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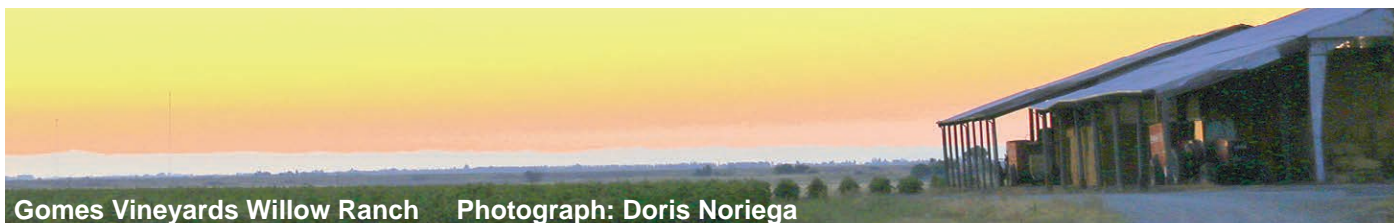
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Gomes Vineyards Willow Ranch Photograph: Doris Noriega

Editor's Corner

Mark Twain once said, "In the Spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours." In the same vein, this edition of *Discover Rio Vista* magazine features an eclectic mix of stories — just like our community.

Rio Vista is uniquely situated between several major wine producing areas including Lodi, Sacramento, Clarksburg and Napa, to name a few. Author and photographer Doris Noriega introduces two award-winning wineries right in our own backyard with strong ties to our local community — Gomes and Pressley Vineyards. Doris and Assistant Editor Jan Vick, another talented author and photographer, highlight two well known upriver wineries that are perfect for a picturesque day of wine tasting — Bogle and Herreria Wineries.

If you're more into the outdoors, Winter offers unprecedented birding opportunities. Jan Vick uncovers where to find geese, ducks, swans and especially Sandhill cranes that overwinter in the Delta. Doris Noriega showcases the Solano Land Trust, which conserves five unique properties including Rush Ranch, Lynch Canyon Open Space, Jepson Prairie Preserve, King-Swett Ranches and the Patwin Wortla Kode Dihi — all short drives from Rio Vista.

Continuing our series on Rio's music and arts scene, author Scott Brizel features the Delta OG Band — blues rockers that have been making music with Delta audiences since 2016. Author and photographer Robie Williams highlights the four "Artists of the Month" and their fascinating works of art in different genres featured by the downtown RioVision Gallery.

Hamilton is one of several long-time local family names such as Brann, McCormack, Drouin, and Bruning that pop up with regular frequency in historic Rio Vista lore. Local historian Phil Pezzaglia's story about the historic James Hamilton home is an interesting read about our fascinating history.

Lastly, Robie Williams introduces Archie Thompson, his wife Catherine, and his team of approximately forty volunteer litter pickers who have joined RioVision's efforts.

Enjoy this issue and the varied stories about the people, places and events that make up our unique community!

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Discover Rio Vista is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista. This magazine is a volunteer effort. Call RioVision at (707) 360-5244 to help!

See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision see riovistavision.com and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Photographer and Assistant Editor Jan Vick captures chardonnay grapes on the vine at Bogle vineyard.

In the past few years two long-time local families have started their own vineyards and are producing outstanding wines — right in our own backyard. Their wines have been served and showcased at several events in town.

Most wine connoisseurs identify wine by naming it after the principal grape variety. Both the Gomes and Pressley vineyards produce two of the these popular varietals, pinot noir and albariño.

Gomes Vineyards

Gomes Vineyards were founded by Warren Sr. and Julie Gomes in 2015. Although the Gomes' were among the first families to plant grapes in the Delta, the family has been farming here since the late 1800's. They settled in the Delta because of the fertile soil, temperate climate, and an abundance of water.

Gomes Vineyards grow several different types of grapes. Following their strong Portuguese heritage they planted 21 acres of albariño grapes on Andrus Island. The grapes' root stock originated from a region on the border of Spain and Portugal. This light-bodied wine has flavors of apple, pear, and citrus. Albariño is vibrant and flavorful but not sweet. It pairs well with pasta, fish, poultry, and a variety of appetizers. This wine comes highly recommended with the following review, "Albariño very chilled is the most refreshing wine I have ever tasted. It is a great cocktail wine and perfect for our weather any time of the year." Another viewer wrote, "I personally fell in love after the first sip!"

On their "Willow Ranch" here in Rio Vista they grow 105 acres of pinot noir grapes. Pinot noir is the world's most popular light bodied red wine. This wine has bright flavors of ripe cherries, wild strawberries, and crushed raspberries. Its aromas are spicy and flowery and finishes with a smooth and robust flavor. Their lightly colored pinot noir pairs nicely with many dishes such as salmon, chicken, pastas, and red meats.

It's the Delta's mild temperatures, sunny skies, cool breezes, and

oxygen-rich soil that help produce these quality grapes. Gomes Vineyards have won a number of awards. At the 2019 California State Fair their 2017 Pinot Noir was awarded a Bronze medal and in 2016 their Albariño 2015 was awarded a Silver medal at the International Women's Wine competition.

The distinctive wine label was named after "Stella," a close family friend who passed away. The jewelry on the dress mannequin pictured on the label was donated by family and friends as a tribute to this amazing woman who shared her love and life with all.

The Gomes family is thankful to the people in Rio Vista and the surrounding Delta for being so supportive, especially during 2020 and 2021. They feel close to the town, and enjoy the camaraderie and the opportunity to give back to the community. Locally their wines are sold at Lira's. Visit their website at gomesvineyards.com to find more information on ordering.

Pressley Vineyards

Pressley Vineyards was established in 2016 by Charlie and Brittany Hamilton. Five years ago, they took over the vineyards from Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz who had been farming it during the previous 8 years. The Hamilton family has farmed here since the 1860's. The name Pressley was chosen for the vineyards because it is Charlie's great-grandmother's maiden name, as well as his and his grandfather's middle names.

Charlie was born and raised in Rio Vista and is a fifth generation family member of farmers and ranchers in the area. Brittany was born and raised in St. Helena and learned how to make wine from her mother. Both Charlie and Brittany are college graduates who majored in agribusiness and fruit science. Their goal is to create quality wines while embracing the California Delta Heritage.

The Hamiltons also grow albariño grapes, which make a light bodied wine that is refreshing and crisp. On the palate it has the taste of lemon peel and grapefruit with a nice touch of acidity on the finish. Albariño pairs nicely with light dishes including seafood, Thai, Indian, and sushi.

The pinot noir is a mellow easy drinking varietal with the characteristics of dark fruit such as cherry and plum and has a very nice finish. It goes well with duck, chicken, grilled salmon, and lamb chops.

In 2019 Pressley Vineyards released a rosé with a beautiful peach hue and bright notes of strawberry on the nose. This rosé has a refreshing and acidic finish. It pairs nicely with cheeses, oysters or any lightly spiced meal.

In October 2021, they released their first vintage of Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. This is a full-bodied red wine that pairs well with red meats such as lamb and beef.

The rosé label won the Peoples' Choice Award at the 2020 PACK Wine and Packaging conference. At the Orange County Fair Commercial Wine Competition, they won Silver for the 2019 Albariño, the 2019 McCormack Ranch Rosé and the 2018 McCormack Ranch Pinot Noir.

