



Conservancy fairy shrimp at Jepson Prairie © Doug Wirtz

Outdoor Adventures with Solano Land Trust in March

Solano Land Trust and partners are offering outdoor adventures in March so that local residents and visitors can spend time outside. Come enjoy guided walks and hikes, blacksmithing, horse-drawn wagon rides, science discovery labs, and ways to volunteer. See bright green new growth on trees, wildflowers in bloom, aquatic life in vernal pools, and birds getting ready for the end of winter and the beginning of spring. For important details, including each activity's meeting location, directions and registration information, visit the events calendar at solanolandtrust.org. For additional questions, call 707-432-0150 extension 203. March opportunities include:

Apply by Tues. Mar. 1 for Training Starting Thurs. Mar. 3 at Rush Ranch

Docent Volunteer Opportunity: Apply by Tues. Mar. 1 to become a Tidal Marsh Docent for Solano Land Trust and the National Estuarine Research Reserve. The five days of training at Rush Ranch are Thursdays, Mar. 3, 10, and 17, and Saturdays, Mar. 5 and 19. The Thursday trainings are in the evening, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The Saturday trainings are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., respectively. The online application is available at solanolandtrust.org. The deadline to apply is Tues. Mar. 1.

Sat. Mar. 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the King-Swett Ranches

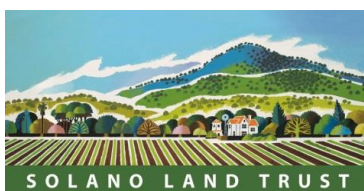
Nature Hike: Explore the hills between Fairfield, Benicia and Vallejo. Participants will get a workout and learn about the birds and other wildlife that call this area home. Residents and visitors are encouraged to take advantage of this special opportunity if they can because the King-Swett Ranches are otherwise closed. Up to six miles. Free.

Sun. Mar. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lynch Canyon

Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Hike: Lynch Canyon is a magnet for birds of prey. It provides them with over 1,000 undeveloped acres where they can hunt and rest. Join Larry Broderick and team to spot resident and over-wintering raptors. Birds of prey seen on past hikes include Golden and Bald Eagles, Rough-legged, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Ferruginous Hawks, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, and other more common raptor species. Four miles. The guided hike is \$10 per person. Parking is \$6 per vehicle. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended.

Fri. Mar. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (location varies)

Citizen Science Volunteer Opportunity: Get involved in science on Solano Land Trust lands. No experience is necessary. Participants learn while volunteering. Free. Space is limited. Pre-registration required.



Sat. Mar. 12, Sun. Mar. 13, Sat. Mar. 19, Sun. Mar. 20, Sat. Mar. 26 & Sun. Mar. 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Jepson Prairie Preserve

Wildflowers & Water Critters Walk: Jepson Prairie Preserve is one of California's best remaining examples of a vernal pool ecosystem and native grassland prairie. Dry and dormant most of the year, the prairie is transformed by winter rains into a tapestry of stunning colors, and its vernal pools host a rich diversity of rare aquatic life. Enjoy an easy guided walk which may include portions of the Preserve that are only accessible with a Jepson Prairie docent. Learn about vernal pools and see the aquatic invertebrate and flowering plants that depend on them. Volunteer docents offer these tours every Saturday and Sunday at 10am, March 12 through May 8 (Mother's Day).

Sat. Mar. 12 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Lynch Canyon

Trail Crew Volunteer Opportunity: Help take care of Lynch Canyon's 1,000-plus acres. Projects include improving trails, fixing fences, weeding and more. No experience is necessary. Participants learn while volunteering. Free parking pass for the day and free lunch with RSVP. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended.

Sat. Mar. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Rockville Trails Preserve

Oaks, Lichens & Views Hike: Admire majestic oak trees, learn about lichens, and see sweeping views of Solano County and beyond. This is a special opportunity because Rockville Trails Preserve is otherwise closed. Up to seven miles. Free. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended.

Sat. Mar. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rush Ranch

Get the Rush: On the third Saturday of every month, volunteers offer family-friendly activities at Rush Ranch. Timing and activities vary month to month. In March, visitors can take part in a bird workshop and walk, experiment with science discovery labs, and travel back in time by entering a traditional blacksmith shop. Weather permitting, they can also ride around the ranch on a horse-drawn wagon. Wheelchair users are encouraged to board the wagon and experience the ride; the wagons are specially-designed with a wheelchair lift. Guests can also explore exhibits and wander trails on their own. Free.

Sat. Mar. 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Rush Ranch

Eagles, Hawks & Other Birds of Prey Workshop & Hike: Learn about eagles, hawks and falcons – the ways they fly, what they eat, where they hunt and rest, and why they migrate great distances or stay in one place all year. This two hour workshop with Larry Broderick covers birds of prey identification methods, natural history and threats, the importance of habitat protection and restoration, and a book review. Participants come away with tools to identify differences between species, distinctions across individuals within one species, and changes over time during one individual's life. A 1.5-mile hike after the workshop gives participants an opportunity to practice spotting eagles, falcons and hawks in the hills and above the marsh. \$10 per person. Space is limited. Pre-registration recommended.

Explore on your own

For visitors who like to explore on their own, Lynch Canyon is open Fridays through Mondays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to picnic, fly a kite, see cows and wildlife, and explore the hills on foot, mountain bike or horse. Parking is \$6. Rush Ranch is open every day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for visitors to picnic, explore exhibits, see horses and cows, and walk alongside the tidal marsh or hike up hills. Parking is free. Both locations offer 360 degree views of Solano County and the Bay Area.

Save the date!

Solano Land Trust and partners invite the community to the annual Lynch Canyon Kite Festival on Sat. April 9, the annual Rush Ranch Open House on Sat. April 30, and the annual Lynch Canyon Trail Run and Community Hike on Sat. June 4.

Solano Land Trust protects land to ensure a healthy environment, keep ranching and farming families on their properties, and inspire a love of the land. For more information about Solano Land Trust, its upcoming events and to make a donation, visit solanolandtrust.org.

