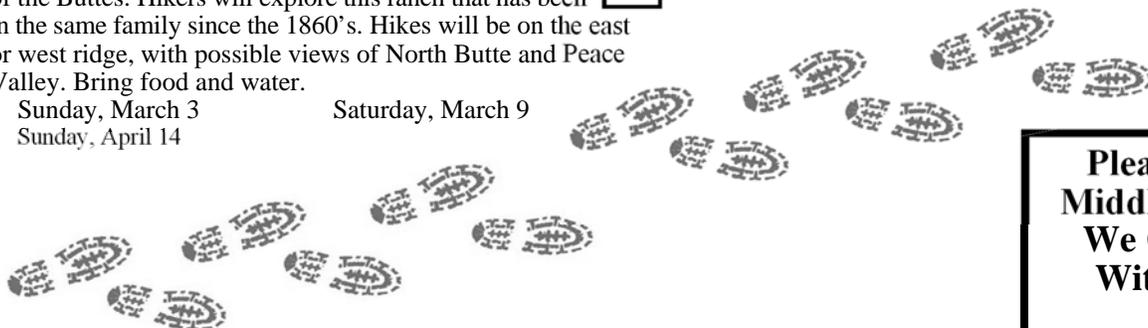
Sunday, April 7 Sunday, April 28

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, February 24 Sunday, March 3
Saturday, March 16



Amy “On Top of the World!” (Photo by S. Morrison)



**Please Support
Middle Mountain;
We Can’t Do It
Without You!**

THE MIDDLE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION

PO Box 3359, YUBA CITY, CA 95992-3359

Non Profit Organization
U. S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 01
Marysville, CA
95901

President

Kathy Larsen

Vice President

Laura Lush

Treasurer

Spencer Morrison

Other Directors

Joe Bouchard

Babs Cotter

Rick Geddes

Mike Hubbart

Alyssa Lindman

Karen Morrison

Margit Sands

Julie Stark

Director Emeritus

Walt Anderson

Executive Director

To be named

Secretary

Leslee Myers

Advisors

Rich Bowder, Brian Hausback,

Leigh Keicher, Pete Sands,

Gene Trapp, Stan Wright, and

David Wyatt

Area Liaison Advisors

Anne Adams, Sacramento

Dorothy Davis, Chico

To Be Named, Davis

Barry Owen, Bay Area

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

In this issue: Gaze into the Buttes; President's Message; Education Program; Sunset Serenade; Business Sponsors & Supporters; Interpretive Program

Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County Events

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

January-
February 16 Then and Now Historic Photo Exhibit
continues
March 1-22 River Valley High School Art Exhibit
March 15 Ribbon cutting of Schnabel & Dean
Patio at the Museum
April—TBA Children's Spring program
April 12-28 Yuba City High School Art Exhibit
May 10 Bounteous Butte Fundraiser for
Museum at Ettl Hall; Sutter Buttes
art, wine, and local products
May-July Art of the Sutter Buttes Exhibit
July—TBA Children's Summer Program
August—TBA Wheatland Hop Riots Centennial
Program

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

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
- Leslee Myers, Foundation 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
- Mike Darnell, Land Trust Consultant, 530-755-3568 or mike@middlemountain.org

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.