

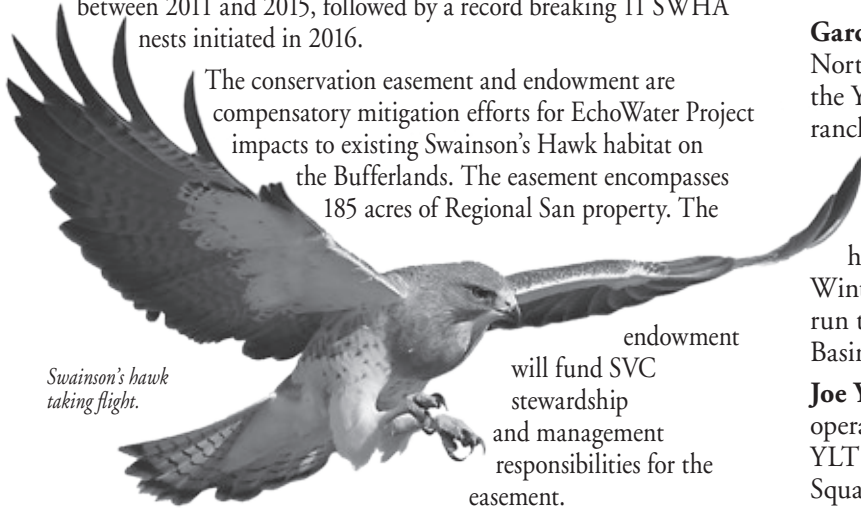


sacramento valley conservancy

Regional San Protects Swainson's Hawk Habitat

In September, the Regional San Board of Directors approved conveyance of a conservation easement to Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC), along with funding of a permanent endowment, to ensure perpetual management for Swainson's Hawk foraging habitat on the Bufferlands. Regional San recorded 8 Swainson's Hawk nests on the Bufferlands between 2011 and 2015, followed by a record breaking 11 SWHA nests initiated in 2016.

The conservation easement and endowment are compensatory mitigation efforts for EchoWater Project impacts to existing Swainson's Hawk habitat on the Bufferlands. The easement encompasses 185 acres of Regional San property. The



Swainson's hawk taking flight.

endowment will fund SVC stewardship and management responsibilities for the easement.

SVC was selected by the Board back in January of 2015 to prepare the conservation easement and help establish a permanent endowment. SVC has also developed a management plan for the conservation easement area, which establishes goals, priorities, and tasks to manage the property appropriately. Regional San will follow the approved management practices to ensure future land uses are compatible with conservation of the hawk. Meanwhile, SVC will conduct annual monitoring of the easement area to ensure property management is consistent with the management plan and the conservation easement.

Utilizing Regional San property to fulfill this mitigation requirement resulted in a cost savings of more than \$1.2 million compared to purchasing mitigation credits at an available mitigation bank. This method of mitigation has the added ecological benefit of protecting habitat as near as possible to the location of the impact.

(See *Swainson's Hawk*. . . page 3)

Treasures of the Valley Food Sourced Direct From SVC Protected Lands

These are just a few of the dedicated, long-time local farmers and ranchers that produce farm to fork food on SVC protected lands. They all joined us and shared their harvest and food with us at our annual Treasures of the Valley event. Meet them!

Garcia Farms is located on Elkhorn Basin Ranch, located just North-West of the Sacramento International Airport, between the Yolo Bypass and the Sacramento River. SVC acquired the ranch in 2008, in partnership with Yolo Land Trust and the two organizations own over 1,600 acres, held in separate parcels and manage the ranch. The Garcia's farming operation of walnut orchards spans over 510 acres. Their walnuts are harvested and supplied to the Mariani Nut Company based in Winters, CA. Jose and Ricardo, father and son, work together to run the walnut farming operation. Jose has farmed in the Elkhorn Basin for almost 50 years.

