

## Calendar of Upcoming Events 2010

Please join SVC at Deer Creek Hills for Hike, Bike & Equestrian Rides

Sat., Apr. 24, 9am - 1pm	Birds and Wildflowers of DCH
Sat., Apr. 24, 7pm - 11pm	Full-Moon Equestrian Ride
Sun., Apr. 25, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat., May 1, 9am - 1pm	Cowboy Breakfast
Fri., May 7, 5:30pm - 7:30pm	Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
Sat., May 22, 9am - 1am	History/archeological interests of DCH
Sun., May 23, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat., May 29, 7pm - 11pm	Full-Moon Equestrian Ride
Thu., Jun. 17, 5:30pm - 7pm	Summer Social
Sat., Jun. 26, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat., Jul. 24, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat., Aug. 14, 7pm - 11pm	Sunset Hike-Bat Night- Astronomy Night
Sat., Aug. 28, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat., Sep. 25, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat., Oct. 23, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking

Hikers/Riders/Bikers should meet at Latrobe and Stone House Roads (north of Highway 16 or Jackson Rd. & west of Rancho Murieta). Both roads can be accessed off of Jackson Rd. Carpooling is strongly encouraged since parking is limited, and all vehicles should park on the dirt portion of Latrobe Rd.

Weather is unpredictable, so please bring layers of clothing for all weather types. Water, light snacks and a hat for warmth and shade are also suggested.

There is active cattle grazing at Deer Creek Hills, and the conditions of hiking routes vary and may include stream or fence crossings and uneven terrain. Heavy rain and/or wind cancel hike/rides.

### Three ways to Register

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar (Register On-Line)  
Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

## Announcements

### Wish List

Let us know if you can donate items we need.

- 6 months port-a-let rental
- 2-person tent for the guides on YES/youth overnight trips
- 2 full-size laptops running Windows, no more than 3 years old
- 2 portable USB external hard drives
- 4 GPS units (used OK!)

### HELP! We need you!

Office helpers and errand runners needed. Occasional help in our office weekdays, includes usual office tasks such as filing, data entry, mail merges and organizing. Training is provided.

Become a Weed Warrior! Join an elite group who get to go to different SVC properties periodically and remove weeds and trash. Make friends and annihilate the enemy.

Call or email Kathy Reynolds, SVC Stewardship Coordinator at 916/731-8798 or kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

### Save the Date - September 30th

Treasures of the Valley Reception



sacramento valley conservancy

## Celebrating 20 Years

Sacramento Valley Conservancy celebrates 20 years (1990-2010) of protecting our precious heritage land and water resources, local farms and ranches, and floodplain by offering special opportunities for you to see and share our preserves and success!

Come enjoy beautiful spring weather, wildflowers, creeks and sunsets with us at our Cowboy Breakfast at Deer Creek Hills corral on May 1, our Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration at our newest preserve along Deer Creek on May 7 and our Summer Social on June 17. All events are free! See inside and back page for registration information.

Your support makes our success possible. Dedicated and visionary local folks inspired to protect our special places for future generations founded the Conservancy in 1990. We started with a nine-member Board of Trustees, no staff, and no land protected. Today, we have a thirteen-member Board of Trustees, twenty-five member advisory council, seven staff members, over 1500 annual donors, over 100 annual volunteers and almost 11,000 acres of land protected.

And, we are very proud to announce that we are one of ten accredited land trusts by the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission in California. SVC was also named the best small nonprofit in the six-county capital region in 2003. Thanks to you for making all this happen!

During our first five years, we completed two land transactions. Over the course of the next 15 years, we completed 28 land transactions, and raised over \$30 million in land acquisition funds. Our average land transaction takes over one year to com-

(See Celebrating 20 Years . . . page 2)

## Elkhorn Basin Ranch

### Part I: History

Located just across the Sacramento River from the Sacramento International Airport, Elkhorn Basin Ranch, one of SVC's most recent acquisitions, produces walnuts, corn, rice and other crops and provides habitat for Swainson's hawks, river song-birds and many other animals. SVC acquired the ranch in 2008, in partnership with Yolo Land Trust (YLT), and the two organizations own and manage the ranch.

The purchase of the land was funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the Packard Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Department of Fish and Game. Together, the two land trusts own over 1,600 acres, held in separate parcels.

