



Points of Interest

- Lynch Canyon Open Space
- Pesticides & Clean Water
- Healthy Garden Event at Home Depot
- Tip of the Season

**Sewer blockage or overflow?  
Call us first at 644-8949**

## NEW ACCESS TO HISTORIC OPEN SPACE

Lynch Canyon, a 1,039-acre natural area of rolling grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian corridors and spectacular views, is opening to the public thanks to an historic partnership between Solano County and the Solano Land Trust. Following the grand opening on May 11, the preserve will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

The land is spectacular: hilltops and canyons are filled with native grasses and wildflowers, distinctive rocky outcroppings, and live oaks. It is home to deer, foxes, bobcats, waterfowl and many raptors including golden eagles. A reservoir provides a home for muskrats, great blue herons and endangered California red-legged frogs.

From the ridge tops are views of the Napa marshlands, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Diablo and the Sierras.

The early inhabitants of Lynch Canyon were a tribe of Native Americans known as Patwins. They hunted deer, elk and bear on the property, and gathered acorns in late summer.

General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo held the first official title on the property, but when the U.S. took possession of California in the late 1840s his deed was disputed and the land was sold for \$1.25 per acre.

During the next century, landowners grazed cattle and sheep on the land. The



preserve continues to be used as a working cattle ranch operated by Ralph and Ron Azevedo.

The effort to protect Lynch Canyon, located northwest of Highway 80 between Vallejo and Fairfield, began in 1985 when the owners of the property planned a landfill for the site. After much public opposition to the plan, the Solano Land Trust purchased an option on the property and, over the next several years, secured purchase funding of \$4.2 million from a number of local, state and federal agencies. They acquired the land in 1996, but because funding was limited for land management, public access was only allowed through guided tours and outings.

From the beginning, the Solano Land Trust has worked to make Lynch Canyon open to the public. Before the gates could be opened however, trails had to be developed and funding secured for rangers and other personnel.

The Coastal Conservancy provided a \$240,000 grant for

trail building, resource conservation, and a staging area with parking and restroom facilities, and Solano County along with other public agencies are providing funds for rangers and volunteer coordination.

For information, visit [www.SolanoLandTrust.org](http://www.SolanoLandTrust.org) or call 432-0150.

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# PESTICIDES & WATER POLLUTION

Commonly used pesticides can be harmful to people, pets, and the environment. Part of the problem is the toxicity of some pesticides, but even more important is the sheer volume of pesticides used in this country every year.

Much of it finds its way to our water, air, and soil. *Studies show that the most commonly used pesticides are the ones most likely to cause water pollution.*

**Who applies all these chemicals?** You might think that farmers are mainly responsible for pesticide problems, but more than half of California pesticide use is in urban areas — by residents, home gardeners, and pest control professionals in and



around schools, businesses, and homes.

**What should you do if you have unwanted pesticides around the house?** If you have unwanted or leftover pesticides, do not pour them in *any* drain inside or outside your house. Instead, take them to a household hazardous waste facility. Here in Vallejo, residents can take unwanted pesticides,

herbicides, fungicides, pool chemicals and other unwanted toxics to the Vallejo-Napa Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 889 Devlin Road next to the transfer station. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The cost is free to residents; businesses should call (800) 984-9661 about fees.

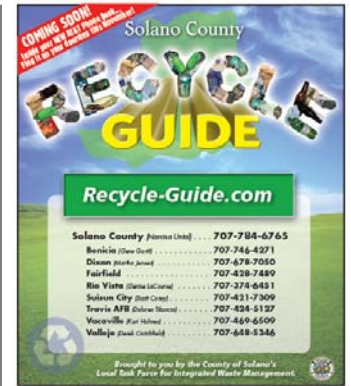
Remember that empty five-gallon or smaller containers with *no* liquid inside may be put in the trash.

Follow the suggestions for less-toxic pest control and pest prevention in the Our Water, Our World fact sheet series that can be found online at [www.OurWaterOurWorld.org](http://www.OurWaterOurWorld.org) or at the Vallejo Home Depot Garden Dept.

# GOT BUGS? GET ANSWERS!

Join healthy garden expert Annie Joseph and staff from Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District at the Vallejo Home Depot on Tuesday, May 15 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

We'll be in the Garden Center, handing out refreshments and answering questions about less-toxic home and garden products, and how to make your yard healthier for your family and pets. We hope to see you there!



## Tip of the Season

*Want to recycle used motor oil? Get rid of a fluorescent light bulb? Drop off excess yard waste? Find a home for a desk you no longer use?*

*No problem! The Solano County Recycle Guide is right at your fingertips in your AT&T Yellow Pages.*

*A bright green tab makes it easy for you to find and use. If you're near a computer, you can also access the information by visiting*

[WWW.RECYCLE-GUIDE.ORG](http://WWW.RECYCLE-GUIDE.ORG)



*Currents* is produced bimonthly by the Vallejo Sanitation & Flood Control District. For more information, visit [www.vsfcd.com](http://www.vsfcd.com) or call (707) 644-8949.