Joe Yeung Farms, Inc. is a certified organic annual row crop operation, which like Garcia Farms, leases land from SVC and YLT at Elkhorn Basin Ranch. The Yeung Family grows Spaghetti Squash, Kabocha Squash, Butternut Squash, Red Kuri Squash, Green Acorn Squash, Delicata Squash, tomatoes and more! The Yeung family is now in the third generation of Elkhorn Basin farming. Joe Yeung's granddaughters now help to run the farming operation.

Westerberg Farm is a 162-acre conservation easement located in Sloughhouse directly south of Highway 16. The Conservation Easement between the Westerberg family and SVC, which was completed in 2008 preserves valuable farmland used by The Davis Ranch. The Davis Ranch has been in business for over 30 years and known for its Sloughhouse Sweet Corn, pumpkin patch and you-pick Christmas Tree farm. The farm stand offers a variety of locally-grown, farm-to-table fresh fruits and vegetables. The Westerberg family has lovingly restored their historic barn and has roots that go back to pioneer days on the farm.

Van Vleck Ranching and Resources, Inc., a private local cattle ranching operation with almost 12,000 acres, which represents

(See *Treasures of the Valley* . . . page 3)





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Fall 2016

NEW River Deck and Farm-Fresh Food

Featured at This Year's Fundraiser

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy celebrated their 24th annual *Treasures of the Valley* fundraiser with a fresh new space and farm-fresh food. The "Farm to Fork" mission is to provide fresh, local food to the people of Sacramento.

This year the Conservancy took that idea one step further, by sharing and recognizing their partners who have worked so hard to grow and harvest it. Guests enjoyed appetizers made from farm fresh produce sourced direct from farmland protected by SVC and local premium beef from grazing lands protected by SVC.

"The butternut squash was picked by the Yeung Family last Friday and we're tasting it with them as our guests of honor tonight," said Kelly Hopkins, SVC Communications and Marketing Director.

The evening began with a formal ribbon cutting ceremony by SVC's founding Board Member, Bob Slobe, and SVC Executive Director Aimee Rutledge.



Founding Board member Bob Slobe shared his family's special connection to the space before a formal ribbon cutting ceremony on the new river deck.

"I cannot begin to tell you how beautiful Camp Pollock looks. We still need help to install some flooring and windows, paint and stain the new deck, and with some kitchen remodeling. It is a monument to what is right about Sacramento," said Robert Slobe, SVC Board Secretary.

Support came from American River Brewing Company, Bogle Vineyards, SoCal's Tavern and . . .

Land Acquisition

Murphy Austin Adams
Schoenfeld LLP



Vulcan Materials Company

Stewardship

Easton Development Company, LLC

Al and Christie Jahns.

Law Office of Alfred F. Jahns

The James and Susan McClatchy Fund
of the Sacramento Region Community
Foundation

North Sacramento Land Company

Teichert

. . . and over 300 attendees.

Some of this year's new silent auction items included native plants and trees, hand-made jewelry and more!



New SVC Board member, John Sedleniek, poses with friends in the newly remodeled Lodge.



While construction continues to finish the floor and chimney repairs in the main lodge, the river deck, which overlooks the American River, is now ADA accessible and open to the public and rentable for public or private events.

Classrooms without walls

Inspiring the next generation of Outdoor Stewards

SVC's Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) program has reached more than 2,200 youth in 2016! Our success in reaching more youth every year is made possible through partnerships and community support.

Our most impactful partnership program, with Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ), brings hundreds of local youth to open spaces each year. The SNJ Classrooms Unleashed Program redefines the traditional 4-walled classroom by bringing hands-on education



Local 3rd grade students take a moment to journal about the sights and sounds of Camp Pollock.

to the outdoors. These programs are designed around the Common Core and Next Generation Science State Standards. At Camp Pollock the SNJ Habits and Habitats Program teaches 3rd graders about habitat systems, organism survival, local habitat exploration, and the cause and effect of changing environments within the riparian zone of the American River Parkway. At Deer Creek Hills SNJ's Our Amazing Earth Program teaches 4th graders about the changes at the earth's surface, looking at plate tectonics, weathering and erosion.