Pressley wines are sold at Lira's and bought on their website. It is served at the Beer & Wine Bar in Lodi and the Vino Volo Restaurant at the Sacramento Airport.

Charlie and Brittany are especially grateful for the caring and supportive Rio Vista community and they want to continue making fine wines for years to come.

For more information and ordering go to pressleyvineyards.com.



Warren Sr. and Julie Gomes.



Charlie and Brittany Hamilton.

Writers: Doris Noriega
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Picturesque Upriver

The Sacramento River Delta is one of the richest agricultural areas in California, producing not just fruits, vegetables, nuts and grains — but also grapes. Rio Vista is ideally situated for a day trip to two upriver wineries with picturesque surroundings and outstanding wine.

Bogle Winery — Six Generations of Delta Roots

Writer and Photographer: Jan Vick

In the late 1870's Captain AJ Bogle and his nephew Samuel came to the Clarksburg area in the Delta, south of Sacramento along the Sacramento River. They farmed cherries, peaches and pears until losing their land during the Great Depression. After WW II the 4th generation, Warren Bogle, was able to purchase acreage in the Clarksburg area. Warren and his son Chris planted the first 20 acres of wine grapes in the Home Ranch in 1968, selling their grapes to other wineries. In 1978 the family released wine under their own label and constructed the original winery in 1979. In 1989 Chris and Patty Bogle began making fine wine in earnest. The grape acreage reached 1,000

acres before Chris' death in 1997, and is now 1,900 acres. Patty took over all winery management and built a core team of staff, many of whom are still at the winery. The 6th generation of Warren, Jody and Ryan Bogle returned to the ranch to ultimately take over the entire wine making and tasting room management. Warren became the vineyard manager, Jody returned in 1999 to manage the new tasting room and customer relations, and Ryan returned in 2007 to work in finances. Since then Bogle wines have received many honors and awards for superior wines. Their fine wines are well known, and are found in many stores and restaurants throughout the United States, and in other countries.

The Bogle team is dedicated not only to producing excellent wines, but to sustainable wine growing as well. In 2018 they received the Green Medal Leader Award, recognizing a vineyard that demonstrates environmentally sound, socially equitable and economically viable sustainability practices.

They are a certified California green winery; 96% of all their grapes are certified green.

The Bogle tasting room is located along Elk Slough south of Clarksburg among the Chardonnay grapes. It is housed in a rustic barn with the reception area and shop on the lower level. Wine tasting is on the upper level by reservation. The Home Ranch Guided Tasting offers seating for groups of one to six on Thursday through Sunday. Participants choose their individual tasting flight of five wines from Bogle's extensive wine list.

Purchase a charcuterie box to add a distinctive elegance to the tasting experience. The Picnic Experience is also available from Thursday through Sunday for groups of one to six. Guests relax in the vineyard at a reserved table, bringing their own food and choosing two bottles from the traditional wine list. Six glasses, a corkscrew and a tote bag are provided to take home. Be aware that all seating is outdoors.

While most of the wines are from grapes grown in their Clarksburg vineyards, some grapes are carefully chosen from other areas. For instance, Old Vine Zinfandel from 60-80 year-old vines may come from Oakley, Lodi or Amador County. Phantom Red Blend has received high points in professional tastings. It is made from selected grapes from around California and is 50.5% petit sirah and 49.5% zinfandel. Phantom Chardonnay, which has also earned high points, is from Clarksburg grapes, is barrel fermented, aged for 16 months, and hand stirred every two weeks.

A visit to Bogle Winery, located at 37783 County Road 144, Clarksburg, is a delicious way to spend an afternoon. From South River Road take Road 142 from the south or Road 141 from the north.

Heringer Estates — Seven Generations in Clarksburg

Writer: Doris Noriega

Heringer Estates is a family run wine business that has been actively involved in the community of Clarksburg for seven generations. In 1868 John Heringer immigrated from Holland to the Sacramento River Delta. The mild climate, sunny skies, fertile soil, and an abundance of water were perfect conditions for raising cattle and growing crops such as alfalfa, sugar beets, tomatoes, and corn.

In the 1970s the family began growing grapes and now produce over 26 varieties on 650 acres of vineyards. They have the following types of wine products for sale: sparkling, white, red, dessert, canned, reserve, and wine slushies. Some of the most popular varieties are chardonnay, petite sirah and malbec.

On the Heringer family estate, enjoy wine tasting at the picturesque Heritage Barn, a Wine Blending Experience for four to six where guests learn how to make their own blends, and group parties for birthdays, showers, weddings, and other celebrations. Find their grapes and wines at local farmers markets in Sacramento, Davis and Elk Grove. Purchase their wine online as well.

An important aspect of Heringer Estates is the family's dedication to the community and to the environment. Their philosophy is to keep the environment healthy for future generations and for the Delta itself. "Certified Sustainable" through Protected Harvest, the family uses ecological



The gift shop at Bogle.



The view of the vineyard from the Bogle picnic area.

Wineries

sustainable practices that are not harmful to the environment or deplete natural resources. These practices maintain the longevity and continuance of all the resources needed to produce healthy and flavorful grapes. Their vineyards are herbicide free, surrounded by native plants, have rotated cover crops that attract bees, and have owl boxes (homes) throughout the property. Owls are important because they eat harmful insect pests. Heringer works with the Wildlife Care Association of Sacramento in their fun yearly owl release program that introduces rehabilitated owls back into the wild. As a special



The newly rebuilt barn at Heringer Estates.



The view of the vineyards at Heringer Estates.

feature there is the "Little Hoots Nature Walk" along Elk Slough where guests enjoy views of the vineyards and observe the owls and other Delta wildlife.

Heringer wines have won numerous awards over the years such as Gold Ribbons at the California State Fair and Orange County Fair. They are especially proud of their recent gold medal winner, "Purple Thread." The label name of Purple Thread came from a local thrift store in Clarksburg where one of the aunts and grandmother volunteered. The thrift shop has closed but the family bought the building, moved it to their property, and have plans for it to honor the family legacy and commitment to the community. Proceeds from the sale of Purple Thread benefits local organizations that have enriched the lives of the people in Clarksburg. The winery, located at 37375 Netherlands Road in Clarksburg, is open daily 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.



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Finding the Winter

Writer & Photographer: Jan Vick

Winter birding is excellent throughout the Central Valley as birds fly in for winter security and food. Birding is especially rewarding at two preserves and one protected island close to Rio Vista. Many geese, ducks, swans and especially Sandhill cranes overwinter in the Delta, an important stop on the Pacific Flyway. View winter birds from October to early February. Be sure to take your camera and binoculars or birding scope.

Cosumnes River Preserve

A very popular place to see birds all year is the Cosumnes River Preserve. Winter offers an additional variety of migratory birds spending the winter in a milder climate. The Preserve consists of over 50,000 acres of wildlife habitat and agricultural lands owned by public and private partners. It was initiated in 1984 by the Nature Conservancy, which purchased a conservation easement on 85 acres of valley oak riparian forest. The preserve was officially established in 1987 following the purchase of an additional 1,400 acres. The Preserve is located along the Cosumnes River and includes floodplains and riparian habitat, buffered by several agricultural operations.

