

Gala to Give Glimpse of Carr Ranch Property

By Sophie Braccini



Carr Ranch's stunning south view.

Photo Adam Weidenbach

With its 600 acres of open hills, canyons, creeks, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, wildlife and its spectacular views of the East Bay, Carr Ranch is one of the most beautiful open space properties around. While hiking or horseback riding the ranch, it truly seems as if the sky's the limit.

The John Muir Land Trust (JMLT) that is focused on buying the property to open it to the public has raised over two-thirds of the \$7 million purchase price. On April 30, it will host the Pure Muir Gala to help those fundraising efforts. It will be held at the picturesque Campana Farm set at the edge of Moraga.

Pat Rose, owner of Campana Farm, located at 2151 Camino Pablo next to Rancho Laguna Park, joined the JMLT as soon as she heard of its project to purchase Carr

Ranch, "I was so thrilled," she said, "and I wanted to be part of that."

Campana Farm is a six-acre property spread on flat land next to 13,000 acres of EBMUD watershed open space and Carr Ranch. Rose says she had been worried about the Carr Ranch and how it could be developed since it is located outside of the Moraga town limits and development would not have had to abide by such town's rules as the protection of ridgelines.

Campana Farm is the perfect place for an event supporting the purchase of the Carr Ranch property, according to JMLT Executive Director Linus Eukel, because it is close to downtown Moraga, and at the same time secluded and surrounded by open space. Standing on the main lawn where the gala will be held, one has the feeling to

be at the edge of the world, with infinite uncharted territory in sight, inviting exploration.

Rose has developed her property for elegant large events, such as weddings, with a front garden where appetizers and drinks will be served before dinner on the April 30. Native plants, flowing grass, flowers and a pond create an inviting atmosphere.

On the evening of the gala people who purchase VIP tickets will go on a short hike on the trails behind Campana Farm to learn more about Carr Ranch, and see the property from a few key vantage points. Eukel and Chuck Lewis, JMLT board chairman, will be speaking briefly about the trust and Carr Ranch. Well-known television personality Doug McConnell will be the Master of Ceremonies.

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Campana Farm, next to Rancho Laguna Park, will host the Gala.

Photo Sophie Braccini

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