

## Calendar of Upcoming Events 2010

Kick-off your summer with the opening of our Mountain Bike season!

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
Sat., Oct 23, 9am - 1pm	Autumn Service Day

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.

From November through May there is active cattle grazing at Deer Creek Hills, and the conditions of outing 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](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar) (Register On-Line)

Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or

[outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)

## Announcements

### Save the Date - September 30th

Fun, Food, Live Music, Friends, Libations, Support SVC at Annual

### Treasures of the Valley

Tickets \$50/ea, Sponsorships \$250 and up include tickets

1. Go to [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org),
2. Click on "Sponsor an Event" to buy tickets or sponsor
3. Type "TOV" in attribute line

### Volunteer and attend for Free.

Email Kathy Reynolds, SVC Stewardship Coordinator at [kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) or call 916-731-8798.

## Wish List

Let us know if you can donate items we need.

- 6 months port-a-let rental
- 2 full-size laptops running Windows, no more than 3 years old
- 2 portable USB external hard drives
- 4 GPS units (used OK!)

## Volunteers! 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](mailto:kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org).



sacramento valley conservancy

## The Next 50 Years - Think Ahead, Act Now

You Made SVC Possible for 20 Years - What Next?

What will the Sacramento region look like 50 years from now? Your support of Sacramento Valley Conservancy provides a one-of-the-kind chance to make a permanent difference for our future. We think ahead, and act now.

Act now to help expand Deer Creek Hills north to Deer Creek by donating to help us protect the Cummings-Stathos property. Think ahead and support SVC's vision to provide a permanent open space corridor in the East Sacramento County area – for local ranches, homes for plants and wildlife, compatible public recreation and to connect the American and Cosumnes Rivers for wildlife and people - for 50 years and beyond.

Thanks to the over 1155 SVC supporters and youth who joined staff and docents to see this beautiful area this spring at our Cowboy Breakfast at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve, the Twilight Wine and Cheese at the Cummings-Stathos property, Deer Creek Hills expansion area, and at our over 20 public outings and youth events.

You make it possible for SVC to talk with decision-makers, local companies, agency staff, ranchers and educators about how we can act now to protect our precious heritage land and water resources, our local farms and ranches, and floodplain, before it's too late.

(See *The Next 50 Years* . . . page 2)

## Elkhorn Basin Ranch

Part 2: Farmers of the Elkhorn District

As you recall from Part I, Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) acquired a 1,700 acre working walnut farm between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass in 2008, in partnership with Yolo Land Trust (YLT). Many farmers over the years have shaped the agricultural flavor of the area.

SVC purchased Elkhorn Basin Ranch from Layton Knaggs. Mr. Knaggs was a car dealer and farmer who owned several thousand acres in the area. He was a colorful character, with a can-do attitude who didn't believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. Knaggs owned a series of car dealerships, owned a passenger airplane and built one of the most sophisticated walnut drying facilities in the

area for its time. He was a world traveler who traveled to China and Russia before it was common to do so. He worked up until the time he died at 95 in 2001.

The Latter Day Saints (Mormons) bought large parcels in the area in 1951 and started a welfare farm. In fact, one of the fields YLT owns is still known as "Welfare".

The Lang family has been a long-time force in the Elkhorn area. Frank Lang came to area during the Depression to work for his uncle and bought a nearby chicken ranch in 1939. His method of using canvas and sand bags to repair levee boils in the flood of 1942 became a model for emergency repairs in the years ahead and won him a commendation from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. His son Kent now runs the walnut farms and grandsons Kyle and Calen are learning the ropes, and are

(See *Elkhorn Basin Ranch - Part 2* . . . page 2)



*How will kids have fun 50 years from now at Deer Creek Hills?*

Photograph: Cailen Woodward, Roots to Horizons

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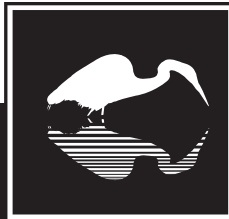


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Summer 2010

**The Next 50 Years . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

Look at our 21st Century Open Space Vision for the Sacramento Region – go to [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) under “What We Do”. Look at how we’ve grown so far – what if we’d been thinking 50 years ahead?