The Preserve offers walking trails of various lengths, a boardwalk into the marsh and a Visitor Center open seasonally on weekends. The longer trails curve through a natural oak woodland and by the Cosumnes River. The River Walk is a 3.3 mile loop beginning at the visitor center. It is open sunrise to sunset year round and parking is available at the visitor center. It is a dirt trail subject to closure during flooding. The Wetlands Walk is a 1 mile loop that is paved and ADA compliant. Start at the visitor center or near the boardwalk parking. Bird watching is a favorite activity at the Preserve and there are several lists available through the web site to assist in discovering more than 250 species of birds as well as lists of plants, mammals, fish etc. An excellent place to see many ducks, birds, geese and cranes is to take the boardwalk to its end, stopping along the way to enjoy the large expanse of natural and winter-flooded marsh. There is a parking lot at the beginning of the boardwalk. A nature trail map that outlines the walking trails is available online.

For an interesting side trip, take Desmond Road left off Franklin Blvd before you get to the Preserve. Although there are berms, you see many birds in the neighboring fields. Walking on the berms or in the fields is prohibited. When there is sufficient water in the river, canoeing and kayaking

are popular sports along the Middle Slough, Cosumnes River, and the Mokelumne River. A map is available online with take out points highlighted. To get to the Preserve take I-5 north from Hwy 12 to the Twin Cities Road exit, turn right to Franklin Blvd, turn right again to the Preserve. For a more scenic journey, take Hwy 160 north from Hwy 12 through Walnut Grove and Locke to Twin Cities Road and turn right, past I-5 to Franklin Blvd.

For more information see cosumnes.org.

Staten Island

Staten Island, a large agricultural area south of Walnut Grove, was purchased by the Nature Conservancy a number of years ago and offers prime viewing of winter birds, including Canada geese, swans, Sandhill cranes and other ducks and water birds. It is located on Walnut Grove Road, which is accessed either from the Georgiana Slough Bridge (turn right at the east end) or from I-5 N, taking the Thornton Road exit and turning left (the road becomes the Walnut Grove Road west of I-5). The land is still farmed, generally corn. After the corn is harvested the land is bermed and flooded so the wildlife has safe winter haven. Staten Island Road is a dead end, and the public is allowed only so far. The end of the public access is well marked. Part way down the island the asphalt ends and there is a gravel/dirt road until the end of public access. There is little parking along the edge, and walking into the fields is prohibited. There is a large information board at the entrance outlining the restrictions. View the crowds of Canada geese and many tundra swans and snow geese. The Sandhill cranes are

generally along the edges. Often clouds of birds of all kinds are seen flying in large numbers and coming in to land. Late in the afternoon there are beautiful views across the fields to Mount Diablo. From the Cosumnes Preserve, add Staten Island to your excursion easily by continuing south on Franklin Blvd, continuing beyond where it turns into Thornton Road and then Thornton Road takes a sharp left at a gas station. Turn right on Walnut Grove Road. Turn right under I-5 and continue west on



Crane dancing at Staten Island.



White faced geese flying at Staten Island.



Incoming cranes at Cosumnes Preserve.

Birds

Walnut Grove Road for about 3.5 miles. Just past New Hope Landing, watch for the Staten Island Road sign and turn left.

Woodbridge Ecological Reserve

Also known as the Isenberg Crane Reserve

This reserve is part of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife plan to establish and maintain reserves to conserve habitats, particularly those that protect and restore rare and threatened native species. This 353 acre reserve provides freshwater marsh

wintering habitat not only for Sandhill cranes but for Canada geese, snow geese, tundra swans and other birds. There are two sections of the reserve, on the north and south side of Woodbridge Rd. west of I-5. The north side of the reserve is accessed only through a docent-led tour during the times the cranes are in residence. Access the website to find out how to reserve tours. They were



Swans at Staten Island.



Swans, geese and ducks at Staten Island.

canceled during the pandemic but started again in October; check the website for availability. There is parking at the south section and a fenced and elevated viewing area about 2.5 miles from I-5. At sunset, many cranes fly in for the night, a beautiful sight. Viewing isn't the easiest, unless you are tall, but there are lots of birds and well worth the trip.

For more information see wildlife.gov/woodbridgeecologicalreserve.

Finding birds during winter is easy and enjoyable. These three areas provide many days of interesting hikes and photographs.

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Best of Solano County

The Jewels of Solano County

Writer & Photographer: Doris Noriega

Would you like to go back in time? Are you seeking a quiet refuge to enjoy nature and get away from it all? Or do you crave scenic views as you breathe in a bit of fresh air?

The Solano Land Trust was established in 1986 as a consortium of major stake holders such as open space advocates, landowners, ranchers, land developers and government agencies. Their mission "is to protect land, to ensure a healthy environment, keep ranching and farming families on their properties, and inspire a love of the land." The Trust conserves five unique properties including Rush Ranch, Lynch Canyon Open Space, Jepson Prairie Preserve, King-Swett Ranches and the Patwin Worrtla Kode Dihi. These jewels provide an abundance of recreational and educational opportunities.

Rush Ranch

Rush Ranch, at 3521 Grizzly Island Road, off Highway 12, two miles south of Suisun City is possibly the most well-known of the five properties. Situated on the northeastern edge of the Suisun Marsh, Rush Ranch stretches over 2,070 acres of rolling grasslands and marshes. On the ranch property are historical buildings, barns, stables, corrals with horses, a black smith shop, a nature museum, a visitor center, and several trails. A lovely picnic area nestles in a fragrant eucalyptus grove next to the barn.

Heading out on the South Pasture Trail you pass an "outdoor museum" filled with old tractors, trucks, farm equipment, and a windmill. A comical outhouse with a moon carved in the door adds a bit of humor. But no worries, the museum building has clean modern-day facilities. The easy 1.6-mile hike is kid friendly, but unfortunately, no dogs are allowed. This trail offers a wonderful opportunity to bird watch and to view cattle out in the pasture. Cross the marsh on a newly built bridge and follow a slight climb to a viewing area. Sit for a while on the benches and take in the view of Mount Diablo and the surrounding hills.

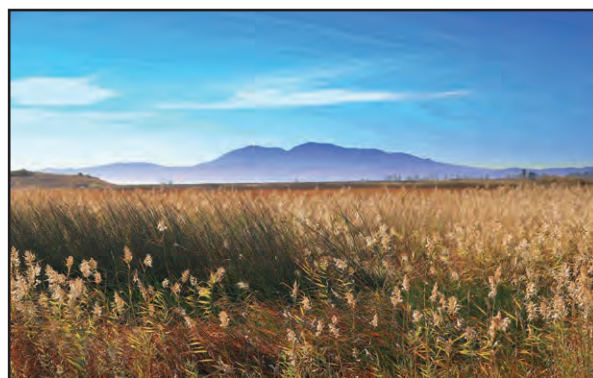
While there, seek out the grinding rock, where corn, nuts, and herbs were ground by the Patwin Native Americans who summered on this land for thousands of years. A sub tribe of the Patwins, the Suisunes, hunted grizzly bears and tule elk. They fished in the Suisun slough and gathered plants for food and medicine. Back in the 1800s it was estimated that over 2,000 native peoples lived in what is now Solano County.



