

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2012

Hiking & Biking at Deer Creek Hills Preserve

In 2012, every Saturday is open to the public for self-led hiking trail. You must check-in and check-out with staff at corral. Check online calendar for times, Summer hours 7:30-11am. Please register on-line, print directions and liability form.

New	Every Monday Night, 4:30pm - Sunset Mountain Biking Challenge yourself and set your own pace on a marked route. Bring cell phone, bike helmet, toe covered shoes & water. Sign Up NOW!
Sat, June 23, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, July 28, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, August 11, 7pm - 11pm	Sunset Hike-Bat Night- Astronomy Night
Sat, August 25, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, September 22, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking
Thurs, October 4, 5:30pm - 8pm	Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction
Sat, October 13, 8:30am - 1pm	Service Project
Sat, October 27, 7:30am - 10am	Mountain Biking

Hikers and Bikers should meet at the Corral Area

Wear appropriate clothing for all weather conditions.

Water, light snacks, sunblock and wide brimmed hat for sunny, hot conditions.

Expect uneven footing to the hiking and biking terrain.

Three ways to Register

1) www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

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

3) outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Announcements

HOLD THE DATE

Treasures of the Valley

Thursday, October 4, 2012, 5:30-8pm

CSUS Alumni Center

Fun, Friends, Holiday Gifts, Jazz,

Local Food, Wine & Brews

\$50 tickets

Sponsorships of \$250-\$10,000

Call 916-731-8798

Volunteer and attend for Free

Wish List

Help us by donating stuff we need!

- 6 months port-a-let rental
- 3 GPS units (used is OK!)
- 15 pairs summer/desert gaitors (adult sized)
Call Gina Silvernale at 916/612-3719 for details
- Gift cards for any amount:
OfficeMax, Office Depot, Staples,
Costco, REI, Home Depot



sacramento valley conservancy

YES Program

(Youth, Education & Stewardship)

Hikes Forward With Your Help

YES youth are having fun this spring and summer hiking, getting fit and learning how to have fun and appreciate their local environment at both day and overnight trips at Deer Creek Hills. It takes a tremendous base of support for YES youth to continue these unique outings. We are working to grow our support to keep the program growing.

Over 40 classrooms visited Deer Creek Hills with the help of Sierra Nevada Journeys, providing watershed and hands-on experiential learning at Deer Creek Hills. In addition, over 12 guided youth trips and 40 open trail Saturdays are scheduled this season. Without your continued support and that of Chevron, REI, Sierra Health Foundation, Gencorp Foundation, Teichert Foundation, Soroptimists International of Metropolitan Sacramento, and Lucky Seven Ranch, we cannot offer youth the chance to get out.

New supporters include the Kerster Family Trust – sponsoring two months of Porta-Potty service and rental. Huge thanks to the Kerster family for helping us with one of our most important ongoing expenses! Dennis and Brian Noble donated materials to build bat boxes to be placed along the YES trail at the North Pond.

Most exciting is the recent grant approved for YES trail im-



SVC Docent David Jones shares his Buffalo Soldier uniform, camp and horse Quinn with youth from Roberts Family Development Center.

Photograph by Matt Gaylord

SVC Protects Local Farms & Food

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) is helping to preserve local farms and ranches that provide farm fresh food to the Sacramento region. Through the use of Agricultural Conservation Easements, SVC is able to help preserve two local family farms despite the pressures from urban development. The Winterport farm located in Ione provides natural and grass fed beef, and the Westerberg farm, farmed in part by the Davis Ranch in Sloughouse, produces delicious sweet corn, and other vegetables and fruit.

The Winterport farm, located on Highway 104 in Ione, is a 180-acre farm run by Dan and Susan Port. The property has been a family farm for over 100 years and has been a dairy, vegetable farm, Christmas tree farm and a pumpkin patch. Currently the Ports raise natural and grass fed beef which they sell at Farmers Markets in Sacramento and Rancho Cordova. In the fall, Dan and Susan run the community pumpkin patch that is a popular destination for school field trips. In 2008 the Ports completed a

Conservation Easement (CE) with SVC in order to preserve the farm forever and to protect it from possible development threats. The CE was assisted by the California Farmland Conservancy Program.

