

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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In Honor

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

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

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

Scan to visit
our online
membership
page



Find us on
Facebook

Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes Fall 2015 Hike Schedule

Pre-registration is required. Email mmsutterbutteshikes@yahoo.com or leave a message at 530-671-6116. The website for hikes is middlesmountainhikes.org. Meet and greet details will be emailed to you when you register.

Sat	Feb 27	Double Transect—Bragg/Dean
Sun	Feb 28	Summit Ascent—North Butte*
Sat	Mar 5	Geology Trek—Dean Place Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon Ridge Hike West—Shaeffer
Sun	Mar 6	Brockman Challenge—Brockman
Sat	Mar 12	Summit Ascent—North Butte*
Sun	Mar 13	Nature Study—Brockman Ranch Exploration—Shaeffer
Sat	Mar 19	Ridge Hike East—Shaeffer Wildflower Study—Bragg Canyon*
Sun	Mar 20	In A Sacred Manner—Dean Summit Ascent—Dean Place* Wildflower Study—Brockman
Sat	Mar 26	Wildflower Study—Shaeffer
Sat	Apr 2	Wildflower Study—Dean Place
Sun	Apr 3	Nature Study—Brockman Wildflower Study—Shaeffer
Sat	Apr 9	Ancient Lakebed Trav.—Bragg*
Sun	Apr 10	Ridge Trek—Dean Place Wild Nature in Buttes—Dean
Sat	Apr 16	Wildflower Study—Bragg* Photographer's Outing—Bragg*
Sun	Apr 17	Wildflower Study—Dean Place
Fri	Apr 22	Full Moon Stroll—Shaeffer Ranch
Sat	Apr 23	Birds in the Buttes—Dean Place
Sat	Apr 30	Bat Research Outing—Dean Place
Sat	May 7	Sunset Serenade—Dean Place

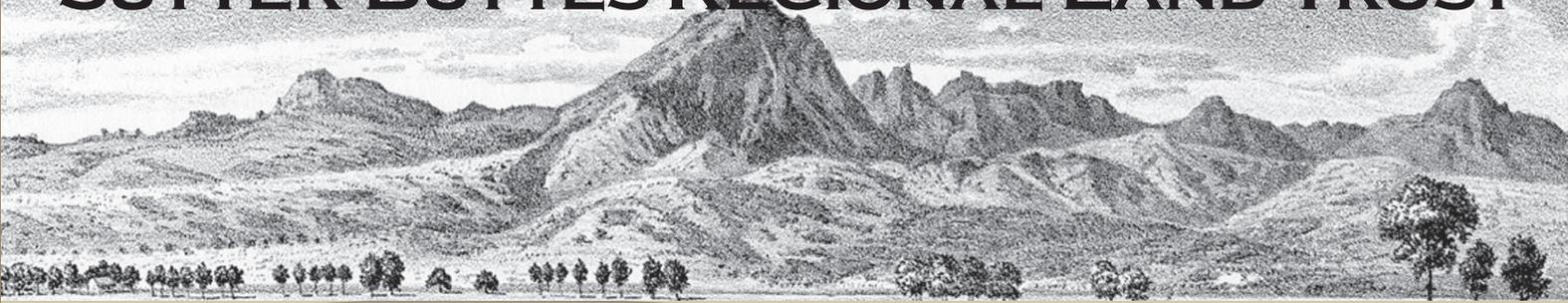
* The cost of this outing is \$45.

* The cost of this outing is \$50; we are accessing two properties.

** The cost of this outing is \$45.

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

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST



From Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

SPRING 2016

From the President:

Dear Friends,

Our mission states, "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". To that end, we took a giant step forward in 2015 as we submitted our application to become a "certified" land trust. The significance of this cannot be understated. Becoming certified by the Land Trust Alliance means we can broaden our scope of activities related to conservation easements, mitigation opportunities and other conservation related efforts. Our staff worked hard to make this happen and we should hear sometime in 2016 as to our hoped-for status. Stay tuned and we'll keep you posted on how we're doing!

2015 also saw us add two new staff positions in support of our mission statement. Kevin "Woody" Turner joined the organization as Land Conservation Project Manager focusing on individuals and government entities interested in preserving their property through conservation easements. Woody brings a varied skill set and tons of enthusiasm to this new position and we look forward to great things from him going forward.

Alyssa Lindman, who has been with our organization for a number of years as a board member became Stewardship Program Manager this year bringing with her a true passion for conservation and dedication to the ideals of SBRLT. Alyssa has a wealth of experience in conservation related topics and a laser-like focus on the myriad of details associated with her job. Together with Office Manager Kim Mansfield, we have what I believe is a superb team of individuals who work well together and are dedicated to our mission.

In September, SBRLT celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a delightful evening of musical entertainment, silent auction and a nice dinner. The event was highlighted by an awesome presentation given by Director Emeritus and Naturalist Walt Anderson, author of the definitive book on the Sutter Buttes "Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes". I would like to extend a big thank you to the volunteers who made this happen and those of you who attended and supported the event.

