

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2009 Deer Creek Hills Hike, Bike and Equestrian Outings Schedule

Saturday, January 24, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Deer Creek Overlook Hike

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Geology Hike

Sunday, March 1, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Equestrian Ride

Saturday, March 28, 9:00am

#### Wildflower Hike

Sunday, March 29, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Equestrian Ride

Saturday, April 25, 9:00am

#### Birds and Wildflowers of DCH

Sunday, April 26, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Equestrian Ride

Saturday, May 23, 9:00am

#### History/Archeological interests of DCH

Sunday, May 24, 9:00 – 1:00pm

#### Equestrian Ride

August 15, 7pm-10pm

#### Astronomy Night

For more information contact  
ginasilvernale@hotmail.com or 916/731-8798

## Announcements

### “IRA Charitable Rollover” Extended

The federal financial bailout bill, enacted October 3, includes a tax provision you should know about that could help you or someone you know support SVC prior to the end of this tax year.

Originally enacted as part of the 2006 Pension Protection Act, the “IRA Charitable Rollover” provision allows donors over 70 1/2 to make charitable contributions of up to \$100,000 from their individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs without having to pay taxes on the withdrawals.

The rollover was extended through December 2009, and is retroactive to the beginning of this year so it provides tax relief for donations made in both 2008 and 2009. Please consider talking with folks you know who could both benefit from this and support SVC! We really need your help now to allow us to take advantage of real estate opportunities in this recession market.

### Conservancy Wish List

Contact Tammy Mebane, Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 or [tammymebane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tammymebane@sbcglobal.net), if you can donate the following needed items:

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

*Thank you!*



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## Project YES Campers Overnight at Deer Creek Hills

SVC’s Project YES (Youth Education and Stewardship) program hosted three youth groups (Sacramento Cottage Housing’s Skylab Youth Program, Roberts Family Development Center, and Generation Fate) at Deer Creek Hills on overnight trips this Fall. Project YES aims to get youth groups and elementary classrooms outside by introducing them to hiking daytrips and overnight backpacking at Deer Creek Hills, a 4,000-acre oak woodland preserve only 25 miles from downtown Sacramento.

With gear supplied by a grant from REI we are able to outfit kids for a backpacking style experience. We also received funds from Teichert

Foundation, Sustainable Sacramento-Sierra Club, the Soroptomist Club of Metropolitan Sacramento and AKT Development to supply SVC staff, transportation and other needed supplies and services to guide the groups into the 4000+ acre preserve. Once there they set up a base camp, and have a backpacking experience in the wide open spaces and secluded environment at Deer Creek Hills within 30-40 minutes of their homes.



*Young backpackers from Roberts Family Development Center show off team hiking skills.*

## SVC and Yolo Land Trust Preserve Elkhorn Basin Ranch

Boosts Regional Agriculture, Flood Control & Water Resources Planning Objectives

SVC, in collaboration with Yolo Land Trust, completed its purchase of the 1,682 acre Elkhorn Basin Ranch in Yolo County, located along the Sacramento River 10 minutes northeast of Woodland, just north of I-5, and twenty minutes from downtown Sacramento. The project offers an innovative model for regional collaboration. Funding partners include the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), the Department of Water Resources, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Resources Legacy Fund and the Wildlife

Conservation Board (WCB-pending approval). Yolo County also established a partnership with SAFCA on issues of mutual interest.

The acquisition of the Elkhorn Basin Ranch permanently preserves land in the Elkhorn Basin for agricultural, wildlife habitat and open space use. The project boosts local farmland preservation – as the ranch will remain in productive agriculture including both orchards and row

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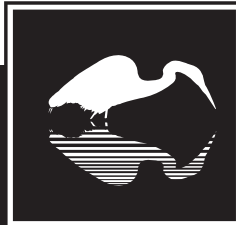


(See Project YES . . . page 2)



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(See Elkhorn Basin Ranch . . . page 2)



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Fall 2008

**Project YES . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

Most of the groups we are working with have never been backpacking before, so the program provides an introduction to a “pack it in” and “pack it out” camping experience, and an educational overview of Deer Creek Hills. Project YES provides the outdoor classroom and trips are tailored to each group’s educational needs or curriculum priorities. Available activities include packing a pack, basic first aid, camp cooking, fire safety, geology, oak woodland ecology and history, just to name a few.

