

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 3359
Yuba City, CA 95992-3359
info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org

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U. S. Postage
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Permit No. 01
Marysville, CA
95901

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PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992-3359
Phone: (530) 755-3568
Email: info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org
Office Location: 750 Bridge Street, Ste A
Yuba City, CA 95991
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm

THE MISSION OF THE
SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust 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 awareness of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust’s dedication to education, interpretation, and land conservation programs.
 - Maintain an efficient, effective, and sustainable organization.

Web Store: The SBRLT web store is located at sutterbutteslandtrust.org. The Sutter Buttes calendars, books and postcards are available. Purchasing these items is another way to support our efforts.

JOIN & SUPPORT

“Together we can protect the land that defines our heritage.”

Through education and conservation programs we build partnerships to balance conservation, economic growth, and natural resources.

Membership Levels With Benefits

\$25	Donor	Newsletters/Mailings
\$50	Friend	10% off a Hike
\$100	Associate	Complimentary Hike for 1
\$250	Sponsor	Complimentary Hike for 2
\$500	Conservator	Complimentary Hike for 4
\$1,000	Patron	Picnic in the Buttes

IN MEMORY

Bill Thomas, Bob Matchett, Herbert Zelinsky, Jill Coutts, Cindy Lynn Cain, Anne Adams, Robert Jenkins, Dave Teja, Larry Matchett, Patricia J. Spitze
Gayle Morrison, Carroll Cox Jr

IN HONOR

Mike Hubbartt, Roger Wilbur, The Morrison Family, Carl F. Knorr

info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or call (530) 755-3568

Scan to visit
our online
membership
page



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SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

From Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

SPRING 2015

INVOCATION

By Mike Hubbartt

Diverse Perspectives Strengthen our Community Connections

Ecological diversity is an indication of a healthy environment. The natural world abounds with diversity: predator and prey, forager and flora, parasites and symbionts, scavengers and decomposers. The earth is a self-sustaining food chain, a fluctuating balance of all these organisms that contribute to the continuity of the entire entity.

The Sutter Buttes are a microcosm of our world, reflecting those vast characteristics up close. The Buttes' diversity is characterized by its uplifted geology and its eons of erosion, its wildlife and its livestock, its perennial native greenery and its invasive weeds, its ancient cultural sites and its intrusive modern infrastructure, its picturesque scenery and its landscape scarred by trash. Such diversity reflects the challenging paradoxes that we experience every day.

More than a 1000 people explore the Buttes with us each season. A walk with the Middle Mountain interpreters draws together a diverse assortment of personalities and perspectives, professions and physiques to participate in each outing. Each individual responds to the experience with different eyes and viewpoints. They challenge our guides to find the common ground that we share, the interests that drew each of us into this unique place at this time together.

Our constituency in the surrounding communities likewise exhibits such diversity. Any consideration of the Sutter Buttes stakeholders must begin with the landowners. Many of those families have worked the land for over 100 years.

There are several layers of governmental agencies charged with the responsibilities to oversee, manage, and protect the natural, historical, and cultural resources of such places as the Sutter Buttes. Each has a distinctive priority.

Another group of people that most of us seldom reflect upon are the Native Americans whose families lived around and accessed the Middle Mountain for thousands of years.

Then there are all the rest of us who live and work around this scenic landscape. Some of us see it as an opportunity for development and income, some of us see it a natural refuge for recreation, and some see it as a vestige of our farming and ranching heritage that must be preserved.

The challenge for all of us with the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust and the Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes is to connect with all stakeholders.

Only then can we find that common ground and shared values to facilitate a dialog amongst us all that will protect the Buttes and all of the historic farming and ranching sites in our three local counties that are under the spell of their mystical presence.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Rick Geddes

The year in review and a look ahead to 2015



Greetings and Happy New Year! With 2014 in our rear view mirror we can look back with a sense of accomplishment on some important milestones. First, was the completion of a 376 acre conservation easement just north of Meridian, CA in cooperation with landowner Sib Fedora. The easement will protect the family's property from further development while allowing it to be farmed for years to come. We also completed a small easement in the Butte Creek Preservation area of Colusa County which was part of a mitigation agreement for a boat ramp being built at Steelhead Lodge. Both of these easements are examples of what we as an organization hope to do more of as we work to conserve the valuable farmland and open areas of Sutter, Yuba and Colusa Counties.

