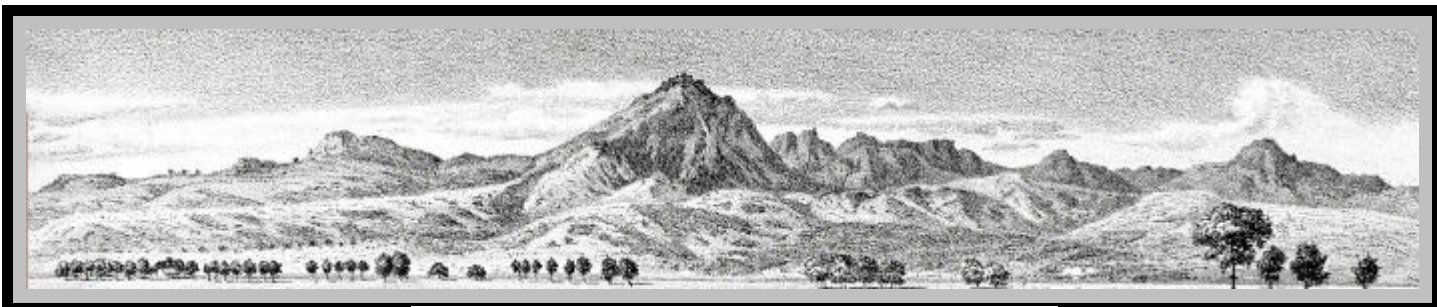


the Middle Mountain Foundation



from Thompson & West History of Sutter County 1879

Spring 2002

Spring Interpretive Hiking Season

Open to the Public

Hike descriptions are on the following page.
Call 530 671-6116 for reservations

March

- 2nd - Saturday
 1. Summit Ascent
 2. Geology Trek

- 23rd - Saturday
 1. Summit Ascent
 2. Wildflower/Ridge Top Trek
 3. Gentle Stroll

- 28th - Thursday Evening
 1. Fullmoon Stroll

April

- 7th - Sunday
 1. Summit Ascent
 2. Brockman Canyon
 3. Gentle Stroll - Peace Valley

- 14th - Sunday
 1. Summit Ascent
 2. In a Sacred Manner
 3. Gentle Stroll

- 20th - Saturday Evening
 1. Evening Serenade

- 27th - Saturday Evening
 1. Fullmoon Stroll

May

- 18th - Saturday Evening
 1. Bat Research Field Trip

Bragg Canyon: A Trek Into History

March 9 and 23

Unique geological and historical features will be discovered on this annual tour into Bragg Canyon on the West side of the Buttes scheduled for March 9 and March 23.

The Steidlmayer family will lead this hike and contribute a landowners' perspective regarding the preservation of their historic property.

Massive flat bedrock boulders pocked by centuries of grinding acorns into meal enable you to envision a native people who subsisted in harmony with the seasonal elements of nature.

Up the hill, you will encounter a stone basement of a pioneer homestead, complete with a hand dug well. Fresh water still collects deep within it.

On towards the center of the mountains, you will come upon an old roadway through the Buttes. Stone retaining walls still hold the roadbed in place.

A short side trip off the old roadway will reveal yet another of the Buttes hidden secrets: a waterfall! The magnitude and drop of these cascading waters in such a small range of mountains will startle you.

Further in you will reach the geographic core of the Buttes. It is the old central lakebed of the Buttes volcano, which resembles a Herculean amphitheater.

Some of you may choose to tackle the ascent of Destiny Peak to inspect the caves high over the canyon.

To reserve a space on the extraordinary outing, call landowner, Marty Steidlmayer at **530-696-2646**. There is a \$30 per person hike fee. Don't wait. This hike fills up quickly.

This is not a Middle Mountain Guided Hike.

Descriptions of Middle Mountain Guided Hikes

A day in the Buttes begins at 9:00 a.m. and ends around 3:00 p.m. Trips are scheduled to proceed in all but the most severe weather conditions. Participants should be prepared to expect uneven footing, stepping over rocks and boulders, crossing streams, and hill climbing. Spring hikers are likely to encounter wet squishy grass ankle-deep, while fall trekkers will be contending with thistles and stickers. Poison oak is abundant, but you will be warned of its proximity. Rattlesnakes, though common in the warmer seasons, are usually reclusive and inactive during our hiking seasons.