As we look ahead to 2016, I would like to personally thank all of you who have generously supported our organization. It is true that organizations like ours survive on the support of folks who believe what we're doing is worthwhile. If you are one of those, keep us in mind for 2016 as we pursue our stated goals.

On behalf of SBRLT, Happy New Year everyone and may 2016 bring peace and prosperity to all of us.

Best regards,

Rick Geddes
SBRLT Board President

Invocation

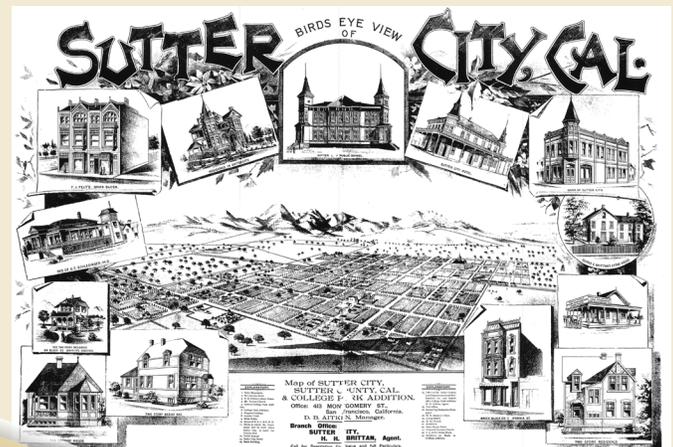
One Hundred and twenty nine years ago Peter Gardemeyer filed a plat plan for Sutter City at the base of the Sutter Buttes to subdivide and build a city that would be as large as Yuba City! Filed on December 14, 1887, the plan specified thoroughfares 100 feet wide with 39 blocks of 50 lots, 25 feet by 125 feet, and one block set aside for "public improvements."

Note the promotional flyer below. Gardemeyer promised that this enterprise would become the county seat! While its proposed commercial and business development never materialized, town site has endured and has become a peaceful bedroom community just ten minutes drive away from the congestion of Yuba City.

Such real estate development is part of the heritage of California since John Sutter built his fort in the 1840's which led to the construction of Sutterville and then Sacramento. It prevails yet today, but our attitudes have changed over the years. Most of us today accept the cities and towns around us that we grew up with. A couple of generations ago we welcomed all such development as financial opportunity. But today many of us feel that our counties' farmlands and their pleasant pastoral beauty are now becoming overbuilt. So we draw line in the sand and say no more! "Not in my back yard!"

Even a cursory view of the towns around us reveals those sites which sort of sprawled out on their own, and which ones were carefully planned and engineered. Property values are higher in those sites which were designed.

Yuba County is in the midst of turmoil today as a developer proposes turning rural farmland into an attractive planned community. Locals who won't experience a direct benefit from this





West Butte School ca. 1910
Teacher: Assumption Lang Coats
Back row (left to right): Pearl Hoke, Caryle Hoke, Lova Hoke, Eldon Tarke, Mary Victorina, John Victorina.
Front row: _____ Victorina, _____ Victorina, Lela Fisher, Ruth Wilbur, Ernest Stewart, Anna Fisher
88.28.21 Community Memorial Museum Collection



flora and fauna, soil types, flood plains, and impact to the community. We all benefit from the opportunity to review such a document.



As a California State incorporated 501 (c) (3), the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is constrained from promoting or obstructing political parties, projects, or entities. But we do provide a service to the community by identifying and protecting natural, cultural, historic, scenic, or agricultural areas that enhance the quality of our farming heritage. We can assist those landowners who wish to protect their family history and lands from being developed in perpetuity.

We invite public dialog and will reach out to those families who wish to protect their family heritage.

development resist this incursion and invasion to their rural lifestyle. I know that I would. County planners and supervisors have reviewed the proposal and feel that such improvements will benefit the county as a whole and so a majority of them voted for it. County staff contracted AECOM to assemble a thorough environment impact report with proposed mitigations reinforcing the viability of such a proposal.

EIR's are comprehensive documents that catalog details of a proposed project in relationship to the surrounding landscape, sensitive

Lake Tahoe, California, is one of the most beautiful places on earth. People travel from around the world just to see it once in their life. I was lucky enough to live there for thirty-five years. The first time I saw it, it was magnificent. After thirty-five years of looking at it every day, it was important to remember the first time I saw it. Why? There are several reasons. Here is a very selfish one. On my way to work every day it was not uncommon to get stuck behind a tourist driving slow gawking at the lake. Impatience had to be tempered with the realization that it may be the first time that person had seen the lake, they may have come from anywhere in the world, or they may have come from the bay area. It would drive some of the local's wild, and they would cuss the slow driver that was making them late for work. I always wondered why don't you pull off the road and savor the beauty, instead of trying to look at the lake while driving. Some of the local's seemed to take for granted the beauty they lived with every day.

I wonder how many Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa county residents take for granted the beautiful area that we live. Am I suggesting it is as beautiful as Lake Tahoe? Maybe I am, because in a different way, it is as beautiful.

