Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

SPRING 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I love the crisp clear winter mornings we have, whether cycling through the Buttes as they are just starting to green up, seeing the almond orchards beginning to flower, the sight of graceful swans flying overhead, a flooded field blanketed in pintail ducks, or the distinctive call of sandhill cranes flying overhead. These many resources are easy to lose sight of with our busy schedules, or (for me) the heat of summer. However, these natural and agricultural resources are what I most value about living in this area.

When people ask me "what is a land trust?", or more often "why should I care?", my response is, "a land trust is a charitable organization that acquires land or conservation easements or that stewards land or easements to achieve one or more conservation purposes". As reflected in the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust Mission Statement, our land trust focus is on the preservation of natural and agricultural land, and protection of family ranching heritage. We do this to help ensure that places important to our community lifestyle are protected from unwanted development and in support of our local economy, for current and future generations.

In November, the SBRLT board members voted in new Executive Officers. Following the election, the new team met to discuss land trust goals and priorities that were identified in our fall strategic planning retreat, and how to begin to implement these. Our priorities include financial security, greater community awareness/involvement, and working with (willing) landowners and developers to secure conservation and agricultural easements. The variety of skill sets needed to assist in developing a robust land trust are many, from fund raising, community outreach, agricultural experience, mitigation experience, real estate and legal expertise in agricultural and conservation easements.

In moving forward with our priorities, we have restructured the organization of our committees, with the goal of a more focused effort on specific committee-based priorities. We have designated committee leaders who will organize monthly meetings, to strategize and develop an implementation plan for their committee goals/priorities. Committees include, Fund Development (focus on developing revenue sources), Community Outreach (focus on community relations), and Land Conservation & Stewardship (landowner outreach, conservation easements). We encourage our members at large to consider volunteering for a committee. This is an excellent way to become familiar with how our land trust operates, board member responsibilities, and would also bring new ideas and perspectives on how to achieve our short-term and long-term goals. You can contact the land trust at info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or at 530-755-3568.

Lastly, thank you for your financial support through your membership and donations. They are critical to the Land Trust's ability to carry out our mission statement, which we believe is for the greater good of our community. Welcome to a new year and a new decade - here's to our future!

Carolyn Brown
SBRLT PRESIDENT

Did you know that your support of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust helps protect the land within the Sutter Buttes and beyond? It also helps maintain the Pacific Flyway for migrating waterfowl, as well as, preserving important agricultural lands that support our local farming and economy.

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST

OUR MISSION

The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust works to protect and maintain the natural and agricultural resources of the Sutter Buttes and the surrounding region for present and future generations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carolyn Brown, President
Joe Reusser, Vice President
Dr. Emma Blackthorne, Treasurer
Mike Hubbartt, Secretary
Julie Stark, Director
Margit Sands, Director
Babs Cotter, Director

SUPPORT

Lisa Lindman, Executive Director / Lands Manager
Kim Mansfield, Administrator

ADVISORS

Brian Hausback, Geology Advisor
Pete Sands, Naturalist
Gene Trapp, Biological Advisor
Stan Wright, Biological Advisor
David Wyatt, Biological Advisor
Spencer Morrison, Financial Advisor

CONTACT US

You can reach us by:
Telephone: 530-755-3568
Website: www.SutterButtesLandTrust.org
Mail: PO Box 3359, Yuba City, CA 95992
EMail: info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org

ACCREDITED™ LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Excellence • Trust • Permanence

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SutterButtesLandTrust

SUTTER COUNTY MUSEUM

The museum has been a huge supporter of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust for many years. Their mission is to share local stories to strengthen community bonds, to inspire celebration of our diverse cultural heritage, and to demonstrate how understanding the past prepares us for the future. Admission to the museum is free.

OPEN HOURS:

Tuesday through Friday
9am to 5pm
Saturday and Sunday
12pm to 4 pm

ADDRESS:

1333 Butte House Road
Yuba City, CA 95993
Phone Number: (530) 822-7141

You are invited. . .

We extend to you an invitation to attend our next Community Meet & Greet on March 10th! Held at Sutter Buttes Brewery at 421 Center St. in Yuba City at 5:30pm, this will be a great way to connect with SBRLT Board Directors and learn more about the land trust. Get an overview of current activities, projects, events, and ways you can be involved.

