

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information contact Tammy Mebane at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

Sunset Hike and Astronomy Night! New for 2008-Mountain Bike Rides

August 23, 2008

Sunset Hike and Stargazing Event

7:00pm – 10:00pm

Join us for a sunset hike at Deer Creek Hills, followed by an evening with the Sacramento Astronomical Society, viewing the night sky through high powered telescopes. Great for the entire family. Contact Gina Silvernale, SVC Outreach Coordinator, at 916/731-8798 or ginasilvernale@hotmail.com for more information

August 16 and September 20th, 2008 Mountain Biking at Deer Creek Hills

8:00 am – 11:00 am

Join us as we traverse 4x4 dirt roads and single track trails, exploring the biking at Deer Creek Hills. Contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Director, at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net for more information.

There will be a fee for hikes and bike rides of \$10 (children 16 and under are free). Our new self-guided interpretive trail is open to the public on the fourth Saturday, from 9am-1pm, January-May, on a sign in basis. To view a complete list of events go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

Announcements

Save the Date! Treasures of the Valley

October 2, 2008

Fun, Food, Live Music, Libations
Friends & Colleagues

Sacramento State Alumni Center - 5:30-8pm

Support Open Space - Bring Friends

\$50/ticket at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Ticket and sponsorship packages available.

Volunteer to work the event and get free admission.

Conservancy Wish List

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

Weed sprayers (backpack or truck mounted)

Thank you!

Youth Education and Stewardship: New Staff

Thanks to REI, Teichert Foundation, Soroptomist, the Sierra Club, and you, Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator and Abram Woodward, Program Assistant, have joined SVC's staff to help develop our Youth Education and Stewardship (YES!) Program, based at Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Preserve and Working Ranch. The program offers day and overnight trips. Please contact Gina at 759-3560 for more information.



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Deer Creek Hills Service Day a "Picnic" REI Pitches In and Gets Dirty!

May 17th was the 3rd annual service project coordinated by REI and SVC. Despite the 100+ degree temps, the volunteers proved to be ready for the day. About 55 volunteers and staff participated, including youth from Robert's Community Center, Families First, Skylab Youth Production, and the skilled help from Heritage Park Bike Club.

Volunteers spent the day building and staining 10 picnic tables to be used at Deer Creek Hills for the overnight camping program and the parking area for our docent led hikes and rides. Volunteers installed a hitching post to be used for our equestrian rides and by the ranching operation on the property. Trash was picked up along Latrobe Road and preserve signs were posted. The service projects are a part of our youth education and stewardship program for Deer Creek Hills and maintenance of the working cattle ranch.

These are just a few of the projects being completed to get ready for increasing access to Deer Creek Hills. Currently, we offer docent led hiking, equestrian and biking trips on the property. Mountain biking occurs in the summer when



Kids hoe down and get dirty to improve Deer Creek Hills Preserve.

Winterport Farm Protected Longtime Amador Tradition Upheld

Farmer Dan Port can attest to the historic significance of the name "Winter" in the Amador County community of Ione, population 4,000 people.

"I've been here about 40 years and people still don't know my name. They refer to me as being married to the Winter girl," he said with a laugh.

The Winter family started farming in the area in 1867. George Winter, the grandfather of Dan's wife, Susan, bought a 180-acre parcel in 1906. Dan and Susan live on that land today. They call it Winterport Farm, a combination of the two surnames.

"I had to get my name in there somehow," Dan said.

By any name, Winterport Farm will remain in agricultural use forever under a just-completed arrangement between the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the landowners and the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Through the California Farmland Conservancy Program, DOC funded the conservancy's purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the property. The Port family will continue to own the farm and control the agricultural

(See Picnic . . . page 2)

(See Winterport Farm . . . page 2)



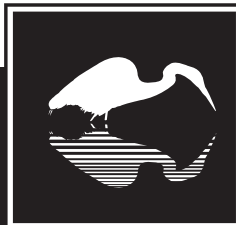
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Summer 2008

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

the cattle are not on the property, and the hiking and equestrian rides are primarily held in the late winter and spring, January to May. You can find a full list of events on our website at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

Winterport Farm . . . *(continued from page 1)*

operations, but the land's development potential is permanently extinguished.

"We're very pleased to have shielded this fine farmland from future development," said Brian Leahy, head of DOC's Division of Land Resource Protection. "This farm has a long-term connection with the local community, but there would have been intense development pressure if the landowners were not so committed to farmland preservation. We realize that development is inevitable, but we strive to direct the growth away from prime farmland when possible."

Winterport Farm is located just south of Highway 104, within half a mile of Ione's Sphere of Influence. It is currently being used for grazing and hay production, but has been intensively farmed in the past – producing melons, vegetables, pumpkins and Christmas trees – and is likely to be again. The landowners have encouraged educational and other tours of the property over the years.

"We applaud the Port family for its outstanding stewardship of the land and for taking steps to keep it in agriculture for the benefit of future generations," said Aimee Rutledge, executive director of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.



See the back page of this newsletter for the "Calendar of Upcoming Events", including an August Sunset Hike and Astronomy Night and our first public docent-led mountain bike rides.

"We welcome interest from other landowners in the community who may wish to follow the Ports' example."

Although Ione – known in the Gold Rush era as "Bedbug" and "Freezeout" – is about 30 miles from either Sacramento or Stockton, there is development pressure: a residential developer recently purchased 16,000 acres surrounding Winterport Farm and a recent golf course residential development exists between the city limits and the farm.

"We're relieved and happy that both of our children say they want to return to the farm and take over someday," said Susan Port. "Now we know that it will be here waiting for them."

SVC partners proudly with the Mother Lode Land Trust (serving Amador and Calaveras Counties) to help develop and accomplish farm, ranch and natural land preservation. Joint planning by SVC and MLLT, funded by a planning grant from DOC, led to the Winterport Farm conservation easement project.

About the Department of Conservation's California Farmland Conservancy Program (CFCP): Begun in 1996, the CFCP has provided \$63 million in funding to permanently shield 41,000

Winterport Farm . . . *(continued from page 2)*

acres of the state's best and most vulnerable agricultural land from development. CFCP funds remain for new grant proposals. Landowners and trusts are encouraged to contact the Division of Land Resource Protection for information on the program and potential funding.

SVC Donor Leaves a Legacy

Trish Pease, a loyal donor to Sacramento Valley Conservancy, recently made a very important decision to leave a legacy for future generations and invest in SVC's mission to save special places.

"I wanted to leave a legacy for the people of Sacramento and a reminder of what the valley looked like before all our open space was gobbled up by development. Oak woodlands evoke the strength and structure of Sacramento's heritage and the places I remember visiting as a child," said Pease. "An oak's life span creates a lasting ecological impact for both wildlife and humans. Sacramento Valley Conservancy's dedication to providing special places for future generations, like the Deer Creek Hills Preserve, inspired me to think – 'this is how I can help.'"

The state also offers programs -- the Williamson Act and Farmland Security Zones -- that provide financial incentives to keep land in agricultural use for periods of 10 and 20 years. For more information, visit www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp.

Pease contacted SVC staff and consulted about leaving a portion of her estate to benefit SVC's mission, and decided to include SVC in her estate giving plans. Thanks to the planning and smart investment of SVC supporters like Pease, SVC will continue to serve generations to come by protecting and caring for our special places.

If you would like to consider including SVC in your estate giving plans, contact Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director at 916/425-5879 or bond13mac@aol.com. Your investment and planning provide all of our children and grandchildren with the opportunity to experience our Sacramento heritage.

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 _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Fax _____

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.