

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

Join us for the 2011 Season at Deer Creek Hills for the following events . . .

Sat, Jan 15 or 29, 9am - 1pm	Service Project
Sat, Febr 26, 9am - 1pm	Geology Hike
Sun, Febr 27, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, Mar 12, 9am - 1pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Pat's Hike
Sun, Mar 13, 10am - 2pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Pat's Equestrian Ride
Sat, Mar 19, 7pm - 11pm	Full Moon Equestrian Ride
Sat, Mar 26, 9am - 1pm	Wildflower Hike
Sun, Mar 27, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, Apr 16 or 30, 9am - 1pm	Service Project
Sun, Apr 17, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, Apr 23, 9am - 1pm	Birds and Wildflowers of DCH
Sat, May 7, 9am - 1pm	Cowboy Breakfast
Thurs, May 19, 5:30pm - 7:30pm	Twilight Wine & Cheese Celebration
Sat, May 28, 9am - 1pm	History/Archeological interests of DCH
Sun, May 29, 10am - 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Thurs, Jun 16, 5:30pm - 7pm	Summer Social
Sat, Jun 25, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking

Hikers/Riders/Bikers should meet at Latrobe and Stone House Roads (north of Highway 16 or Jackson Rd. and 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/ride.

Three ways to Register

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar (Register On-Line)
Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Announcements

Thanks to Jon and Claire Ursino, supporters of open space, clean air and water, for donating a brand new external hard drive to SVC after seeing it on our Wish List.

Great Holiday Gifts

2011 Season Pass or a Gift Membership

The 2011 Season Passes are on sale now. The \$40 Deer Creek Hills Season Pass allows access to all outings and events at Deer Creek Hills (equestrian rides require your own horse). Season passes are valid for the calendar year, typically January – October.

Gift Memberships

. . . make a wonderful gift for those who have “too much stuff”. Available at \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500 or other (\$50 minimum) levels. Provide the name of the recipient and we will mail them a gift card stating that they have received a gift membership from you. Gift Membership recipients receive the gift card, e-news updates, access to our free events, and three mailed issues of our newsletter. Please contact Kathy or Wendy at 916-731-8798 for more information, or visit our website at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on the green “SVC Holiday Gifts” button on the home page to purchase.



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Deer Creek Hills Expansion

Progress Made, Your Help Still Needed

Last year, SVC announced the opportunity for you to help add 375-acres of golden and emerald hills, majestic oaks and over a mile of Deer Creek to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. With your help, we have made good progress toward our goal.

We must raise a total of \$3,495,000, plus 2% interest, to retire our loans against the property and permanently protect the site by September 2012. We are also working to raise approximately \$300,000 in stewardship funds to provide an endowment to manage the site in perpetuity, for a total project fundraising goal of \$4 million.

This year was one of the toughest fundraising years in SVC's history, with severe budget crises at the state and county levels, and with the impacts of the prolonged economic recession being felt by many of our loyal supporters. Despite the downturn, and with your support, SVC raised almost 10% of our fundraising goal.

We received a grant for \$100,000 in acquisition funds from the US Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District Wetlands Conservation Fund (including an additional \$230,000 for riparian restoration along Deer Creek) through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. We also received approval for approximately \$200,000 in land acquisition funds from the Wetlands Restoration Trust Fund of the County of Sacramento. Both these funding sources will help to protect land and water along Deer Creek. We also continue to work with the County

(See Deer Creek . . . page 2)

Elkhorn Basin Ranch

Part 3: Back to the Future

The first two parts of this series chronicled the history of the Elkhorn Basin, including Native American origins, the first European settlers (who got flooded out!), and the farmers who came after them in the 1920's and built levees to provide flood protection and allow farming. Elkhorn Basin Ranch was not actually completely converted from habitat to farming until the 1970's, when crop prices spiked.

Many of the areas converted from natural habitat to farming at that time proved unsuitable for farming. Parts of the Ranch contain alkali soils with concentrated salts deposited from natural wetland formations drying out in the same location over the years. Other parts contain extremely porous sandy soils from

pre-levee, Sacramento River flow deposits that do not hold water or nutrients. Neither soil type allows productive growth of most economic crops.

SVC and YLT forged a long-term relationship with both Garcia Farms, Inc and Gregory Farms, the walnut and row crop farmers at the Ranch. We work with local processors, like Mariani Nut Company in Winters. We partner with our farmers to improve the agricultural productivity of the Ranch and to maximize revenue and local agricultural production, so we can support long-term improvement of habitat and management of water and existing natural habitat on the parts of the Ranch best suited to those uses. We are proud the Ranch is self-supporting.