The tool shed at Rush Ranch.



New foal Santiago and mare Minuet at Rush Ranch.



View of Mt. Diablo from South Pasture Trail at Rush Ranch.



View of Suisun Marsh from Marsh Trail at Rush Ranch.

The Rush family operated this ranch for most of the 20th century. To the benefit of the ecology of this environment, they did not dike or alter the tidal action on their property, leaving the Suisun Marsh as one of the richest habitats for hundreds of species of plants and animals in North America. This is a brackish tidal marsh where seawater and freshwater mix, providing a unique habitat for a wide variety of fish, birds, and plants to thrive. These include several species that are now endangered such as the salt marsh harvest mouse, the Suisun ornate shrew, Delta smelt, California clapper rail, Suisun song sparrow, and the American White pelican. In spring the land abounds with yellow wildflowers, red-tailed hawks soaring through the sky, and coyotes scurrying between the hills. And for all you fishermen out there, the marsh supports 80% of the state's commercial salmon fishery, providing important tidal rearing areas for juvenile fish.

The Marsh Trail is just as rich in opportunities to view wildlife. This slightly longer hike leads past the horse corrals to a viewing area on a hill and then loops down and around to the marsh water. Through the tule rushes see fishing boats skimming along and canoes leisurely floating by. There are over 230 bird species at Rush Ranch. To name a few, there are egrets, hawks, herons, cormorants, red winged black birds, and golden eagles. In addition, keep an eye out for many small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Rush Ranch offers a variety of environmental educational classes and hosts family days that include arts and crafts, music and dancing, guided marsh hikes, tool making at the black smith shop, and Native Americrafts.

What really makes Rush Ranch unique is Access Adventure, a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded by Michael Muir, great grandson of the famous conservationist John Muir. This program enriches the lives of people with disabilities and other under served members of our community, providing outdoor recreation, open space access, education, and therapy through a partnership with specially trained Stonewall Sport horses. Participants ride horses and drive carriages. This premier therapeutic driving program serves hundreds of participants each year. There is also a wide variety of volunteer opportunities on the ranch for people with equestrian experience, education, fundraising, computers, and trade skills such as carpentry and electrical.

Rush Ranch is open Monday through Sunday 8:00 am to dusk. Go to solanolandtrust.org/protectedlands for events and activities at the ranch.

Lynch Canyon Open Space

Another protected property, Lynch Canyon Open Space, has 10 miles of trails. Enjoy hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, and birdwatching. The habitats here range from rolling



Lynch Canyon Middle and South Valley Trail.



Close up of California Goldfield flowers at Jepson Prairie.



Jepson Prairie grasslands dotted with "mima mounds."



Jepson Prairie grasslands covered in "Alkali Milkvetch" and Goldfields wildflowers.

grasslands to the riparian stretch along Lynch Creek. Besides the grazing lands for cattle, there are Buckeye trees, oaks, and meadows. These diverse areas provide homes to deer, foxes, bobcats, waterfowl, raptors, and eagles. In the spring and early summer, the preserve is a visual delight of wildflowers such as Johnny jump-ups, California poppies, milkmaids, yarrow, and lupine. As an added treat there is a small reservoir, home to muskrats, blue herons, and amphibians. At the ridge tops you are treated to panoramic views of the Coastal Ranges, San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, the Delta, the Sierra Nevada, and Carquinez Strait.

Lynch Canyon is open to the public year-round, Fridays through Mondays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. On occasion due to extreme weather conditions or other safety concerns it is closed. Check solanocounty.com/parks for announcements or closures.

Jepson Prairie Preserve

Jepson Prairie Preserve, located ten miles south of Dixon on Hwy 113, offers a complete change of pace and experience.

This nearly flat preserve explodes with color during its spring wildflower display. There are over 400 species of plants here. Most of the year, however, the prairie is dry and dormant. The preserve is most famous for its vernal pools, which are seasonal wetlands that occur in our Mediterranean type of climate found along the Californian coast. The pools provide habitats for the California tiger salamander and invertebrate species such as fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. In addition, it is a stopping place for migratory birds. Use the self-guided trail area on your own any day of the year or register to join a docent-led guided tour in the spring.

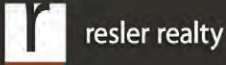
Check the Solano Land Trust Events Calendar for announcements and scheduled tours.

Continued on page 20.



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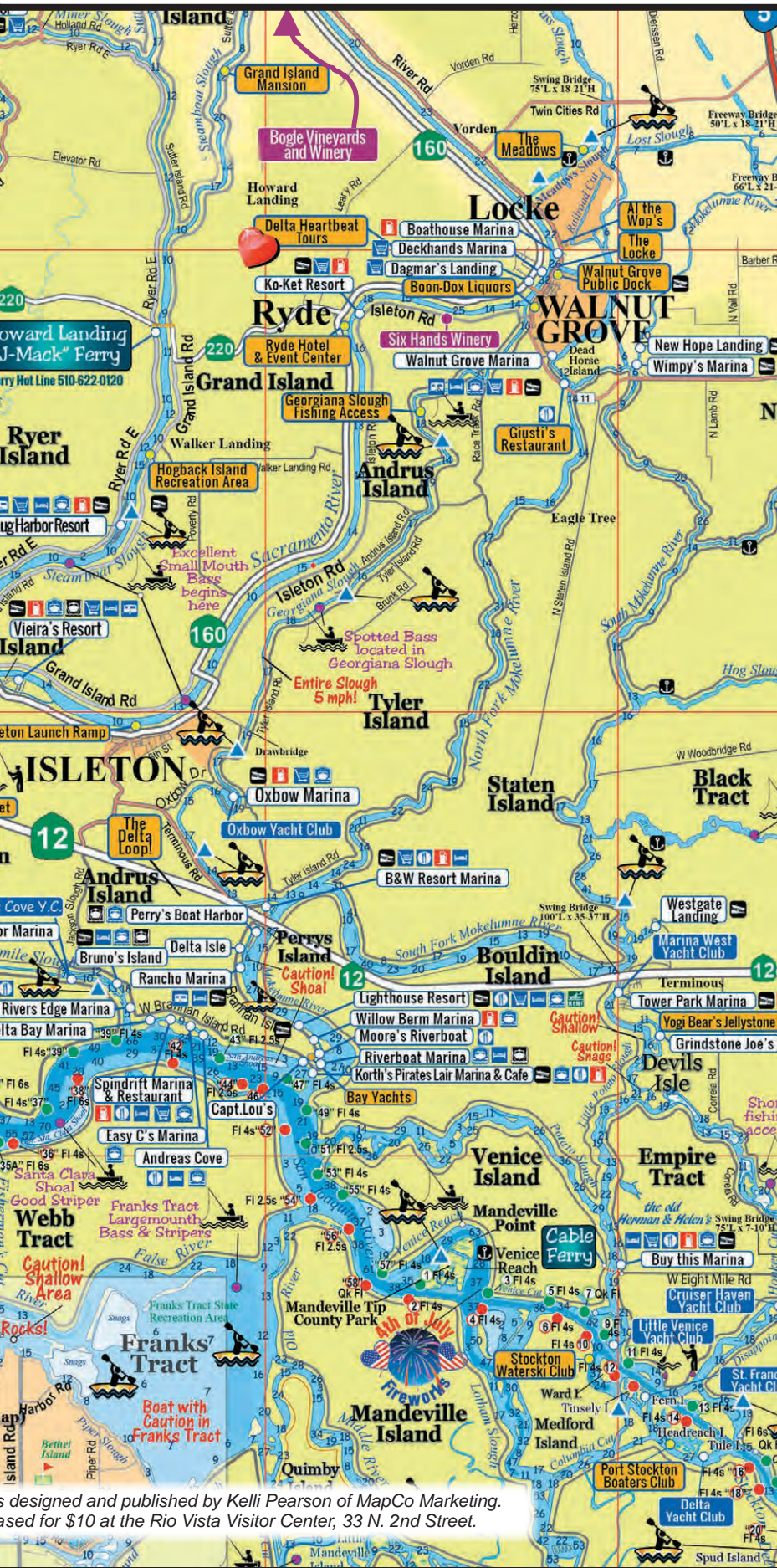
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Delta OG *The Delta's Homegrown*