“The kids say things like, ‘The moon looks bigger out here than at my house’ and ‘I have never heard silence like this before’”, said Abram Woodward, SVC overnight staff guide. “We provide local youth with the tools they need to enjoy the outdoors and develop an understanding of environmental

stewardship. Plus, we have a lot of fun!”

In his recent book, *Last Child in the Woods*, Louv spurred a national dialogue about “*nature-deficit disorder*”. About a third of U.S. children and teens – 25 million kids – are overweight or on the brink. SVC’s Deer Creek Hills Preserve lets kids dip their toes into a creek, hear a red-winged blackbird or a bullfrog, see a hawk soar over a majestic oak, only 35 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Project YES aims to provide an antidote to nature deficit disorder by creating passion in our youth about our heritage and inspiring youth to become long-term stewards of the environment.

As a follow-up to their overnight trip, Skylab youth are working on a geocaching program for their kids in

*(continued on page 3)*

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

crops; provides riparian forest habitat; retains local water resources; and enhances regional flood protection.

“This important acquisition serves as a model for regional collaboration that will strengthen regional flood protection, preserve our heritage, and help support continued local food production and our agricultural economic base,” said Assembly member Lois Wolk, who serves on the Legislative Advisory Committee of the Wildlife Conservation Board. “As our region grows and evolves, we must develop innovative partnerships that preserve Yolo County’s agricultural land use strategy while maintaining its scenic beauty.”

“I am pleased that the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency played an active role in this effort to preserve this area as permanently protected agricultural land and complementary habitat,” said Senator Darrell Steinberg. “This creative partnership demonstrates that working

together we can make both sides of the river safer, more secure, more beautiful, and, at the same time, maintain economic productivity.”

“I am pleased that AB 930 is demonstrating its value in fostering regional cooperation for the conservation of our valuable agricultural lands as well as fostering good floodplain management practices”, said Assemblyman Dave Jones (D-Sacramento), the author of a 2007 measure to encourage landowners to voluntarily enter into easement agreements as a part of the capital region’s integrated flood control strategy.

“We are excited to build this bridge across the river – linking two counties – by partnering with SVC. We look forward to a close and on-going collaboration with SVC to help sustain the agricultural land uses and habitat values along the Sacramento River that are so important to the region,” said Debbie North, Conservation Director of the Yolo Land Trust.

**Project YES . . .** *(continued from page 2)*

the spring. Geocaching is a modern treasure hunt, which allows kids to use GPS units to find treasure boxes (Not available to the public at this time!). The Skylab youth will help SVC set up geocaching sites at Deer Creek Hills in the spring which can be used by other youth groups in the future. Youth learn about geography and way-finding with GPS units and find educational information about the Deer Creek Hills Preserve in the boxes. Thanks to Skylab for their partnership on this fun project!”

Located near Rancho Murieta, Deer Creek Hills is a 4,000 +acre preserve managed by Sacramento Valley Conservancy, and jointly owned by SVC, Sacramento County and the California Department of Parks & Recreation. This working cattle ranch and graceful oak woodland ecosystem was preserved in 2003 on the premise that open lands are necessary for quality of life and that we must care for the land today so that future generations may enjoy its physical and spiritual benefits tomorrow

For more information about our day and overnight field trips at Deer Creek Hills contact Gina Silvernale at [ginasilvernale@hotmail.com](mailto:ginasilvernale@hotmail.com) or 916/731-8798.



Sacramento County Supervisor Roger Dickinson, SVC Executive Director Aimee Rutledge, SVC President Lynn Sadler and former SVC Board member John Jervis enjoy Treasures of the Valley.

**Treasures of the Valley 2008**

For those of you who braved missing the much-anticipated Vice Presidential debate and joined us on October 2nd for our annual fundraiser, Treasures of the Valley, we would like to say thanks. It was a great event with over 200 in attendance and many generous sponsors – we could not keep operating without all of your support! Please express your support of SVC by supporting our sponsors throughout the year. See our website [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.*

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

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