



SBALT NEWS

Hikers on Nyland Property; hiking the native forests of Nyland Property..

Join SBALT for May 7th Ranch Day Hike on Nyland

By Lynn Overtree, Executive Director

For our May Ranch Day, Kim Johnson from R.E.A.C.H. San Benito Parks Foundation ("REACH") will lead a hike on Nyland. REACH advocates for and enhances the parks and recreation opportunities in San Benito County. As such, they align perfectly with SBALT's goal to connect our residents to the land through healthy outdoor activities on SBALT properties.

SBALT's rangeland properties, which support local cattle operations, are ideal places to host guided events. Every month, all ages are invited to join SBALT for a work party and/or hike on the Nyland property and/or Rancho Larios Open Space. In the past year, volunteers removed trash, replaced fences,



pulled weeds, collected native seed, and planted elderberries. We had three days dedicated to hikes, including our post-Thanksgiving and New Year's Day hikes.

Five of our workdays focused on improving our trails. On two of the days, we trimmed brush along one mile of the trails.

Last November, we constructed a new section of trail that provides a critical link between Nyland and Rancho Larios. For the past two months, we improved the alignment and the tread on about 500 feet of existing trails.

Maintaining hiking trails takes work and expertise. We are very grateful to retired ranger, Ray Trabucco, for volunteering his time to design the trails and lead our volunteers in their construction and maintenance. Over the five trail maintenance workdays, our volunteers contributed 180 hours of labor! Thank you SBALT Volunteers!

Kim Johnson, REACH Board Member and Hike Leader, says, "I love hiking in San Benito

County and can't wait to lead fellow hikers through the spring wildflowers, native forests, and flowing creeks on the lands that welcome people to our County." Visit www.reachsantbenito.org to support REACH's work toward ensuring our community has opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Mark your calendars to join Kim and SBALT's Joey Dorrell-Canepa on Sunday, May 7th from 9:00 to noon for a hike through the fields and forests of your local SBALT lands. The hike will end at a pond for a relaxing picnic lunch before returning to your car. You can register at www.sanbenitolandtrust.org/ranch-days. While there, subscribe to receive our email updates. ■



Vicki Morris, Trina Coates, and Ana Skelton improving existing trails.