Named after the pet name they gave to their favored homegrown strain of cannabis, the Delta OG's ("original gangsters") are about feeling good and having fun.

Drummer Barry Sibert reflects, "Our most cherished shows are the ones where everyone had a good time; the shows where our families and friends were able to come out and support us. The shows where we feel like we made a connection within the band and with the audience."

The band has been making connections with Delta audiences since 2016 with a line-up including

Though the band also write and sporadically perform their original compositions, their live shows mostly consist of crowd-pleasing covers. But don't expect to hear carbon copies of the original artists' recordings. Barry explains, "We make every song our own while still paying respect to the original. If we aren't having fun, then the audience probably isn't either, so we just try to enjoy ourselves and not overthink it."

Other ways of keeping things fun and fresh for themselves and their audiences include maintaining a large repertoire (their arsenal includes about eight hours of songs) so that if they wish, they play a completely different show from night to night. They also eschew preplanned set-lists as such both interfere with their connection to the audience and undermine creative spontaneity, which is often among the highlights of their shows.

The band is pleased whether their audiences are dancing, screaming, or listening closely with their eyes closed. "We try to play a range of genres so there's something in our set that everyone enjoy. As long as we have an audience, we're happy."



The band performing at a recent event.

current and former Delta residents Rich Peters, Guitar; Sean McCobb, bass; Barry Sibert, drums; and Michael Zavala, vocals. For gigs at larger venues, the extended band includes trumpeter Raymond Peters, Keyboardist Mike Scott and Rhythm Guitarist Jason Taylor.

The Delta OG's cite as influences classic blues and blues rockers from Elmore James and Freddie King to Rolling Stones and Eric Clapton to Carlos Santana and Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Regarding doing creative work in Rio Vista, Barry told us, "The Delta is unique in that it has given us multiple platforms to jam and allowed us to practice as much as we want, whenever we want and as loud as we want. Something that we don't take for granted as we have all lived in bigger cities."

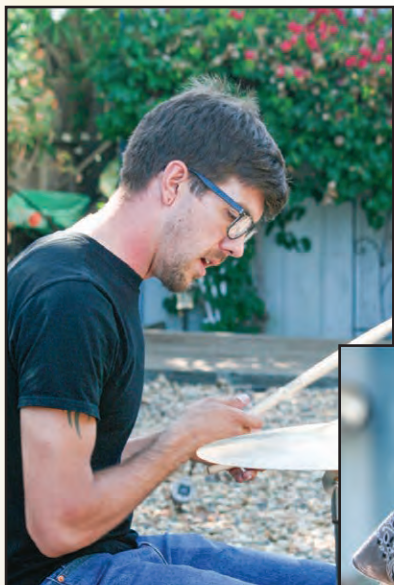
Barry adds, "We have played so many of the waterfront bar/restaurants in the area and we have always enjoyed the atmosphere that those spots provide. The sunshine, the water, people arriving by boat, we really enjoy the year-round summertime vibe of Rio Vista audiences who are always ready to have a good time."

Contact the Delta OG's at DeltaOGBand@gmail.com, or search for "Delta OG" for their YouTube channel, Facebook page or website.

Band

Writer: Scott Brizel

Blues Rockers



Drummer Barry Sibert.



Vocalist Michael Zavala.



Bassist Sean McCobb.



Guitarist Rich Peters.

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JAMES HAMILTON HOME

Writer: Phil Pezzaglia

In 1910 James Hamilton hired Jens Peter Mortensen, a prominent residential builder in Rio Vista, to build a beautiful Colonial, Revival Style home at 412 South Fourth Street. That style home became a popular nationalistic architectural style movement in the United States towards the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century. The style was popular with architects, builders, and property owners alike.

The home is situated in what is known as the "Hamilton Addition" of town and was originally located one lot over to the north. In 1939 when the Rio Vista High School was expanding and ready to erect a new building, the contractor moved the house south, across the alley to its present location.

The house served as the family home for James and Frances Hamilton, and their nine children, one of which, James Jr., would one day become mayor of Rio Vista.

During the 1920s and 1930s the neighborhood was bursting with children. Other families within the neighborhood were the McCormack's, Stewart's, Pezzaglia's and the Emigh's. Many of those former children remember the fun that they had helping make homemade root beer in the basement of the Hamilton home.

JAMES HAMILTON

To get a genuine appreciation of the style and design of the house, one must learn first about James Hamilton and his wife and an understanding of how the prominent couple and their families fit into Rio Vista's history. There were three Hamilton generations with the first name of James: James (b. 1845), his son James William (b. 1879); and his son James William Jr. (b. 1912).

James came to Rio Vista in the late 1860s and began farming, just outside of town in the Montezuma Hills. During the 1870s Rio Vista had two James Hamilton's. To avoid confusion, people referred to one of the James' as "Dobe Jim" while the other, who was the father of the owner of the Hamilton house, was known as "Tule Jim," because he farmed in the tule area just outside of town. However, Tule Jim's son, James was not as interested in farming. Instead, he sought employment in town. He found employment as both the secretary and the cashier at the Bank of Rio Vista, a position that he held from 1905 until 1920. After

leaving the bank he devoted his talents to writing insurance policies and auditing books for many local clients.

James was extremely active in civic affairs. He served on the City Council and was a Trustee for the Rio Vista Joint Union Grammar School and the Rio Vista Joint Union High School. In fact, he was instrumental in securing the services of Peter G. Jacobs, the first principal of the grammar school, which opened in 1918.

THE HISTORIC HOME

In 1910 J. P. Mortensen constructed the 3,780 sq. ft Colonial Revival Style two-story home with detached garage on a large lot on the west side of Fourth Street. The two-story home has four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, living room, formal dining room, kitchen, and basement. The formal dining

room has cherry wood wainscoting with built-in china cabinet and the original refrigerator. This is one of only two homes in town that still have the vintage icebox refrigerator.

The first-floor measures 1,240 sq. ft., the second floor, 1,150 sq. ft., the basement 1,120 sq. ft., with a detached garage measuring 576 sq. ft. and a Quonset hut.