As a long term resident of any of the counties I mentioned, are you taking for granted the panoramic vistas you see as you drive around? Do you enjoy the sweet fragrance of all the almond trees blooming that make all the bees happy? What did your child say when you showed them the Oreo colored cows? Have you noticed the millions of migrating waterfowl that flow through the area? Have you seen the Yellow Headed Blackbird that inhabits the marshes? You may have heard its wonderful call without realizing what it was. What is it that makes this area special to you? I find it fascinating how fast the farmer rotates crops. The farmer harvests one crop, and in a few days there is a completely different crop planted. To me, there is beauty in the efficiency of their endeavor. Everyone has their own vision of what makes this area special. What is yours? Are you willing to let that slip away? If it does, I guarantee it will never come back. Are you willing to help with the effort to preserve the agricultural land and natural resources for future generations?

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is committed to the preservation of the key elements that drive our economy, our spirits, and our future. We need your help. Volunteer, and become a board member. Your voice makes a difference, and you will feel something special volunteering creates; pride. In a very short amount of time you will brag to your friends and family that you are on the front line in the fight for preserving our agricultural heritage. Pick up the phone and call me, tell me what makes this area special to you, to your family, and to your friends. If you do not call that is okay, but still take a minute to remind yourself why you live here, and what it would be like if it was gone forever. Pull off the road and "see" what you have been looking at all these years while you drive around the region.

sage being sent to the larger support companies we are so lucky to have? What does Mr. John Deere think about removing agriculture and changing the land use to commercial or residential development?

So whatever your feelings are about development, take a minute to remember what you enjoy while driving around the surrounding counties. The spectacle of millions of migrating waterfowl that you're treated to when you drive through the area. The beautiful orchards blooming all at once, the harvests you see happening. The constant transition between crops a farmer plants that allow people to eat. Showing your kids for the first time that Oreo colored cow standing in a green field with all their friends.

What are the consequences of agricultural land that is converted to an alternative zoning designation that allows commercial or residential development?

When you hear about a development opportunity that will create “X” number of jobs, what does that really mean? What does it mean to you on a personal level? Maybe you are not concerned that some agricultural land is slated for development. Maybe the thought of development is completely out of the question, and you would oppose any development whatsoever.

There is such a thing as smart development, for instance, developing land that is abandoned, developing land that is zoned agriculture, but environmental issues, soil types, depth of the water table that makes that ground undesirable for farming. Those are issues that should be considered when future plans for development are made. There lies the problem, most development is targeted to areas that are convenient, easy in terms of accessibility. Most regulatory agencies don't consider the above mentioned issues.

Development will create jobs.

I feel the most important plan for creating jobs is to make sure you don't lose any of the jobs you already have. Removing land from the agriculture industry removes jobs, it inhibits the supporting businesses that are necessary to support the important agricultural aspect of our surrounding counties. What is the message being sent to the larger support companies we are so lucky to have? What does Mr. John Deere think about removing agriculture and changing the land use to commercial or residential development?

So whatever your feelings are about development, take a minute to remember what you enjoy while driving around the surrounding counties. The spectacle of millions of migrating waterfowl that you're treated to when you drive through the area. The beautiful orchards blooming all at once, the harvests you see happening. The constant transition between crops a farmer plants that allow people to eat. Showing your kids for the first time that Oreo colored cow standing in a green field with all their friends.

Whatever it is that gets you pumped up about living in this area, get involved in the protection of those values that are the economic backbone of our community. Volunteer your services, everyone can make a difference, even if it a small difference, it is still very important. Thank you



Hike • Stroll •
Relax in the Afternoon.
Enjoy a Catered Dinner
as Music fills the air
and
the sun sets beyond the
“Middle Mountain”

Sunset Serenade
Fundraising Dinner Inside the
Sutter Buttes
May 7, 2016

*Live Music by MARKS Ensemble
Wine by Cordi Winery • Appetizers by Poms Away Orchards
Dinner Catered by Cool Hand Lukes, Yuba City
Silent Auction/Drawings by Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust
Printing by Printworks
Event Courtesy of Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes*

2017 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 30, 2016. 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 aeriels 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!

Join the Board

Have you ever wondered what our Mission Statement means? Do you know what SBRLT does? Do you know what a conservation Easement is? We invite you to attend our Board meetings to meet our Staff and Directors and to learn more about what SBRLT does. Who knows, maybe you'll be interested in joining us as a board member! Our meetings are the first Thursdays of the month at the Community Memorial Museum at 1333 Butte House Road, Yuba City.

You are invited...

We extend to you an invitation to attend any board meeting of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust. Are you curious about the Land Trust's purpose? What does our Mission Statement say? Meet our board and staff to learn more about what we do. Would you like to learn what a Conservation Easement is? Learn about the roles of our board, staff and members in supporting the work of our non-profit organization. The SBRLT Board meets on the first Thursday of each month except July. We meet at the Community Memorial Museum at 1333 Butte House Road in Yuba City at 7:00. Guests are always welcome and, who knows, maybe you will be interested in joining us as a board member! Our growing land trust needs your interest and support, so save the date to join us.