

# SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST



From Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

SPRING 2014

## 25 YEARS OF HISTORY by Michael Hubbartt

**T**his New Year, 2014, especially inspires those of us involved with the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust to look back at our accomplishments. Twenty five years ago in 1989 we became incorporated in the State of California as the *Middle Mountain Foundation*, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to “educate the general public in the relevance and importance to society of natural and cultural resources, and to encourage preservation, understanding, and good stewardship of such resources.”

We evolved out of an interpretive program that was started by Walt and Rebecca Anderson in the fall of 1976 on the Brockman Canyon parcel on the south side of the Buttes. It grew into the *Sutter Buttes Naturalists* and accessed multiple properties within the Buttes’ private rangelands. Landowners “gained economic compensation, relief from trespass, protection from liability concerns, and a great deal of respect,” Walt later wrote.

In late 1996, McClatchy Newspapers, Inc., donated 200 acres of land in the Sutter Buttes to the Middle Mountain Foundation, bringing it into its full development as a land trust



The Sutter Buttes, an extinct volcanic structure, is a distinct feature in the middle of Sacramento Valley of California. It is also the heart of our organization and the middle of our sphere of influence—Sutter, Yuba, and Colusa counties.

dedicated to protecting important land resources for public benefit.

Gary Pruitt, President of McClatchy, said, “Our newspapers have fought to protect

California’s natural resources for decades, and we are delighted to help the Foundation preserve the Sutter Buttes.” In the spring of 2006, the MMF newsletter

reported that, “MMF Expands Sphere of Influence. The Yuba Sutter Land Trust has joined with the Middle Mountain Foundation, consolidating the influence and effectiveness of both organizations... to protect open space, farm, and ranch lands for as far as the eye can see around the Sutter Buttes.” With this transfer came two conservation easements in Yuba County.

In the past five years, we adopted the Land Trust Alliance standards and practices. We then secured a couple of significant grants to initiate conservation easements around the Buttes and we began a dialog and application process for several Buttes area farming and ranching properties.

We have recently initiated an application process for accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. We expect to make our submittal in May, 2014.

After several board meetings and discussions, the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust instituted a name change to emphasize our focus “to represent our land trust mission ... that works on land preservation projects in the Sutter, Colusa, and Yuba counties.”

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### SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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 Yuba City, CA 95991  
 Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 1pm

### PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

#### MONSTER MISSION

*By Kathy Larsen*

The mission of the SBRLT is to work to protect the land and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations. That’s a rather all encompassing statement. However, the land trust works in two directions in attempting to accomplish this mission.

One way is our outreach program that includes our weekend and charter hikes, the education program, and our speakers’ program. Outreach enables us to personally meet with people in the community to discuss the benefits of preserving our landscape. In addition to providing a hands on learning experience, the goal of our education program is to build a land appreciation ethic in school children that hopefully will enable them to make considered decisions about land use when they get older.

The second direction of our land protection efforts is in partnerships with landowners to conserve private land. The most traditional tool for conserving private land, known as a “conservation easement,” is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses

of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land. They can also sell it or pass it on to heirs. When a landowner puts a conservation easement on a property, the landowner gives up some of the rights associated with the land. For example, the landowner might give up the right to build additional structures, while retaining the right to grow crops. Future owners also will be bound by the easement’s terms.

The land trust is responsible for making sure the easement’s terms are followed. This is managed through “stewardship” by the land trust. Conservation easements offer great flexibility. For example an easement on property containing rare wildlife habitat might limit activity, while an easement on a farm might allow continued farming and the addition of agricultural structures.

When you become a member of the SBRLT you increase our ability to work with landowners by contributing to the cost of acquiring the easement, helping with the financial responsibility of stewardship, and helping to maintain the sustainability of the organization.

# EDUCATION PROGRAM

by Kathleen and Greg Payne

“Students, what do you notice about this tree?” A few children raise their hands and comment that the tree is full of holes, lots of holes. “Who do you think makes these holes?” “Woodpeckers!” “Right, but not just any type of woodpeckers. These holes were made by Acorn Woodpeckers that live here in the Sutter Buttes. Do you notice all the acorns tucked into the holes in this old dead tree? Also, woodpeckers have several adaptations that help them from getting headaches!”