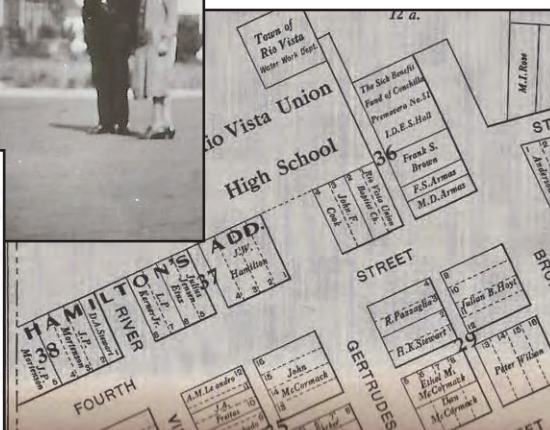
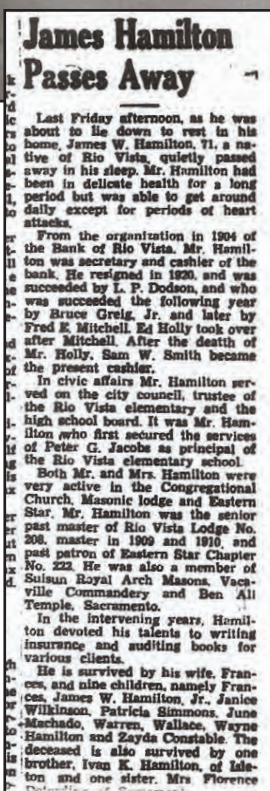
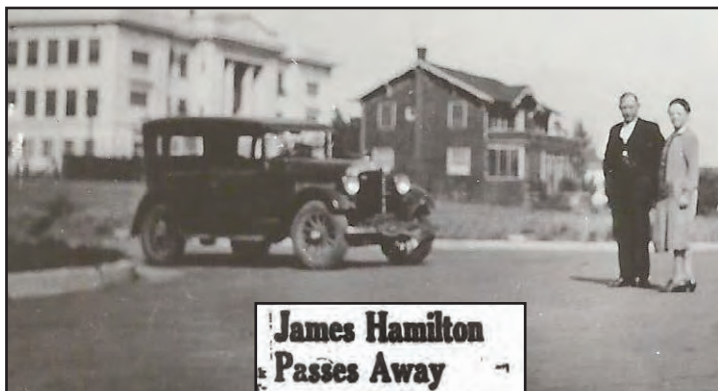
FORMER OWNERS

Mrs. Margaret Hamilton died in 1946 while Mr. James William Hamilton died at his home in 1950. After the Hamilton family moved, there were several owners, including: Woodruff (1980s), McCormack (1990s), Walsh (2000-2009), and Williams (2009-current). Most remember the home by the name of the people that lived there.

Each previous owner injected their own decorating style and improvements to the home. During the 1980s the kitchen remodel included a drop ceiling and fluorescent lighting. A look that was quite popular during the 1980s - 90s. Later owners remodeled in a way more reminiscent to the home's classic, original style. Although to keep up with present day amenities, those owners constructed a home theatre and landscaped the backyard, including a built-in pool with waterfall, fountain, and gazebo.

THE CURRENT HOME

Although 111-years-old, the Hamilton home is remarkably well preserved, which is a testament to both the artisanship of the original builder J. P. Mortensen and the love for the home that each one of its owners have had for it.





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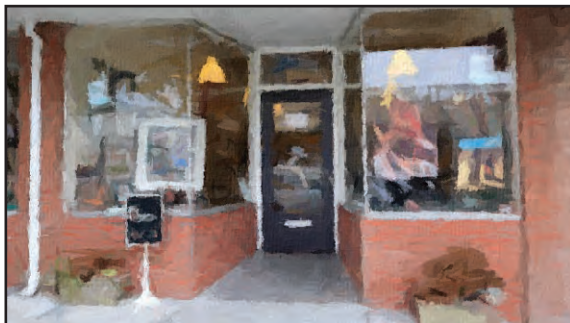
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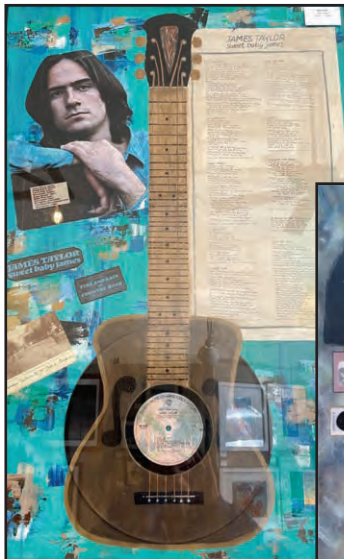
Gallery Artists

Writer & Photographer: Robie Williams

The RioVision Gallery has approximately 20 artists of the Delta who show their work. There are many fascinating works of art in different genres. The artists also volunteer to work in the Gallery. Each month the RioVision Gallery highlights an artist and their work. A reception on the third Saturday of the month gives everyone a chance to meet the featured artist, view their work and mingle.

January – Kris Hall

The Artist of the Month in January is Kris Hall. When she was young, she didn't do well in art and didn't dream of becoming an artist. As an adult, however, Kris aspired to be a Rock and Roll artist so she started modeling and then became



a member of a Rock and Roll band. She made her dream come true, she was an artist! However, due to circumstances beyond her control Kris had to leave the world she had come to



love. Kris shifted gears and stepped into the business world. She became a banker, and later a consumer lender and a mortgage broker. During 2007/08 financial crisis, her mother needed help, so Kris became an Uber driver for its flexible hours. As her mother needed more health care, Kris moved into her home in Rio Vista. Having an entrepreneurial spirit, she knew she needed to make money. She wrote three books including *Mocha Secret* and *Niches to Riches* under her married name Kris Holms and self-published them. She also wrote two children's books that she has yet to publish.

In 2018 Kris began watching YouTube painting lessons, developing a style of her own. She was surprised by the many positive reactions to her art. While she tried flowers, nature scenes and pottery, it just didn't fuel her artistic passion. Kris says, "I found that passion in large canvases, working in abstract art and collage tributes of musicians!" Her large canvases include Rock and Roll artists Elvis Presley and Neil Young, country star Johnny Cash and Reggae icon Bob Marley. Look forward to a work she starts soon on a 4' x 6' canvas!

The Artist Reception for Kris is January 15th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

February – Diana Peugh

February highlights Diana Peugh who uses cattail gourds as her canvas. In 2002 Diana and some friends were looking for a way to raise money to restore the historic Shiloh Church near Birds Landing. One of her friends, a 2nd and 3rd grade teacher, suggested they decorate and sell gourds because if her students could do it, they should be able to! For three years the friends got together every August and started their gourds and then sold them at the Pumpkin Patch in October. After completing the project, Diana found that she enjoyed the time working, carving and decorating the gourds and continued on. Diana finds that working at her desk with the gourds encourages her artistic side. While Diana may start with a specific



idea, sometimes the gourds lead her down an alternate path and she ends up with something quite different.