(See Elkhorn Basin Ranch - Part 3 . . . page 2)



Majestic oak goes vertical at Deer Creek Hills – is \$4 million at the top?

Photograph by Jeffrey Rutledge

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Fall 2010

Deer Creek . . . *(continued from page 1)*

of Sacramento to receive \$50,000 in Tree Preservation Funds that were committed to SVC last year.

For the remainder of the funds over the next two years, SVC staff is working diligently on two other pending state and federal grant applications, as well as maintaining ongoing relationships with nearby approved and pending development and mining projects that require oak and open space mitigation. Protecting our land and water requires hard

work, diligent and strategic relationship-building, and your support.

Without your contributions, SVC cannot continue our work to protect our heritage land and water. You empower SVC to take advantage of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to protect special places like Deer Creek Hills. Thanks for your willingness to make a smart investment in our future, and for your generosity with your year-end giving this season.

Elkhorn Basin Ranch - Part 3 . . . *(continued from page 1)*

The California Department of Water Resources, which helped purchase the property, and the California Waterfowl Association established partnerships with SVC and YLT to improve and restore habitat at the Ranch, including wetlands, mixed riparian, native grasslands and alkali brush. Habitat improvements will support riparian song birds, Swainson's hawks and other raptors, and giant garter snake.

Returning to a productive mix of agriculture and habitat maximizes local economic activity, food production, resource and flood protection benefits of the land. SVC is proud to partner with Yolo Land Trust, our farmers, local crop processors, flood protection agencies, and habitat organizations to produce the most value for our community at Elkhorn Basin Ranch by both taking it back to its roots, and providing for its future.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy is now on Facebook!

Stay up to date with what's going on at SVC. Share news about upcoming and past events. Check out others' photos from Deer Creek Hills outings and share your own. Use our page to connect with other hikers, bikers, and equestrians who are friends of SVC.

To become a fan of Sacramento Valley Conservancy, sign into your Facebook account and search for "Sacramento Valley Conservancy," once on our page click the "Like" button and you're done. It's that easy.

Not on Facebook yet? You can view our page as a non-Facebook user, just type "Facebook

Sacramento Valley Conservancy" in your browser and our page should come up. Or, go to our home page at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on the blue Facebook link.

If you "like" SVC, you can continue to support us by inviting your friends to "like" us. Go to our Facebook page and click on "suggest to friends", after you have selected your friends, click on "Send Invitations." Your friends will receive a suggestion from you to like our page. Thank you for spreading the word about SVC!

Support SVC and Greenery

Double Green Benefit With One Small Donation

SMUD offers a new partnership in their Greenery program to SVC members. Greenery allows SMUD customers to pledge to add \$3 or \$6 per electric bill to build local green energy sources. SMUD matches the donations by 40%. Through the end of November, SMUD will donate \$20 to SVC for each new residential sign-up and \$40 for each new commercial sign-up.

Greenery is certified by the Green-e Renewable Electricity Certification Program and must meet strict consumer-protection standards as well as environmental standards. For more information go to <http://www.smud.org/en/community-environment/greenery/Pages/index.aspx> When you sign up be sure to put "SVC" in the reference line.

Celebration Success!

18th Annual Treasures of the Valley Event Brings Out SVC Supporters

Over 250 SVC supporters celebrated our success at our 18th Annual Treasures of the Valley event on September 30 at the CSUS Alumni Center. Thanks to their generosity, we brought in a great return from both the silent auction and sponsorships. These funds provide the life blood for SVC throughout the year---thanks so much to all our supporters!

County Supervisor Roger Dickinson and former City of Sacramento Mayor Burnett Miller attended as well as our wide variety of sponsors and supporters, ranging from environmental leaders, to aggregate mining companies, ranchers, solar companies, mitigation bankers and other community and business leaders.

Thanks to the many local vineyards that supported the event, including Bogle, Oakstone and Madrona who attended to pour their wines. The atmosphere of wine tasting, jazz music, food and competitive bidding led to true enjoyment by all.

An army of volunteers (50+) made this event come together beautifully. The passion of the volunteers, assisting prior and



SVC supporters enjoy silent auction tables at Treasures of the Valley."
Photograph by Douglas Hack

during the event lends to the enjoyment of this event, year after year. Thank you volunteers!

Images of the event and a full list of sponsors and volunteers who make SVC possible can be viewed at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org by clicking on the blue "Sponsor an Event" button on the right-hand side of our home page.

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

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



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THANK YOU.