This is the type of dialog that occurs over a 3 to 4 hour hike with children from schools within an hour’s drive of the Sutter Buttes. Their teachers sign up for a student interpretive hike, pay the class fee, arrive by bus or cars and together we parade into the Dean Ranch, through several gates and ranches. We cover curriculum that is grade appropriate, including the Maidu, plant and animal adaptations, and geology. Geology of course! The Sutter Buttes are as one student put it “an *extincted* volcano.”

For many of the students, this may be their first experience hiking in a natural environment. They are taught to be observant, looking for signs of animals (tracks and scat), listening for the different sounds of the birds, and maybe spotting a deer or red-tailed hawk. The trails take them through oak woodlands, past volcanic outcroppings, and up hills to view our flat valley

or the Sierras. Third graders are introduced to the day-to-day activities of the indigenous Maidu and experience grinding acorns. Fourth graders learn about the adaptations that help animals, like pocket gophers and ringtails, survive in the Buttes. Fifth or sixth grade students learn how a dome volcano erupted to form the Sutter Buttes.

These hikes take place during the school week, usually on Tuesdays or Thursdays. We can have up to three classes come for a hike on one of our three trails. For more information, please visit our website: [www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org/visit-the-buttles/education-program/](http://www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org/visit-the-buttles/education-program/).

Several teachers have had their students write thank-you notes and one 3<sup>rd</sup> grader ended his with: “Also, I would love to bring my family there because that place is awesome.”

## Thank You To Our Sponsors



Education Program Students (Photo by M. Remington)

## Thank You To Our Volunteers

Carol Anderson-Clark  
Sandra Becker  
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Rich Valentini  
Marilyn Warmee  
Curt Wick  
Katherine Wick  
Sue Wilson

## SUNSET SERENADE

Join us this year at our **Annual Sunset Serenade** to be held on **Saturday, May 3**, all in an enchanting outdoor setting at the base of North Butte within the Sutter Buttes. You will enjoy an optional afternoon stroll or hike, hor d'oeuvres, wine, a catered dinner, classical music, desserts, and pleasant company. Unique items are featured at the silent auction and the drawing. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$100 per person.

Questions? Contact Karen at [mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org](mailto:mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org)

or 530-671-6116. Details will be sent to you when you register. Sorry, there is no member discount for this event.



Sunset Serenade May 2013 (Photo by K. Morrison)

## JOIN AND SUPPORT

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

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

### Membership Levels w/ Benefits

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

[info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org](mailto:info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org) or call (530) 755-3568



## LAND TRUST CORNER

### What is a Land Trust?

- A land trust is a nonprofit organization that actively works to conserve land by undertaking or assisting in land or conservation easement acquisition, or by its stewardship of such land or easements.
- Land trusts work with landowners and the community to conserve land by accepting donations of land, purchasing land, negotiating private, voluntary conservation agreements on land, and stewarding conserved land through the generations to come.
- Most land trusts are community based and deeply connected to local needs, so they are well-equipped to identify land that offers critical natural habitat as well as land offering recreational, agricultural and other conservation value.

(Source: Land Trust Alliance)

## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The Middle Mountain 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 for uneven footing, stepping over rocks and boulders, crossing streams, walking through thistles and brush, climbing hills, and poison oak. 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 an open hike or event at [mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org](mailto:mmhikes@sutterbutteslandtrust.org) or call Karen at 530-671-6116. Cost for open events is \$35 per person *unless otherwise stated*. Pre-payment 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, groups, or individuals may schedule a charter by contacting Margit at [mmcharters@sutterbutteslandtrust.org](mailto:mmcharters@sutterbutteslandtrust.org) or 530-846-5142. The cost for charter hikes is \$300 minimum 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).

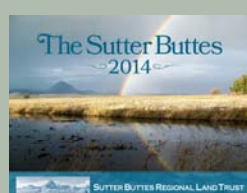


Old Man (Photo by K. Morrison)

## CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Have your photo published in our *upcoming 2015 Calendar*. Each month features a full page landscape-oriented photo highlighting an aspect of the Sutter Buttes. Up to 10 full page photographs can be submitted per year or an unlimited number of thumbnails (trees, flowers, birds, animals, etc.). The digital file names must begin with the last name of photographer. Full resolution images will be required for chosen photographs and must allow for 1/4” bleed.

