

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2009 Deer Creek Hills Bike & Summer Outings Schedule

Saturday, June 27th, 7:30 - 10am  
**Mountain Biking**

Saturday, July 25th, 7:30 - 10am  
**Mountain Biking**

Saturday, August 22nd, 7:30 - 10am  
**Mountain Biking**

Saturday, September 26th, 7:30 - 10am  
**Mountain Biking**

Saturday, October 24th, 7:30 - 10am  
**Mountain Biking**

For more information contact  
[outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)  
or 916/612-3719

## Announcements

### Hold The Date! Treasures of the Valley, our annual party, is on October 1, 2009.

Food • Fun • Live Music  
Libations • Friends & Colleagues

Sacramento State Alumni Center - 5:30-8pm  
Support Open Space. Bring Friends.  
\$50/ticket

[www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)  
Ticket and sponsorship packages available.  
Volunteer to work the event and get free admission.  
Call Gina Silvernale at 916/612-3719.

### Conservancy Wish List

Contact Tammy Mebane, Stewardship Director,  
at 916/216-2178 or

[tmebane@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:tmebane@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)  
if you can donate the following needed items:

**Weed sprayer**  
(backpack or truck mounted)

**4 wheel drive truck**

Thank you!



sacramento valley conservancy

## Van Vleck Ranch Easement Oaks and Vernal Pools Linked in East Sacramento County

Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) recorded a new conservation easement protecting 775 acres of vernal pool grasslands and oak woodlands in East Sacramento County.

SVC worked with Van Vleck Ranching and Resources, Inc., a private local cattle ranching operation based in Sacramento County for over 100 years, and Westervelt Ecological Services, a private mitigation banking company, to protect this land. Vernal pool wetlands are now protected and Westervelt will add new wetlands as a part of the project.

“Our ranch provides special resources for the community including wildlife habitat, private recreation and scenic vistas as well as locally produced food,” said Stan Van Vleck. “We’re proud to work with SVC to help realize the value of what we provide and to protect these resources for future generations.”

The Van Vleck Ranch connects thousands of acres of existing preserved lands. SVC, along with the California Department of Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy, the Mother Lode Land Trust, the US Fish and Wildlife



Van Vleck Ranch oaks and wetlands stretch far and wide south of Highway 16. Photo by Sacramento Valley Conservancy

## Geocaching for Adventure Scouts Capture Spirit of Deer Creek Hills

Venture Crew 380 lent a helping hand to Program Y.E.S. (Youth Education & Stewardship) by designing the Geocaching boxes to create intrigue for today’s youth about what can be discovered at Deer Creek Hills.

Venture Crew 380 scout Todd Stretars reflected, “It was a lot of fun being able to help the Sacramento Valley Conservancy with the geocaching boxes so that school kids and youth groups can learn about wildlife and learn how to use GPS as a way of navigation to find the boxes.”

With this modern day treasure hunt and educational facts found in these caches, today’s youth can connect what is taught in the classroom to

what is in the field. With the aide of GPS units, artifacts and points of interest highlight the inhabitants of Deer Creek Hills. Come discover what youth can find in these educational geocache boxes.

Led by Todd Stretars, Joshua Kamine, Casey Reynolds and Corry Reynolds, members of Venture Crew 380 collected items to place in the caches when visiting the property in early May. Other Venture Crew members involved with designing the information cards found in each cache are,

(See Van Vleck Ranch . . . page 2)

(See Geocaching . . . page 2)



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68-0256214

Summer 2009

**Van Vleck Ranch . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the US Department of Agriculture, have all helped protect over 25,000 acres of linked vernal pool grasslands and oak woodlands where Sacramento, El Dorado, Amador and San Joaquin counties meet at the base of the foothills.

SVC continues to work with our partners to protect even more acreage

**Geocaching . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

Mitchell Alfaro, Tesa Mitchell, Katelyn Connolly, Aaron Rush, Zachary Kamine, Halie Oshiro, and Greg Bringedahl.

With the assistance of donated ammunition cans, the Venture Crew collected items from Deer Creek Hills and placed them inside small ammo cans, safe from the seasonal elements. The items collected reflect both animal and plant species that occupy Deer Creek Hills. Examples include hand casted animal tracks, feathers, photographs, antlers, snake skins, pellets and scat (safely sealed!).

With the prevalent oak population to the region, the venture crew highlighted both the oak trees and acorns, adding this important feature to the educational geocache boxes. A great example of how

**A Great Investment Works for You and SVC**

A reminder that you can help SVC and yourself by investing in a Charitable Gift Annuity for the benefit of SVC at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

An investment decision you make now with returns for you or someone you love could also protect a vernal pool wetland, mighty foothill oaks, a trail for your children and grandchildren to enjoy, or the local Central Valley food we all love.

Your irrevocable investment of \$10,000

to provide a permanent area to enable ranching to continue as an economic use that helps support preservation and management of these habitats. Some of the places you can visit to enjoy this area are the SMUD Nature Preserve/Howard Ranch Trail at Rancho Seco Park or the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. See [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) or the "Calendar" section on the back page for information on upcoming outings.

the woodpeckers stored the acorn in the bark of trees was duly noted and tucked in an ammo box.

Not surprisingly, with the diversity of Deer Creek Hills Preserve, the Venture Crew 380 members have collected more items than can fit in the four cans they currently have and would love to share their hard work with the aid of more ammunition cans.

To learn more about this new activity and to donate ammunition cans with Program Y.E.S. contact Outreach Coordinator Gina Silvernale [outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) or 916/612-3719.

To register for outings check out the "Calendar" section on the back page or at [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)

or more (cash or securities) will earn you an interest rate between 5 and 9% for the remainder of your life or your beneficiary's life (rates as of 2-1-09). This investment opportunity starts at age 65 and rates of return increase up to age 90. By making this investment for yourself or someone you love, you will pass on a legacy to future generations when the remainder in the account, at the end of the beneficiary's life, supports SVC.

Call Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director, to find out more at 916-492-0908.



**Cowboy Breakfast Rides Again**

Our 2nd annual Cowboy Breakfast was held on May 2nd at the Deer Creek Hills corral. A little drizzle did not stop almost 40 participants who joined staff and docents for warm coffee and pancakes with blueberries and maple syrup. Chris Jonas owner and operator of Jonas Livestock – neighbor to Deer Creek Hills and one of the local ranchers who grazes SVC's preserves -- was in attendance to make it officially "Cowboy". Our adventurous SVC family of supporters enjoyed the hospitality of tarps to keep dry and a good breakfast, great company and beautiful oak woodlands to start their day. SVC thanks all who made it out for our annual breakfast and all our supporters! Rain or shine – recession or inflation . . . SVC keeps working for you, the Sacramento region and future generations!

*Rosemont Adventure Scouts Todd Stretars and Josh Kamine explore acorn woodpecker holes in old oak at Deer Creek Hills Preserve.*  
Photo by Gina Silvernale Photography

**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.*

*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](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)*

**Here is my tax deductible donation of:**

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

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Contact me about: Planned Giving  Becoming a Volunteer



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THANK YOU.