Where do you live? Where do you need flood protection, local food, wildlife habitat or trails? Do you run, bike, hike, raise cattle, farm local food, farm international food that

supports the local economy, ride horses, bird-watch, sell food at farmer’s markets, buy food at farmer’s markets, or live and farm dry, instead of flooded? Heritage land provides necessary services – SVC protects these lands for future generations.

We cannot operate and accomplish our mission without you and your support. Keep up your good work by supporting SVC!

**Elkhorn Basin Ranch - Part 2 . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

active in walnut farming themselves. The civic-minded Langs have sat on many boards over the years, and Kent currently sits on YLT’s Board and offers guidance to SVC as well.

Currently we work with José and Ricardo Garcia of Garcia Farms, Inc. and Ken and Maureen Gregory to improve the walnut orchards and annual crop lands for the future. We use revenues from the farming to fund management of the site. This spring, older walnut trees have been removed, and new baby walnut trees are being planted. Walnut trees take 5 years to produce, so the wait is a bit long, but will pay off in the long run.

Row crops at the farm include rice, corn, and tomatoes.

This year Yolo Land Trust will hold their Day in the Country fundraiser on the property on Sunday September 12, 2010. SVC and YLT collaboration benefits both land trusts, and though both organizations are new to farming, the combination of the preservation of local agriculture, the future plans for habitat restoration on lands not viable for farming, and the potential for compatible recreational uses will be a model for other land trusts on this border between the two counties just north of the airport.

*Next issue: Future of the Elkhorn District*

**Support Takes Many Forms for our Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) Program**

***A heart-felt cash donation . . .***

The hard reality of moving cattle hasn’t changed much, according to those who’ve been doing it as long as Dick Harry, owner/partner of the Lucky Seven Cattle Ranch. It’s tough chore to move 500+ head of cattle, when the cattle have been grazing over 4,000 pristine acres, since last November.

Dick Harry was both enlightened and tickled, not by the cattle drive, but by the 60 elementary school children conducting a field trip with Sierra Nevada Journeys, SVC’s new YES (Youth Education & Stewardship Program) Partner. A visit to Deer Creek Hills is a final experience in the unique environmental program Sierra Nevada Journeys offers the Sacramento Region’s elementary classrooms.

As Dick visited with the teacher and principal of the school group, he quickly came to understand that not all kids from the underprivileged areas could afford the \$5 fee to visit Deer Creek Hills. With Mr. Harry’s

disappointment, came the solution to donate \$500 to the YES program. He wants to make a difference by ensuring struggling families the ability to afford this unique experience, at beautiful Deer Creek Hills with Sierra Nevada Journeys. Thank you Dick!

***An in-kind donation . . .***

Many thanks to Bill Wensrich who saw our wish list in the last newsletter and donated a two-person tent to our YES program. Our youth overnight camping guides will be getting a good night’s sleep this summer. Thank you Bill!

***How you can help . . .***

Your support really makes a difference. You can make an online donation to this program. Click <http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/help-donate.asp>

Visit our Wish List by clicking on “How to Help” at [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)

**How You Can Help!**  
Volunteer Opportunities

Late August and month of September: Need 3 people to drive to different businesses and artists and pick up items and art for our Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction. This is fun because you get to meet artists and vendors face-to-face. Flexible around your schedule.

September 30th: Need 2-3 people with large capacity vehicles to move silent auction items from our Mather office to Sac State for our Treasures of the Valley event. And many other ways to volunteer that day or evening: set up, food service, silent auction monitor.

October 23rd: Autumn Service Project at Deer Creek Hills. Make a visual difference by hanging signs, picking up trash and shot gun shells. Register online to become involved at [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org), click on Calendar.

Contact:  
Kathy Reynolds, Stewardship Coordinator, to volunteer at 916/731-8798 or [kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](mailto:kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)



*José Garcia of Garcia Farms, Inc prepares walnut orchards for summer.*

Photograph: Kenny Calhoun

Join Us for Fun, Food & Company  
at our Summer Social  
June 17th, 5:30pm to 7pm  
Register at: [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org)

**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:***

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

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



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THANK YOU.