Recognizing the need to provide stewardship of our easements, we have hired Alyssa Lindman on an interim basis to oversee this important function. Alyssa comes with vast experience and a genuine enthusiasm for what we're trying to accomplish. Woody Turner was also just hired this year to become our Land Conservation Program Manager responsible for face to face contact with property owners interested in conservation easements.

We are also proceeding full steam ahead with our efforts to become a Land Trust Alliance accredited land trust. There are only 26 such organizations in California and such an accreditation says that we meet the complex requirements for this recognition which we hope in near future will pay dividends as we continue our efforts to protect the lands and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and surrounding areas.

Finally, late in 2014 the SBRLT board voted to create two independent entities – Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes (MMIH) and SBRLT. Driving the decision was the rapid increase in land conservation this past year and the shared desire among board members to create greater focus and efficiency for each program. The end of the year was a natural splitting point, making it easier for financial planning and reporting.

So with excitement and anticipation we look ahead to 2015! Please know your past and continued support is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Rick Geddes, President
SBRLT



2016 SUTTER BUTTES CALENDAR
CONTEST

Planning has begun for the 2016 Sutter Buttes Calendar and we invite you to participate by submitting photos for consideration. Deadline for submissions will be no later than noon on Monday, March 23, 2015.

We are looking for images that capture the natural beauty of the Sutter Buttes region. Scenes can include, but are not limited to, the Sutter Buttes Mountains, local farm lands highlighting farming operations or activities, native fauna and flora, geological features, waterfowl habitats, unique natural or weather aerals or landscapes. Images that are obviously or heavily filtered, altered, or manipulated will not be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (530) 755-3568 or by email at Photos@SutterButtesLandTrust.org. Photos can be submitted on our website at SutterButtesLandTrust.org/photos, online via [dropbox.com](https://www.dropbox.com), or a cd/dvd mailed to our office.

We look forward to seeing your submissions!



MIDDLE MOUNTAIN
INTERPRETIVE HIKES

mmsutterbutteshikes@yahoo.com • 530-671-6116
www.middlemountainhikes.org

DAY	DATE	HIKE NAME	WHERE	Boots
Sat	Feb 28	Ridge Ascent	Bragg Canyon	4
Sat	Feb 28	Ranch Exploration	Shaeffer Ranch	2
Sun	March 1	Geology Trek	Dean Ranch	3
Sat	March 7	Double Buttes Transect	Bragg/Dean	6
Sun	March 8	Nature Study	Brockman Canyon	3
Sun	March 8	Summit Ascent— North Butte	Dean Ranch	5
Sat	March 14	Brockman Challenge	Brockman Canyon	4
Sat	March 14	Wildflower Study	Shaeffer Ranch	2
Sun	March 15	Photographers’ Outing	Dean Ranch	1-3
Sun	March 22	Ridge Trek	Brockman Canyon	3
Sun	March 22	Summit Ascent— North Butte	Dean Ranch	5
Sat	March 28	Ridge Hike West	Shaeffer Ranch	3
Sat	March 28	Wildflower Study	Brockman Canyon	3
Sat	March 28	Canyon Trek	Bragg Canyon	3
Fri	April 3	Full Moon Stroll	Dean Ranch	2
Sat	April 4	Ancient Crater Lake Traverse	Bragg Canyon	5
Sat	April 4	Wildflower Study	Bragg Canyon	3
Sat	April 11	Summit Ascent— North Butte	Dean Ranch	5
Sat	April 11	Wild Nature in Buttes	Dean Ranch	2
Sun	April 12	Ridge Hike East	Shaeffer Ranch	2
Sun	April 12	Wildflower Study	Dean Ranch	2
Sat	April 18	Wildflower Study	Bragg Canyon	3
Sun	April 19	Nature Study	Dean Ranch	2
Sun	April 19	Ridge Trek	Dean Ranch	3
Sat	April 25	Canyon Trek	Bragg Canyon	3
Sat	April 25	Nature Stroll	Dean Ranch	1
Sun	April 26	Birds in the Buttes	Dean Ranch	1
Sat	May 2	Bat Research Outing	Dean Ranch	1
Sat	May 2	Nature Study	Bragg Canyon	3
Sat	May 9	Sunset Serenade	Dean Ranch	1-3

MIDDLE MOUNTAIN EDUCATION
PROGRAM

Written by Greg and Kathleen Payne, Education Program Coordinators

The success of our Middle Mountain Education Program continues as we start the new year. Last year, between late October and early April, we had over 1,600 students hike in the Sutter Buttes. Most of the students were from local schools. Yuba City service organizations, including Kiwanis, Rotary and the Lions Club have been donating scholarship funds to help some of the schools hike. Thank you to our Scholarship donors:



From late October to early December we had six schools hike with us. As we begin the new year we have 16 schools scheduled to hike. Some of them are schools that were rained out in early December. We will be very busy with 23 days of hikes planned. We look forward to showing these young hikers our special Sutter Buttes and teaching them about the Maidu, volcanoes, and acorn woodpeckers.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We are excited to announce the addition of two new valued team members!