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 10th – SBRLT Board Meeting and Community Meet/Greet**
April 14th – SBRLT Board Meeting* 6:30pm
May 2nd – Sunset Serenade Fundraising Dinner in the Sutter Buttes
May 12th – SBRLT Board Meeting* 6:30pm
June 9th – SBRLT Board Meeting* 6:30pm
August 11th – SBRLT Board Meeting* 6:30pm
August 21st – Photographer's Reception and 2021 Calendar Reveal***
August 22nd – September 27th – Calendar Gallery Exhibit

* Meeting at Sutter County Museum,
1333 Butte House Road,Yuba City
** Meeting held at Sutter Buttes Brewery
421 Center St., Yuba City
*** Special Event held at Sutter County Museum
1333 Butte House Road ,Yuba City

Sutter Buttes Cutting Boards

Purchase this new beautiful Sutter Buttes Cutting Board with photo by Patti Ransdell! For every one purchase LaserArt by Blueray Concepts will donate $25 to the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust. These large boards are 15" x 10" x 3/4" solid wood boards with a juice ring on the front. Engraved on the back and fully useable on the front.

Quantities are limited! Call 530-755-3568 to order yours



LaserArt By
BLUERAY CONCEPTS
598 Garden Hwy, Ste 8
Yuba City, CA 95991
530.237.2223



DONATION, SPONSORSHIP OR MEMBERSHIP?

What works best for you

by Cindi Mansfield

Photo by Cindi Mansfield

We all have causes, organizations or events that we really get behind and love to support, but knowing the best way to support them is sometimes challenging. Maybe you want to give without any other incentives, or perhaps you'd like to give on behalf of your business and would like the public to know you gave your support. Let's look at three different ways you can support the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust and the difference:

A **CHARITABLE DONATION** - Normally a one time gift made by an individual or business. Charitable donations are commonly in the form of cash, but they can also take the form of "Inkind" products or services. Charitable donations represent the primary source of funding for the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust and are tax deductible. Donations are recognized by a letter of thanks.

SPONSORSHIP - Giving money, products or services as a means of supporting the land trust and in return, your business receives advertising or promotion of its brand, products or services. The land trust will acknowledge sponsors by mentioning or displaying the following: your company name, company logo, product lines and contact information (address, phone number, web address). The land trust is also permitted to mention slogans and value-neutral descriptions of your goods or services for acknowledging your support. In addition, SBRLT can display or distribute your products to the general public at the sponsored activity or event. Sponsors may support many of the organizaiton's events throughout the year. Through sponsorship you will get the following: Brand visibility, targeted marketing, consumer perception, efficient lead generation, sales goals, community goodwill, return on investment and more.

Having a **MEMBERSHIP** means you belong and particpate in the Sutter Buttes Regioinal Land Trust. With your tax-deductible annual membership dues, you will have special benefits or privileges that no one else receives. Memberships are a great way to stay active in supporting the land trust throughout the entire year, while taking advantage of any benefits and services offered throughout the entire year as well. As a member you can receive the following benefits: Subscription to the quarterly newsletter, SBRLT Yearly Calendar, special invitiations and and anouncements of events, special prices or free hikes for up to six people and more.

As a **MEMBER, DONOR OR SPONSOR** of the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust your generosity is creating a future where the natural landscape and working lands, in and around the Sutter Buttes area, are cared for and enjoyed by people who share a love and appreciation of the beauty, history and culture of the area.

Would you like to know of upcoming land trust events that you or your business can support? Contact us at 530-755-3568 or by email at info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org

Membership Benefits

If it weren't for the generous donations from our members, the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust wouldn't be able to continue to make a difference in our region. Because of YOUR direct support, SBRLT has been able to provide managing and monitoring services for 4 easements and 2 in-fee properties, with more currently in negotiations.

Do you want to hike the Sutter Buttes? Many of our membership levels come with discounts and gift certificates for Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes who provide guided hike tours most weekends from October through May. Gift certificates can also be given as gifts.

Join & Support Today. Together we can protect the land that defines our heritage.