Send your photo slides or CD to:  
Brian Hausback, Geology Department,  
6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819; 916-278-6521  
Or email digital photos to: [hausback@csus.edu](mailto:hausback@csus.edu)  
The submittal deadline is March 7, 2014.



# HIKE THE SUTTER BUTTES

## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM OPEN HIKE & EVENT INFORMATION

MEET TIME IS BY 8:00 AM AND COST IS \$35 PER PERSON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

**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.

**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. **One Boot**  
Saturday, May 10

**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. **One Boot**  
Sunday, April 6

**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. **Three Boots**  
Saturday, March 1

**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. **One Boot**  
Sunday, April 13

**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. **Two Boots**  
Saturday, March 15

**Native Ways—Family Values Within The Buttes:** Stroll the Buttes back into time and reflect upon cultural values of people who built a nuclear missile site, of people who have preserved a family farm for six generations since 1860, and of Native people who were deeply connected to the bounty of Mother Earth. This special outing features Pit River Native California Indian Lucky Preston who shares Native stories, history, songs, and flute music. Bring food and water. **Two Boots**  
Sunday, April 6

**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 exist here. Bring food and water. **Three Boots**  
Sunday, March 2

**Nature Study—Shaeffer Ranch:** Explore this ranch that has been in the same family since 1860. Your guide will help you to see the details and learn about the natural elements that exist here. Bring food and water. **Two Boots**  
Saturday, April 12

**Photographer's Outing:** This event is designed for photographers of all levels. We will caravan to a ranch on the north side of the Buttes. There will be several guides so that you may scout and choose different locations for your photos, from the level valley to the gently sloped ramparts. Bring food and water. Rain will cancel; occasional showers won't. **Two Boots**  
Saturday, March 1

**Sunset Serenade:** This is a fund-raising event and costs \$100 per person. Pre-registration is required. For more information, see Page 2. **One to three Boots** for the optional hike before dinner.  
Saturday, May 3

**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. **Three Boots**  
Sunday, March 23 (*Brockman*)      Saturday, March 29 (*Bragg*)

**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. **Two Boots**  
Saturday, March 22 (*Shaeffer*)      Sunday, March 30 (*Shaeffer*)  
Saturday, April 5 (*Dean*)      Sunday, 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 Biological Science at CSU, Sacramento. Bring food and water. **Two Boots**  
Saturday, April 12

**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.

**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. **Three Boots**  
Sunday, February 23

**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. **Three Boots**  
Saturday, April 26

**Double Buttes Transect:** This hike consists of both Buttes Transects in one day. It will cover 10-12 miles with steep, rugged ascents and descents. You will begin and end on the same property. Only register if you are in top physical shape. Cost is \$60—we are accessing two properties. Bring food and water. Meet at 7:00 am. **Five Boots**  
Saturday, March 15



Transect Hikers

(Photo by A. Morrison)

**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. There will likely be late wildflowers. Bring food and water. **One Boot**  
Sunday, April 27

**Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon:** The Steidlmyer 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. **Four Boots**  
Saturday, April 12

**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. **Three Boots**  
Saturday, March 8

**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. Bring food and water. **Three Boots**  
Saturday, March 8      Sunday, March 16

**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. Excellent tread on your boots is a must; one or two hiking sticks strongly recommended. 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. **Five Boots**  
Sunday, March 2      Saturday, March 22  
Sunday, April 6

### HIKE AND EVENT RATINGS

These 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 14 miles and/or multiple and significant elevation gains/losses.

We offer **Charter Hikes too** on several properties within the interior of the Sutter Buttes.

The cost is \$300 minimum plus \$30 for each person over ten.