Kevin “Woody” Turner
Land Conservation Program Manager

Woody has worked in the land conservation industry for over 3 decades and understands the importance of protecting our agricultural lands to ensure that future generations have the ability to support the ever increasing food demands and keep the link between the farmer and their land.

The loss of native habitat and encroaching development are the most important issues facing our local economy. We are thrilled to have a new member of team with such a breadth of experience and Woody will fill the role nicely as the new Land Conservation Program Manager working directly with landowners and farmers to help preserve our agricultural heritage.

Marni Harper
Outreach and Fund Development Manager

Marni comes to us with more than 15 years of fundraising experience. Over her career, she has helped nonprofits raise millions of dollars. She has been responsible for a wide range of fundraising efforts, including fundraising programs directed at foundation, individual, and corporate donors, board recruitment and development, strategic planning and event planning. Her passion for nonprofit work and assisting organizations in building sustainability will be a true asset to SBRLT. We are also happy to welcome her back to Yuba City after living in Minneapolis Minnesota for 15 years.

For more information on Woody and Marni, please see their full biographies listed on our website at www.SutterButtesLandTrust.org!

PERMANENTLY PRESERVING FEDORA FARMS

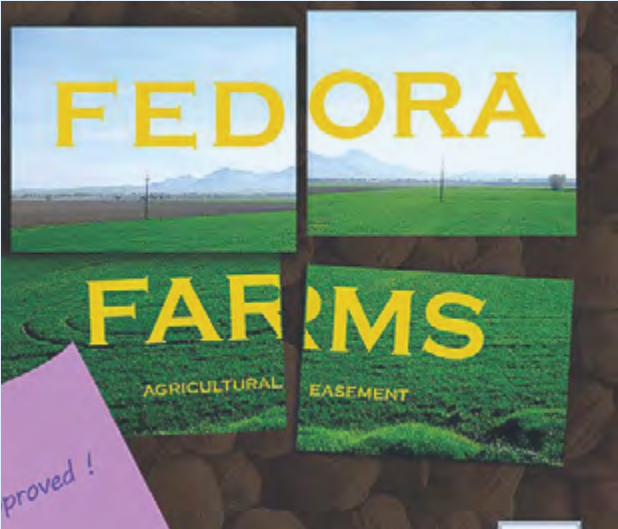
The importance of establishing partnership with state and federal agencies to help preserve local agricultural lands is paramount to the mission of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust. The success of those partnerships was highlighted by efforts to permanently set aside for agriculture a Sutter County ranch potentially in the path of development. The California Department of Conservation (DOC), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust created an agricultural conservation easement on the Fedora Farm between the Sacramento River and the Sutter Buttes, working with the family to ensure it will never be developed.

The development potential comes from recreational uses near the Sacramento River that have the potential for commercial development. Fedora has been approached to sell his property to develop a landing strip for easier access for out-of-town sportsmen. The agricultural conservation easement, placed on 376-acres of the property, was purchased and is held by the land trust with participation from the landowner and additional funding partners, the DOC’s California Farmland Conservancy Program and the NRCS Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. “Many qualities meet in this one farm,” says Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist

for NRCS in California. “The rich history, the prime soils for producing high quality food, and the role the area plays in waterfowl habitat, all combine to make it an excellent candidate for farmland protection through this easement,” he said. “This conservation agreement is a win-win for everyone involved,” said land trust President Rick Geddes. “The Fedora family keep working their newly-protected prime farmland with both DOC and NRCS supporting ongoing agricultural activities, and the land trust fulfills its mission to protect the land and natural resources of the region for future generations. We look forward to partnering with the Fedora Family to steward their land in recognition of the importance of preserving working agricultural lands and the heritage of family farms in our region.”

The entire Fedora Farm is 475 acres, in three separate portions, one of which is adjacent to the Sacramento River. The US Fish and Wildlife Service identifies this area, about two miles away from the small town of Meridian, as within the Butte Sink Wildlife Management Area, noted for having the highest concentration of waterfowl per acre in the world.

