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Rush Ranch: A Solano County gem

“Rush Ranch Wins Hearts.”

That could be the headline for any story about Rush Ranch. Whether you’re a child or an adult, a hiker, birdwatcher, biologist, teacher, photographer, poet or painter, or just out for a picnic, this Solano Land Trust jewel will win you over.

Rising out of the northeast edge of the Suisun Marsh, Rush Ranch stretches across 2,070 acres of marsh and rolling grassland. Purchased in 1988 by Solano Land Trust, Rush Ranch provides recreational and educational opportunities to thousands of visitors each year. The Ranch, with its historical buildings and self-guided trails, is located approximately two miles south of Highway 12 on Grizzly Island Road.

Within the property’s boundaries is one of the best remaining examples of a brackish tidal marsh habitat in the United States. The habitat at Rush Ranch is exceptionally rich in vegetation and wildlife, supporting more than 200 species and 47 families of plants, 15 mammal species and 230 bird species.

Ongoing activities at the ranch give guests the opportunity to get a closer look at the unique habitat of the marsh and its inhabitants through docent guided interpretive hikes, blacksmithing demonstrations, astronomer led stargazing events, or the personal interpretation gained while enjoying a self-guided hike on one or more of three trails.

History buffs often enjoy the opportunity to get an up close and personal glimpse into a day in the life of a blacksmith by visiting the historic blacksmith shop and speaking with Virgil Sellers, a docent, resident historian, and volunteer with the Rush Ranch Educational Council. Another unique component of Rush Ranch is its visitor center, full of historical exhibits, trail guides and informational brochures. Guests also enjoy the old farm equipment graveyard and the native plant garden.