Individuals and families may reserve a date for one of the open days by calling Roberta at (530) 671-6116. Cost is \$30.00 per person (Members: \$27.00). If a catered lunch or dinner is included, there is a small additional charge. Organizations may schedule a charter with Margit at (530) 846-5142 after 5:00 PM. The cost for charters is \$250.00 minimum or \$25.00 per person for groups of ten or more.

Summit ascent: A climb up to the top of "The World's Smallest mountain Range" will test even the most experienced trekkers. Summit ascents are strenuous and physically challenging. Inclines are steep and narrow. We avoid those routes that might entail hand over hand climbing. Rather we set a pace that is conducive to periodic rests to catch our breath and share anecdotes about the peak's history and what we're encountering along the way. The elevation gain is 1,000 feet.

Wildflower/Ridge Top Trek: Pacing ourselves with frequent stops to collect the group, we examine the natural elements of the Buttes during our ridge top treks. We stop, look, listen, and learn. These are educational outings in which we develop an appreciation for nature's intricate web. A view from the ridge tops really puts into perspective the need to preserve wild places like the Sutter Buttes. The trek involves some steep uphill, but anyone who is in good health and exercises regularly can handle this outing.

Gentle Stroll: Our stroll takes us past a century old ranch house, cattle corrals and historic barns. Contented heifers with their new born calves graze as we move through shaded oak groves. After a short upward climb, lunch is enjoyed at beautiful Peace Valley Overlook. On a clear day one can see both Mr. Lassen and Mt. Shasta. Open meadows, birdsong and magnificent views of towering North Butte with scores of circling turkey vultures treat each stroller to a day to remember.

Fullmoon Stroll: Quiet reflection is the emphasis of this stroll. As the late afternoon shadows lengthen, we gather to begin our spiritual walk. We will meander through sun dappled oak groves and a pause often to look out over the pastoral hillsides. After a sack dinner overlooking beautiful Peace Valley, we have a chance to hear the hooting of owls and possibly the soft snorting of wild pigs.

There will be time for star gazing and silent contemplation. Your evening culminates as we slowly descend the slopes bathed in luminescent moonlight about 10:30 p.m.

Geology Trek: The violent origins of this tiny mountain range will be revealed on this outing. From the up-thrust pinnacles and the mysterious concentric depression surrounding them, to the smallest pebble at your feet, you will explore and understand one and one half million (1,500,000) years of geologic history with volcanologist Brian Hausback.

In a Sacred Manner: A walk with Stan Padilla: focuses on the reverence for life and balances the mythology, botany, geology, and mineralogy of the Buttes with active hiking and contemplative free time.

Brockman Challenge: A hike in Brockman Canyon is a 6 mile long, strenuous and steep ascent between the tallest of ridge tops. It is a narrow trail that traverses a precipitous incline. Its 1000 foot elevation gain will test your perseverance and fortitude. Midway is a rejuvenating lunch time break, peering deep into the hidden valleys below. Then a gentle stroll down a solitary canyon lane returns you to the starting point. It will reward you with memorable vistas, a sense of accomplishment, and an exposure to the geology, flora and fauna on the south face of this unique inland island.

Bat Research Field Trip: A rare opportunity for a limited number of participants to witness mammal biologist, Heather Johnson, conducting bat research in the Sutter Buttes after dark.

This extraordinary outing begins late in the afternoon as we stroll through the historic Dean Ranch sequestered within the Buttes. Evidence of Native American presence, pioneer history, and the Buttes' volcanic origins will be revealed before we settle in for a furnished box dinner (add \$7.50 extra) and a brief lecture on the importance and benefits of bats in natural and cultivated environments.

We expect to be able to hear the bats' inaudible echolocation chatter with her ultrasonic detector as they forage for insects over a pond. We may even hear the bird-like chirp of the largest bat to be found on the North American continent! And with a little luck, we may get to see her capture and identify several of the eleven bat species thus far documented in the Buttes. But we can't guarantee how many bats we will encounter.

Bring a flashlight and a camera to record this memorable experience. This outing will change the way you regard the barren hillsides and cliffs of the Sutter Buttes, a priceless habitat for numerous species of elusive wildlife!