The Westerberg farm, located in Sloughouse directly south of Highway 16, is the home farm of Rancho Omochumnes, a Mexican land grant in continual family ownership since 1841. The Davis Ranch roadstand has been in business for over 30 years and is best known for its Sloughouse Sweet Corn. The

(See YES Program . . . page 2)

(See Local Farms, Local Food . . . page 2)

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Summer 2012

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

provements. Partnering with SVC, Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps received a \$200,000 grant to work on the YES trail, abate non-native weeds, and improve safety and the environment at the Preserve by fencing off trouble areas along Latrobe Road, a dirt road which traverses Deer Creek Hills. SVC is currently raising \$250,000 to match the labor grant of SRCC with materials and program costs like pre-spraying for weed removal, native

plants and seeds, and fence materials. And, we hope, a permanent restroom at the YES Education Assembly Area (aka the "Corral"). See "Porta-Potty Blues" poem by Jeralyn Strong below.

Please join us to support local youth experiencing nature, our local ranches and environment, many for the first time. You can donate online or with the form inside this newsletter. Thanks for making this wonderful YES program possible for future generations.

Local Farms, Local Foods . . . *(continued from page 1)*

farm stand offers a variety of locally-grown, farm-to-table fresh fruits and vegetables. The Conservation Easement between the Westerberg family and SVC was completed in 2008, and not only preserves valuable farmland but also protects Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. The farm's agricultural practice of row crop

rotations provides high quality Swainson's hawk foraging habitat. The farm is being honored this year by the Agricultural Heritage Club for our 171 years of continual operation.

So enjoy the delicious summer barbeque season and help us support the local farms, ranches and open spaces in the Sacramento Region.

Seventh Year of REI Service Days

On April 17 a REI crew made up of 10 employees from the Sacramento, Folsom and Roseville stores continued their Service Day tradition at Deer Creek Hills (DCH) for the annual REI Work Hard-Play Hard Day. The work crews, which included six SVC staff and two SVC docents, made quick work of a number of tasks including tearing down a tree house, cleaning up Latrobe Road of garbage and campfire debris, and repairing fence. SVC lead docents David Jones and Roger Brandt lead the effort to tear down the tree house and gave a lesson in fence repair

as they fixed sections of fence cut by trespassers. The day's effort resulted in a truck load of garbage, wood and nails that was carted off to the dump.

After the hard work was completed and a delicious lunch provided by REI was enjoyed, the "Play Hard" part of the day began. REI employees spent the rest of their day riding mountain bikes and hiking trails on the Cummings-Stathos property.

Our sincerest thanks for the continued partnership with our REI employees and the dedicated SVC docents who help us keep DCH beautiful.

What's on SVC Facebook?

Go to "Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Facebook" to see more photos of our equestrian and hiking outings, wildlife at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve and YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) kids having a great time outside!

Porta-Potty Blues

By Jeralynn Strong

*Occasionally I'll see a house, while driving through a town;
Not white or green or yellow, or even tan or brown.*

*Sometime, someone, somewhere, I think without a clue,
got a deal on house paint that was Porta-Potty blue.*

*I love the greens in nature, flowers pink and purple hue,
but one blue is not of Lupine and it's given me the blues,*

Yes, I have em, Yes I do, Oh, I do-do . . .

I got the Porta-Potty Blues.

To Be Continued. See entire poem on Facebook.



Dennis Noble building bat boxes for North Pond Youth (YES) and self-guided trail at Deer Creek Hills. Photograph by Brian Noble

Cowboy Breakfast 2012
Over 120 Enjoy Food, Rides & Poetry

The 5th annual Cowboy Breakfast was celebrated with much fanfare in early May with over 120 folks in attendance. Guests enjoyed pancakes, David Jones, singer songwriter and local Poet Jeralyn Strong. Hikers and over 30 horseback riders explored the property, enjoying the wide open space of the Deer Creek Hills.

The summer schedule of Mountain Biking starts in late June with guided docent tours. New this year with Mountain Biking, set your own pace with the Monday Night Rides from 4:30 to Sunset, June through October. See "Calendar" on back 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 info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Here is my tax deductible donation of:

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

Name _____

Company/Title _____

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Email _____

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer



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