Diana even tried growing her own gourds. However, this turned into a longer process than she anticipated. The gourds must be planted, watered,

grown, picked, soaked, dried, cleaned and this process takes about a year and half. She found that buying them enabled her to continue her work easily.

Diana often burns the wood of the gourd; however, some are gouged by hand, dyed with inks and finished with gourd wax or an acrylic coat. Her distinctive designs reflect native art that resonates with the history of gourds as one of the oldest crops around the world that have been used in common tasks like hauling water and cooking. Diana creates musical instruments, bird feeders, rattles, drums and bird houses. Diana says, "Sometimes, it's hard to choose to sell a particular gourd as I become emotionally attached to it."

See Diana's work at the Artist Reception February 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

of the Month

March – Linda Fead

March brings us Linda Fead who specializes in felting. Linda got her start in felting when she and her friend Amy Schmidt (curator of the Gallery) stopped into Fool Crow, a vintage store in Rio Vista. They happened upon felted soap while browsing and Linda thought, “Hey I can do that!” Linda started making felted soap, which is simply a bar of soap wrapped in a felt covering. The felt gently exfoliates the skin, makes the soap last longer and makes it easier to hold onto!



Felt is considered the first textile. Ancient stories claim that it was discovered by accident on Noah’s ark when the animals shed their fur and it mixed with water at the bottom of the vessel where the animals feet created it.



Linda has been felting for approximately six years. She primarily works in needle felting, watercolor felting and wet felting. Needle felting uses a barbed needle to poke fibers into wool. This catches the fibers on the barbs turning the wool into felt. Watercolor felting uses felt and watercolors to make pictures. Wet felting combines layers of wool into a flat piece of felt fabric that is shaped into garments, home furnishings, hats and scarves.

The process of punching the needle into the wool fascinates Linda and she stays in her studio for hours, creating the felt and fashioning it into works of art. Her felt artwork includes felted animals, pictures and even vases. She also enjoys sharing felting techniques with new students of the art. She teaches how to make a vase from wet felting in her next class.

In addition to felting, Linda also works in watercolor, oils and acrylics. All of Linda’s talents are on display at the Gallery.

Stop by to meet Linda and view her art at the March 19 reception from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

April – Kathie Boissiere

Kathie Boissiere is the featured artist in April. Kathie started her art journey early in life. Both of her parents and her sister are artistic and they encouraged Kathie to pursue art as did her collectors later on.

She started out in oils and then as a self-taught watercolorist. Her favorite mediums are watercolor, acrylic, pastel and collage. Kathie’s work portrays a story so she uses the medium to help her tell the story.

Seaweed, grass or shells are incorporated in some of her collages to complete the story.

Kathie says she paints because it is what she loves and who she is. She is inspired by color, line shape and movement, independent of any subject matter. She says, “It is endlessly fascinating to put down a color or shape on the paper and then let the painting tell me what to do next.” She is hopeful that the results of this technique leave room for the viewer to find their own story in the art. Recent work is often an abstraction of these elements.

Her work is found in private collections internationally and has received many awards. Kathie’s work is also exhibited by a number of galleries and art reps in California. She frequently participates in multiple group and solo art shows in the Bay Area, in the Wine Country and at Lake Tahoe. She is also a signature member of California Watercolor Association. Her work is currently shown at kervingalleries.com, artliaisons.com and the RioVision Gallery. Kathie also welcomes commissioned pieces.

The reception for Kathie is April 16th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

The Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 to 4:00 pm. While you’re there checking out the artwork, don’t forget to buy See’s Candies including new sugar free options.



King-Swett Ranches

The King-Swett Ranches cover nearly 4,000 acres spread out over the southwestern corner of Solano County. The Ranches offer panoramic views of the Suisun Marsh all the way to the Sierras and back again to Mt. Diablo. On the western side of the Swett Ranch see the Golden Gate Bridge and Mount Tamalpais. Views include the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, and the Napa River. These properties are made up of steep hilly grasslands, oak woodlands, and riparian corridors that provide habitat for many rare and endangered species. Wildflowers offer a safe landing site for rare butterflies and the ponds are homes to the California red-legged frog. Birdwatchers can sight golden eagles, Northern harriers, owls, and Swainson's, Cooper's and red-tailed hawks. Birder's can also spot Northern orioles, towhees, Western bluebirds, black phoebes, and western meadowlarks. Hikers can view black-tailed deer, coyotes, and ground squirrels on the many trails.



Lake Trail Loop at Rockville Hills.

Docent-led hikes on the King-Swett Ranches occur the first Saturday of each month and there are special opportunities to visit the space throughout the year. Use the Solano Land Trust Activity Schedule to register online or call (707) 432-0150 Monday through Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park

Lastly, known as the "Gateway to Solano's Western Hills," is the Patwino Worrtla Kodoi Dihi Open Space Park, formerly Rockville Trails Preserve. As the new name implies, the land was originally inhabited by the Patwin Native Americans. Much of what you see today are the same forests, rugged hills, and high ridges that Native Americans saw hundreds of years ago.

The preserve boasts 1,500 beautiful acres of grasslands, and oak woodlands with a dense mixed broadleaf forest. Rich in biological and diverse habitats, the preserve offers an abundance of wildlife and plant life. There are 20 intersecting trails, mostly designated as easy to moderate. A few trails are difficult, but the views are worth the effort. Enjoy hiking, mountain biking, picnicking, and birdwatching. On the center plateau of the park, a lovely lake attracts migrating birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Be sure to visit one of these five beautiful and unique preserves, truly the "Jewels of Solano County."

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Event Calendar

Friday, Jan 28, 5:00 PM American Legion Crab Feast

Veteran's Memorial Building
610 St. Francis Way

Enjoy delicious all you can eat fresh cooked crab. Purchase tickets at the hall. For more info contact Sue Griggs at suemgriggs@me.com.



Sat, Feb 5, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Clothing Exchange

St. Joseph Church Hall
Corner of California and Fourth Streets

Bring your child's outgrown clothing to the St. Brigid's Episcopal Church semi-annual Children's Clothing Exchange sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph's, St. Ingrid's, and Walnut Grove Community Church to exchange for free usable garments. Please, children's clothing only! For more info, contact Wendy Ross at (509) 961-3198 or daveandwendyross@gmail.com.



Sat, Feb 19, 2:00 pm Daub'n for Donations

Rio Vista Moose Lodge, 11 N Front St.

Save this date for a fun day of Bingo to benefit Rio Vista CARE. Win Bingo prizes or a 50/50 raffle! Purchase \$20 tickets at the Rio Vista CARE building at 628 Montezuma St or call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more info.

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Sat, Apr 2, 11:30 am Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front St.

Come on down the rabbit hole for our 2nd Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Rio Vista Museum! Don't miss out on this fun event.

Raffle prizes, photo booth, games and delicious food. Saturday, April 2nd at 11:30 am. Tickets are limited, so act fast! Contact Renee Tingey at (707) 374-2455 or buy tickets at Rio Vista Muffler. If you have any questions, please contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191.

Any time Self-Guided Walking Tour

Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front St.

This booklet is available for \$10 at the Rio Vista Museum. Take a self-guided street-by-street walking tour of a selection of Rio Vista's historic homes. This booklet contains an easy-to-follow guide showing the locations of the historic homes as well as a brief history of each one.