The completion of this important project sets the foundation by which SBRLT can work directly with federal, state, and local conservation



partners. To read about this project in its entirety, please visit our website. If you are interested in pursuing a conservation easement on your property, please contact Woody Turner, SBRLT Land Conservation Program Manager at Woody@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or call (530) 755-3568.

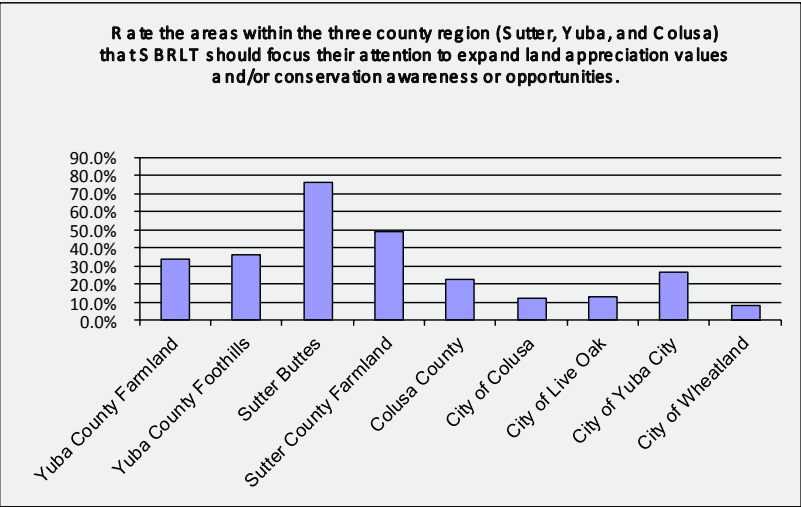
LAND TRUST CORNER

For the past 25 years the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust (SBRLT) has been a community based organization working toward the ongoing preservation of natural resources, agriculture lands and open space within the Sutter Buttes area and the surrounding region including properties within Sutter, Yuba and Colusa counties. Increased demands on agriculture properties from development has prompted the organization to expand its efforts through a comprehensive grassroots public awareness program, and to pursuit of Land Trust Alliance accreditation.

California’s north central valley (Sutter, Yuba and Colusa Counties) encompasses close to 1.4 million acres of prime agriculture lands with farming as the largest industry for the region. Total value of agriculture in the three county region is approximately \$1.5 billion. Leading commodities are rice, walnuts, plums, peaches, seeds, and milk.

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust works to protect the land and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations. Moreover, the land trust works to protect the natural, cultural, geological, historical, and scenic qualities of the Sutter Buttes. It also identifies prime agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, and natural areas that preserve and enhance the unique characteristics of the region. The land trust respects landowners’ rights and works with those who want to conserve their land. In addition, increasing awareness of SBRLT’s dedication to education, interpretation, and

land conservation programs is also a priority. Ultimately maintaining an efficient, effective, and sustainable organization is the focus of the organization.



County	Prime Farmland	Farmland of Statewide Importance	Unique Farmland	Farmland of Local Importance	Grazing Land	Total Farmland	Farmland as a % of Total	Urban and Built-Up Land	Other Land	Water	Non-Farm as a Percentage of Total	Total Non Farm	Total County Area
Sutter	162,673	105,395	17,752		53,538	339,358	87%	13,560	34,513	1,883	13%	49,956	389,314
Yuba	39,485	10,829	32,224		141,509	224,047	54%	14,026	167,303	6,629	46%	187,958	412,015
Colusa	196,320	2,046	120,316	236,013	9,161	563,856	76%	5,142	169,484	1,911	24%	176,537	740,393
Total	398,478	118,270	170,292	236,013	204,208	1,127,261	73%	32,728	371,300	10,423	27%	414,451	1,541,722
Categories shown as % of Total Acres of 3 County Regions	26%	8%	11%	15%	13%	73%		2%	24%	1%		27%	100%

SPECIAL THANK YOU

SBRLT acknowledges the following contributors and individuals: Shirley Sutton and Peter Moore, Ralph Hess, Bluearay Concepts, Photographer John Hollis, Cordi Winery, Pete & Margit Sands, Gold Country Bank, Harkey House Bed & Breakfast, Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, Wilke-Fleury Law Firm, Ultimate Building Maintenance, our members and volunteers!