LEVEL	MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT
$25 Donor	Newsletters and notification of events before the public
$50 Friend	Newsletters, notifications and 10% off a hike
$100 Associate	Newsletters, notifications and one hike certificate
$250 Sponsor	Newsletters, notifications and two hike certificates
$500 Conservator	Newsletters, notifications and four hike certificates
$1,000 Patron	Newsletters, notifications and six hike certificates
$2,500 Benefactor	Newsletters, notifications and 1 charter hike for 10
$5,000 Corporate	Newsletters, notifications and 2 charter hikes for 10

Credit Cards accepted on our website. Or you can contact us at info@sutterbutteslandtrust.org or 530-755-3568.

HUGE WIN FOR LAND CONSERVATION

SBRLT Awarded Largest Grant To Date" By Alyssa Lindman

We are excited to announce that the Strategic Growth Council has awarded Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust grant funding for two separate easements, Laughlin Farms & Khagura Farms in Meridian, Sutter County. The two projects lie in close proximity to one another and provide similar conservation values of protection of farmland and riparian habitat. The funding will be used for the acquisition of agricultural conservation easements under the Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC), which is administered through the Department of Conservation. The principal goal of the SALC Program is to keep farmland in agriculture and to further the purposes of AB 32 by supporting infill development and avoiding increases in the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the conversion of California's irreplaceable agricultural land and resources to nonagricultural uses, particularly low-density residential development.

The Laughlin & Khagura projects are possible through partnerships with the landowners, Department of Conservation, Strategic Growth Council, and California Climate Investments (CCI). CCI is a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment – particularly in disadvantaged communities. Certain populations are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At least 35 percent of California Climate Investments must benefit these populations, which include disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and low-income households, also known as "priority populations". Both projects are located in a "priority population" area, which has been defined by the California Air Resources Board as a "low-income community".

Conservation of the 497.4 acres of walnut orchards and riparian habitat ensures that the land will be preserved for agricultural and open space use into perpetuity. The Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust will hold title to the easement and will monitor the terms of the easement annually to insure that the purposes of the easement are fulfilled. Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that exists to protect the valuable irreplaceable agricultural land and natural resources of Yuba, Sutter, and Colusa Counties by acquiring and holding in trust agricultural conservation easements. As an accredited land trust under the national Land Trust Alliance, the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust is committed to our responsibilities of creating a sustainable organization that is dedicated to the long-term commitments we have made and the need to invest in developing balanced, healthy, and resilient communities.

For further information contact Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust at 916-549-2355.

MIDDLE MOUNTAIN INTERPRETIVE HIKES



2020 SPRING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Hike Name	Where	Boots
Sun	Feb 23	Fire Trail	Shaeffer	3
Sat	Feb 29	Summit Ascent*	Dean/N. Butte	5
Sun	Mar 1	Wildflowers	Shaeffer	3
Sat	Mar 7	Double Transect**	Dean/Bragg	6
Sat	Mar 7	Moonlight Stroll	Dean	2
Sun	Mar 8	Summit Ascent*	Dean/N. Butte	5
Sat	Mar 14	Geology Trek*	Bragg	3-4
Sun	Mar 15	Brockman Challenge	Brockman	4
Sun	Mar 15	Wildflowers	Shaeffer	3
Sat	Mar 21	Summit Ascent*	Dean/N. Butte	5
Sat	Mar 21	Canyon Trek	Brockman	3
Sun	Mar 22	Wild Nature	Dean	2
Sun	Mar 29	Nature Trek	Brockman	3
Sat	Apr 4	Wildflowers*	Bragg	3
Sun	Apr 5	Photographers	Dean	1-3
Sat	Apr 11	East Ridge	Shaeffer	3
Sun	Apr 18	Ancient Crater*	Bragg	5
Sun	Apr 19	Birds in the Buttes	Dean	2
Sat	Apr 25	Bat Research	Dean	1
Sun	Apr 26	Butterflies & Flowers	Dean	2
Sat	May 2	Sunset Serenade**	Dean	2-3

*The cost of this outing is $45

**The cost of this outing is $60

***The cost of this fundraiser outing is $100

Register online at www.middlemountainhikes.org

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS
Cap and Trade Dollars at Work

CALIFORNIA
STRATEGIC GROWTH COUNCIL

California
Department of Conservation

FEDORA FARMS BUILDS FOR THE FUTURE

Family operation partnering with Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

Story by Chris Kaufman, Originally featured in Appeal-Democrat, October 16, 2019

Brian Fedora is a fifth-generation farmer and he wants to enable to sixth generation to run Fedora Farms.