Evening Serenade: Catch the first glimpse of a sunset in the Middle Mountains while listening to chamber music (flute, cello and violin) as you eat your special box dinner (\$7.50 extra) after a short mid-afternoon hike.

**Mission of the
Middle Mountain Foundation**

The mission of the Middle Mountain Foundation is to ensure the Preservation of the Sutter Buttes, a unique, rare and limited treasure, for future generations.

Beliefs

- The Sutter Buttes are a unique, rare and limited treasure worth preserving.
- Education of the public is important to fully appreciate the Sutter Buttes.
- Preserving the Sutter Buttes in cooperation with landowners is important.
- An experience in the Sutter Buttes fosters a fuller and deeper appreciation of their complexity.
- Landowners, with community assistance, are the most appropriate stewards of the Sutter Buttes.
- The Middle Mountain Foundation can make a difference.

Objective

The primary objective of the Middle Mountain Foundation is to work in cooperation with landowners for the preservation of the Sutter Buttes.

**Special Thank You
The Middle Mountain
Foundation**

acknowledges the following contributors and individuals:

Terri Foley
Paul Haas
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Sutter County Museum
Joni Adams
Danetta Washam
Dorothy Ettl

**Donors to the Foundation in
2001**

**MIDDLE MOUNTAIN FOUNDATION
2002 BUDGET
APPROVED 12/06/01**

REVENUES

General Donations	8,000	
Follow-up Donations		2,000
Open Hikes/Charters		22,000
Interest Income		2,000
Total Revenues		34,000
Legaci Grant		7,800

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration	2,250
Newsletters	4,200
Interpretative Program	12,250
Operations	6,050
Total Operating Expenses	24,750

PROJECTS/PROGRAMS

Foundation Secretarial Service	3,000
Land Steward Outreach	2,000
Fundraising	2,000
Board Development	6,500
Newsletter on Internet	100
Total Projects/ Programs	13,600
Total Expenditures	38,350
Total Funds Available over Expenditures	3,450
Transfer to Land Acquisition Fund	2,500

In Memory of:

Kendall and Lois Strong
Marilynn MacDonnell
H. Boardman "Bo" Drobish
Helen Smith
Helen Knox Dixon
Mabel Williams

In Honor of:

Walt Anderson
'he introduced me to the Buttes' Elizabeth Hadley

the Middle Mountain Foundation

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To:

Letter to the Editor

Dear Middle Mountain Foundation:

In the blink of an eye, this valley will be filled in by development - just like my hometown, San Jose. Before that happens, a treasure like the Buttes need a loyal, active following in order to somehow be exempted.

To enlist help on this mission to keep the Buttes as they are, we are going to be forced to think outside of the ideological box. Our membership, of necessity, needs to include a wide spectrum of people.

Something needs to happen at a conceptual level. Preserving the Buttes must become a civic duty to all citizens. We have to come up with an honest, comprehensive program that respects itself and consists of all people, and is held together by a common ideal.

I do not think that the Sutter Buttes can afford to be saved solely by conservationists. Neither can this project be left to the state. We need farmers and ranchers, civic leaders, teachers, and as many young minds as we can find. Could it be that something different will happen here and we will all be a part of it?

To overcome the economic pressures of development, there, of course, needs to be a financial base to the idea of an unspoiled Sutter Buttes landscape.

Promoting education as the core reason for Buttes preservation, is I think, a reasonable ideal, and one that should elicit broad support.

How we go about spreading this message, and what it would mean to current relationships that Middle Mountain Foundation

has with landowners, I do not know.

There is likely a window of opportunity existing right now regarding organizing support for Buttes preservation and the coming commercialization of the landscape.

How much time is left, I have no way of knowing, yet I sense that it may be less than we think.

Jim Connolly, Middle Mountain Hike Guide

MMF PRESIDENT'S NOTES

We look forward to another season in the Buttes with you. Hillsides are fresh and green. A relaxing hike through an isolated canyon or over looking the valley from atop one of the ridges takes us away from the hubbub of our busy lives. This respite provides just the perspective we need to reflect upon our lifestyle, what little remains of our natural world, and what we can do about it.

Come hike with us this spring. The natural landscape, the peaceful solitude, the camaraderie of our small groups, the whole experience will touch you profoundly. Please help us to preserve this experience, this special place.

We're not just asking you to donate to a good cause. You'll be making an investment in your future.

Mike Hubbart