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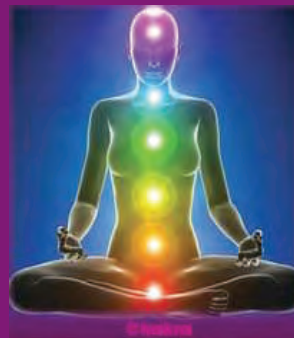
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Litter Pickers Join RioVision Efforts


Writer: Robie Williams Photographer: Archie Thompson

This issue introduces Archie Thompson, his wife Catherine, and his team of approximately forty volunteer litter pickers!

The Litter Picker Program fits perfectly into RioVision's mission statement, "Joining together to build, revitalize, energize and beautify the Rio Vista Community."

He was pleasantly surprised at their offer to provide trash bags, litter grabbers and to pick-up the trash they collect and dispose of it.

On June 26th Archie, Catherine and their Litter Picker group went out to the Waterfront Promenade recreation area and picked up litter. Archie reached out to RioVision with ideas on how to improve the Waterfront Promenade litter issue. His first suggestion, conveniently locate mono filament line disposal sites for the fishermen. Archie said cast off fishing line accounted for most of the litter they found, with cigarette butts a close second.



Then RioVision and Archie got together about places that could use their attention. At the next Litter Picker event on July 31st, the group picked up 25 bags of litter and debris at the western entrance to town, the small triangle of land at the junction of Main Street

and Hwy 12. September 4th found Archie and crew on Hwy 12 where they removed eleven bags of trash and various car parts. The Litter Pickers joined the September 18 Solano County Coastal Cleanup, where they collected 32 buckets of trash, two car tires and two large blankets at the Waterfront Promenade.

Archie continues to organize cleanups and recently completed an event on Airport Road where the Litter Picker volunteers picked up 57 bags of litter and debris. Archie continues to schedule events including smaller cleanups such as the one completed in November on Church Road. His goal is to schedule cleanups monthly and to return to each site to freshen it up periodically.

RioVision already enjoys working with Archie and his team!

If you would like to be part of this new program, please send a message to riovistalitterpickers@gmail.com. Check out the Facebook page at [Rio Vista Litter Pickers](#) and on Instagram at [riovistalitterpickers](#).



Litter Pickers at the July 31st event
at the western entrance to town.



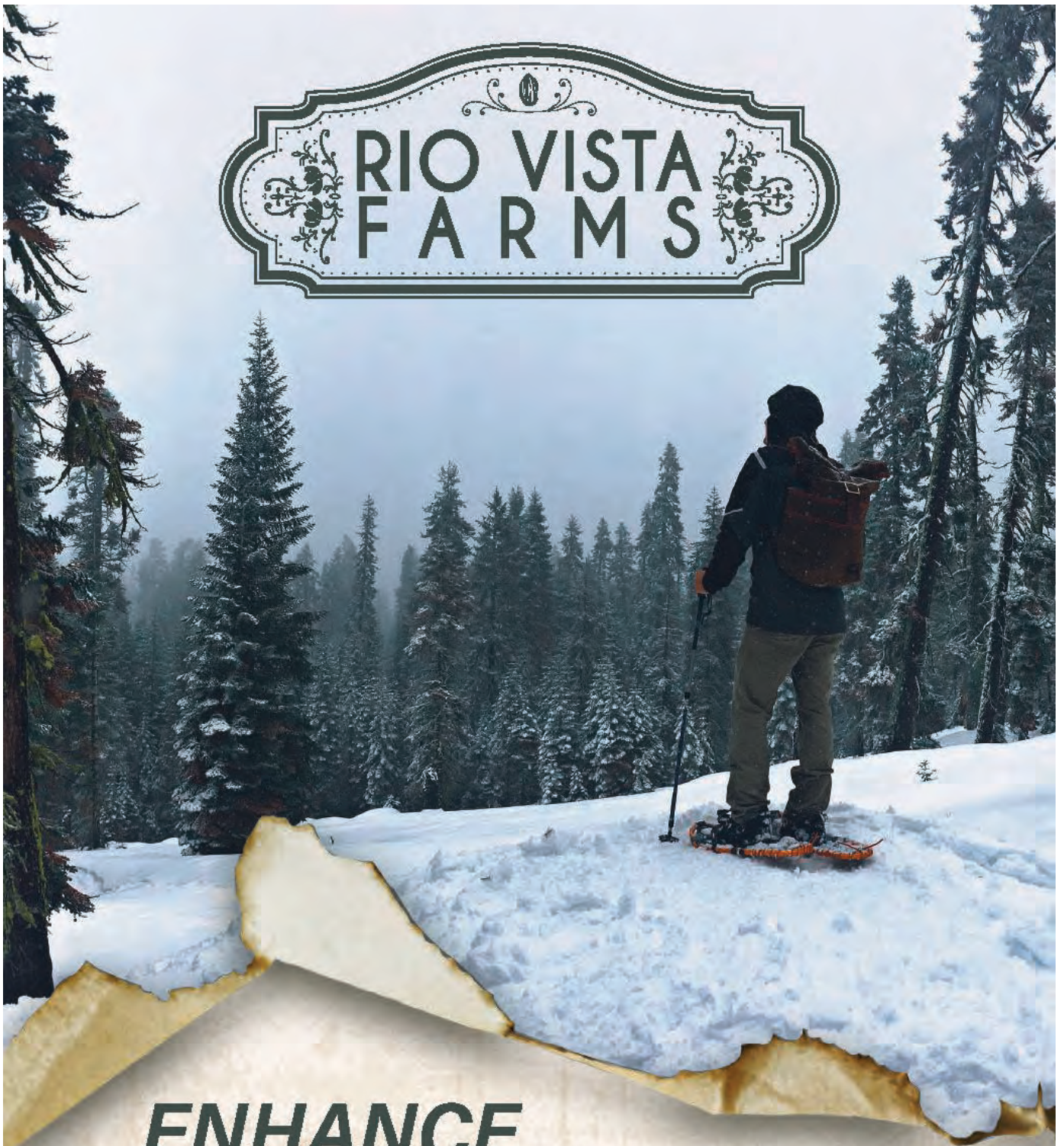
Recently, Art Darden, RioVision President, and Archie Thompson met, sealing the decision to join together and beautify the Rio Vista community, with Archie as the Program Leader.

Archie and his wife Catherine moved to Rio Vista from Moncks Corner, South Carolina in October of 2020. Moncks Corner is a small town, population 7,885, and the county seat of Berkeley County. While in Moncks Corner Archie was a leader in the Keep Berkeley Beautiful organization, an affiliate of the Keep America Beautiful organization. Their objective is to attain three goals: reduce litter, recycle and beautify local communities. Sounds a lot like RioVision's goal, doesn't it?

After arriving in Rio Vista and getting to know the area, Archie and Catherine put their skills to work right here in Rio Vista. They got to work and started organizing and on May 24, 2021 Archie posted his first call for volunteers to start the Rio Vista Litter Pickers group. Archie also went to Rio Vista Public Works and shared his story and what he wanted to do.



Volunteer Connie Abendschein picks up litter at the June 26th event along the Waterfront Promenade.



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