Fedora, who operates the Meridian walnut growing and processing operation with his brother, Chris, and father, Sib, gave a tour to showcase a partnership with the Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust, which he says is helping to ensure the farm's success.

"It's helped a lot because they come out every year and check on our stewardship," he said. "We're working to keep the operation going while meeting more and more environmental and governmental regulations all while making a profit."

Fedora said the partnership started back in 2006 and has been a success.





Photos By Alyssa Lindman

"We started working with them back when it was the Middle Mountain Foundation and it's been great," he said. "We grow mostly walnuts on the farm and for eight weeks out of the year, we have two walnut hullers running for our walnuts as well as other growers so it's a big capital investment."

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust executive director Alyssa Lindman said the organization has evolved over the years since its inception in the 1970's.

"The organization was originally created to allow public access into the Sutter Buttes through guided hikes and educational programs aimed at increasing public awareness of the uniqueness and value of the Sutter Buttes, while also seeking to protect them from development," Lindman said. "Since that time, the organization has evolved into a land trust with a tri-county focus on protecting the agricultural and natural resources of the Sutter Buttes and surrounding region."

More than a dozen people attended Monday's tour of the Fedora Farms and learned about SBRLT's efforts in helping to protect the area's agricultural and natural resources.

"The land trust is working to create a stronger connection to the community through unique educational experiences on the land that allow attendees to better understand the goals and purpose of the land trust," Lindman said.

She said the organization's commitment to land conservation was further enhanced in 2015 when SBRLT was recognized as an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Alliance.

"Land trust accreditation is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets high standards for land conservation," she said. "The accreditation seal offers the assurance that we can keep the promise of protecting the land into perpetuity and that we are worthy of the public trust. Our accreditation has strengthened our organization and made us more sustainable."

Lindman said future plans for the organization include the negotiation of several agriculture easements in Yuba and Sutter counties, totaling about 2,500 acres.

"In addition, the land trust is currently working on a 3-year strategic plan, which includes organizational and land conservation based goals," she said. "We will be looking closely at financial security, board development, community relationships, as well as identifying conservation priorities."

Sib Fedora is nearing retirement and remembers his childhood when the farm had a drastically different look and feel.

"I remember when I was 6 years old and it was still a dairy," Sib Fedora said. "I never rode a horse for pleasure – they were for working and herding cows."

By the time he turned 12, the family sold the dairy operation and continued to grow walnuts and adapt as the times changed.

"I graduated from Chico State in 1974 and started working in the production department at Food Machinery Corporation, traveling all over living out of a suitcase and took over the farm in 1984," he said. "I still worked at FMC until 1990 while running the farm because there was so much uncertainty."

Fedora said the SBRLT partnership came together at a pivotal time in the family farm's history.

"The conservation easement came about because our shop and huller is located in an area that was designated to be parceled out into 20-acre plots where ranchettes were to be built," he said. "It was surveyed and ready to go but that's when the economy crashed so the sales didn't go through."

16TH ANNUAL CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST



We have begun planning for the 2021 Sutter Buttes Calendar and invite you to participate by submitting photos for consideration. Deadline for submissions will be Friday, April 24, 2020.

We are looking for images that capture the natural scenic beauty of the Sutter Buttes and surrounding region. Scenes should 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 aerials or landscapes of the Sutter Buttes.

All submissions are judged for originality, expression and quality. Each month features a full-page photo and several thumbnails. All featured photographers will receive full recognition as well as complimentary calendars and a featured spot at the fall Photographer's Reception to showcase more of their work at the Sutter County Museum.

Calendar Sponsorship Opportunities Available! Download the 2021 Calendar Sponsorship Form today and get a jump start on picking which month you would like reserved just for your logo and contact info.
www.sutterbutteslandtrust.org/news/latest-news/



We have reserved one month of the calendar to specifically feature a student photographer's work. If you are student up through high school, have a student, or teach students and would like to submit photos for consideration, please be sure to submit your work with the notation "student submission", which will be judged separately from other photographer submissions! The winner will receive a free hike gift certificate to be used with Middle Mountain Interpretive Hikes.

SUTTER BUTTES REGIONAL LAND TRUST
P.O Box 3359
Yuba City, CA 95992