For information: email:  
mmcharters@sutterbutteslandtrust.org  
or call (530) 846-5142

VISIT OUR  
HIKE  
SCHEDULE



# SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

PO Box 3359  
Yuba City CA 95992-3359  
info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org

Non Profit Organization  
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95901

## Board of Directors

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Editor—Karen Morrison  
Printing—Printworx

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Leigh Keicher, Pete Sands,  
Gene Trapp, Stan Wright, and  
David Wyatt

## Area Liaison Advisors

To Be Named, Sacramento  
Dorothy Davis, Chico  
To Be Named, Davis  
Barry Owen, Bay Area

## INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM SPRING OPEN HIKE DATES

Sun.. Feb..... 23..... Brockman Challenge	Sun.. April..... 6.... Birds in the Buttes—Dean Ranch
Sat... March.... 1..... Geology Trek—Dean Photographers' Outing—Shaeffer	Native Ways—Shaeffer Ranch Summit Ascent—North Butte
Sun.. March.... 2..... Nature Study—Brockman Canyon Summit Ascent—North Butte	Sat... April..... 12.... Ridge Ascent—Bragg Canyon** Nature Study—Shaeffer Ranch Wild Nature in Buttes—Dean Ranch
Sat... March.... 8..... Ridge Trek—Brockman Canyon Ridge Hike West—Shaeffer Ranch	Sun.. April..... 13.... In A Sacred Manner—Dean Ranch Wildflower Study—Dean Ranch
Sat... March.. 15..... Double Buttes Transect* Moonlight Stroll—Dean	Sat... April..... 26.... Canyon Trek—Bragg Canyon**
Sun.. March.. 16..... Ridge Trek—Brockman Canyon	Sun.. April..... 27.... Nature Stroll—Dean Ranch
Sat... March.. 22..... Summit Ascent—North Butte Wildflower Study—Shaeffer Ranch	Sat... May..... 3.... Sunset Serenade***
Sun.. March.. 23..... Wildflower Study—Brockman	Sat... May..... 10.... Bat Research Outing—Dean Ranch
Sat... March.. 29..... Wildflower Study—Bragg Canyon**	
Sun.. March.. 30..... Wildflower Study—Shaeffer Ranch	
Sat... April..... 5..... Wildflower Study—Dean Ranch	

\*The cost of this hike is \$60 per person; we are accessing two properties.  
\*\*The cost of this hike is \$45 per person.  
\*\*\*SBRLT Fundraising Hike & Dinner in Buttes; cost \$100.

## COMMUNITY MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF SUTTER COUNTY EVENTS

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

January 18	Historical Society Membership Meeting, 2:00 pm
February 21	Rare Chinese School Book Collection Exhibit opens; Reception 6-8:00 pm
April 5	Historical Society Membership Meeting, 2:00 pm
May—July	Clyde Taylor Photo Exhibit—Marysville, 1896-1945
July—TBA	Children's Summer Program
August—TBA	Sutter Buttes 2015 Calendar Photographers' Exhibit

Sutter Buttes Calendars, Books, and other items, as well as hiking sticks, are available for sale at the Museum.



Above Bragg Canyon

(Photo by S. Morrison)

## MEMORIAL FOR ANNE B. ADAMS

The mysterious lure of the Buttes brings to us extraordinary people – people who connect with the landscape and who connect with us. Anne Adams was such an individual. After hiking with us in 2003 she attended a board meeting, became a back-up guide, took on the responsibility of becoming our Sacramento liaison, and a member of our board of directors. In this capacity she saw an opportunity to take on the role of assembling and publishing our very first Sutter Buttes calendar for the year 2006.

In her position as Sacramento liaison, she secured monthly sponsors for the calendar, connected with retailers in the Sacramento area to inventory and sell the calendar, and she coordinated speaking engagements to promote our organization.

She passed away in November of 2013 and is missed by all of us. Thank you, Anne, for all that you gave to us and to the Buttes!



## THE MISSION OF THE SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

Working 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

SBRLT acknowledges the following contributors and individuals:

Shirley Sutton and Peter Moore, Cordi Winery, Pete Sands, BlueRay Concepts, Gold Country Bank, Harkey House Bed & Breakfast, Community Memorial Museum of Sutter County, Our Members, Our Volunteers, and our Hikers!

### DONATIONS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Annette Collins and  
Mike Hubbart

### DONATIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Anne B. Adams, Irving Dow,  
Peggy Cope Jackson, Harold Scrogin,  
Elinor Scrogin Self, The Littlejohn  
Family, and Bette Sutton

## WEB STORE

The SBRLT web store is located at [sutterbutteslandtrust.org](http://sutterbutteslandtrust.org). The Sutter Buttes calendars, books, postcards, and hike certificates are available. Purchasing these items is another way to support our efforts.