The Elkhorn Basin area sits between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass. Historically, this area flourished with tule swamps and immense oaks with dense undergrowth of grapevines, willows, berries and rose bushes. Wildlife such as tule elk, grizzly bears, mink, weasels, badgers, coyotes, river otters, beavers and flocks of birds were found. The Southern Wintun Native Americans fished, hunted and gathered in the area. They traded, visited and feuded with the Nisenan who lived on the other side of the Sacramento River.

In more modern times the area has supported local agriculture. Grown on tall trellises, hops were quite a money-maker for 30 years until Prohibition circa 1920. Nut and fruit trees, rice, tomatoes, corn, hay and other row crops are now farmed here.

(See Elkhorn Basin Ranch . . . page 2)



www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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Spring 2010

## Join Us For Free Food and Fun! Three Free Events!

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy in honor of its 20th year anniversary and spring is hosting the following free events:

**3rd Annual Cowboy Breakfast at Deer Creek Hills scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, 9am - 1pm.** Join the SVC staff as we serve you a cowboy flapjack breakfast at Deer Creek Hills Corral. Soak up the beauty of the rolling hillsides, catch a waft of maple syrup in the morning air to reconnect with friends and supporters of the Conservancy as you cradle a hot cup of coffee. It's just another way for staff to say thank you for your support over the past 20 years! A hike is scheduled to walk-off the pancake breakfast! Please bring your own camp chair (BYOC), if possible. *Registration Required.*

**Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration at Cummings-Stathos on Friday, May 7th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm.** New this year, a celebration of the 375-acre land acquisition of the Cummings-Stathos property. Sample exquisite cheese while sipping fine wine as

*(See Free Events . . . next page)*



Photograph: Jeff Lange

## Celebrating 20 Years . . . (continued from page 1)

plete and many take as long as three to seven years. All have had at least three funding partners. Deer Creek Hills involved over 15 institutional partners and over 300 community donors. Elkhorn Basin Ranch involved seven funding partners.

You and future generations now own and have access to over 4400 acres of blue oak woodlands, creeks and cattle ranching land at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Project YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) brings youth on day and overnight trips to

the preserve. We also work with local farmers and ranchers on almost 7500 acres of land producing local rice, corn, walnuts, cattle and other crops. We manage these lands to maximize their habitat values and restore habitat in areas not viable for farming. These lands help sustain local farming, SVC and food, homes for wildlife and floodplain for us all.

We cannot continue operating and accomplishing our mission without you and your support. Keep up your good work by supporting SVC!

## Elkhorn Basin Ranch . . . (continued from page 1)

Access to the Elkhorn Basin has not always been easy. A bridge across the Sacramento River was only built in 1969! Prior to that, a ferry that ran for 50 years was the primary way to get across the river. Electric trains carried passengers and some freight from downtown Sacramento through the Elkhorn Basin up to Woodland, providing eight trains a day from 1912 until 1940.

SVC and YLT's goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on

lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural farms and ranches to prevent a future need for urban flood protection. The land is protected by conservation easements, zoned for agriculture, and more intense development is not allowed. SVC and YLT are working with California Audubon Land Stewardship Program, the Yolo Resource Conservation District and DWR on habitat restoration.

*Next issue: Farmers of the Elkhorn District*

## Free Events . . . (continued from page 2)

you become a part of this extraordinary landscape. Deep shadows, rich colors and subtle sounds of Deer Creek will remind you of the SVC's mission statement, "...to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley..." A short stroll can be made to overlook the banks of Deer Creek, please wear sturdy shoes and bring your own camp chair to relax in this pristine environment. Join the Conservancy's new supporters and long time patrons to this enchanted outside wine tasting, celebrating our 20th anniversary! *Registration Required.*

**Summer Social overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park on Thursday, June 17th 5:30pm - 7pm** This mid-week event is perfect to stop in to say hello to supporters, board and staff. Guests can sample a variety of world flavors in both food and wine, as they mingle with familiar and new faces associated to the Conservancy. The views overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park serve as a perfect backdrop to conversation of the accomplishments of the Conservancy in the past 20 years. Come celebrate our successes with us, as they couldn't happen without your support! *Registration Required.*

### THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar  
Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



Elkhorn Basin Ranch walnut trees get ready for summer.

## Donations Form

# YES!

*I want to make a difference and help create a legacy for the future and preserve Sacramento's beautiful open space, natural habitat and agriculture.*

### Here is my tax deductible donation of:

\$20  \$35  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact me about: Planned Giving  Becoming a Volunteer

Gifts to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy are tax deductible. If you would like more information, please call (916) 492.0908 or email us at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



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# THANK YOU.