SVC sends a thank you to all of the dedicated Youth Education

partners: Sierra Nevada Journeys, Community Collaborative Charter School, Sheriff Community Impact Program, Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District, The Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts Heart of Central California, Hmong Youth and Parents United, Congregation Beth Shalom, Instituto Familia de la Raza, and more, as well as the dedicated staff, docents and volunteers who make these programs possible.

Swainson's Hawk From Page 1

While the Bufferlands is much heralded for its diversity and abundance of wildlife, the conveyance of this conservation easement marks the first permanent protection of habitat on the land. "In this first foray in to perpetual protection of wildlife habit, Regional San is pleased to be partnering with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Their track record, reputation and commitment to protecting open space in the Sacramento Valley inspired the confidence and comfort needed to enter into a forever agreement." Bryan Young, Natural Resource Supervisor, Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

Treasures of the Valley From Page 1

approximately 1½ percent of all of Sacramento County. In addition to the cattle ranching, the operation provides a number of recreational opportunities to the public and organizations. Van Vleck Beef can be purchased at Corti Brothers and online through SnakeRiverFarms.com. SVC holds a 775-acre conservation easement protecting vernal pool grasslands and oak woodlands on the Van Vleck Ranch. The Van Vleck family has been ranching their land since just after the Gold Rush.

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. For more info, please call (916) 731-8798 or email us info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Here is my tax deductible donation of:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Fax _____

Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer

To make an easy and secure credit card donation, visit our website www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



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November - December 2016 & January - April 2017 Calendar

November 2016

Fri, Nov 25	7am - 5pm	#OprOutside at Camp Pollock
Sat, Nov 26	10am - 2pm	Thanksgiving Weekend Equestrian Ride
Sat, Nov 26	9am - 1pm	#OprOutside Free Self Guided Hike
Sun, Nov 27	9am - 1pm	History of Deer Creek Hills Hike
Tues, Nov 29	All Day	Giving Tuesday

December 2016

Sat, Dec 3	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Dec 10	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Dec 17	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sun, Dec 18	9am - 1pm	History of Deer Creek Hills Hike
Sat, Dec 24	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day - Canceled
Sat, Dec 31	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day - Canceled

January 2017

Sun, Jan 1		Last Day to Buy 2017 Pass at 20% off
Sat, Jan 7	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Jan 14	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Jan 21	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Jan 28	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sun, Jan 29	9am - 1pm	History of Deer Creek Hills
Jan TBA	TBA	NEW! Docent Training
Jan TBA	TBA	Docent Training for existing SVC docents

February 2017

Sat, Feb 4	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Feb 4	10am - 2pm	DCH Equestrian Ride
Sat, Feb 4	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Feb 11	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Feb 11	9am - 1pm	Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Feb 18	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Feb 18	7am - 12pm	Uplands Birding Hikes
Sat, Feb 18	10am - 2pm	DCH Equestrian Ride
Sat, Feb 18	9am - 1pm	Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Feb 25	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Feb 25	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Feb 25	4pm - 7pm	Exploring the Winter Sky at DCH
Sat, Feb 25		Great Backyard Bird Count
Feb TBA	TBA	Winter Service Project at DCH

March 2017

Sat, Mar 4	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Mar 4	10am - 2pm	DCH Equestrian Ride
Sat, Mar 4	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Mar 11	9am - 1pm	Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Mar 11	9am - 1pm	Blooming Blue Oaks DCH Botany Hike
Sat, Mar 11	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Mar 18	7am - 12pm	Barn Pond Birding Hike
Sat, Mar 18	9am - 2pm	St. Patty's Day Hikes

Sat, Mar 18	10am - 2pm	St. Patty's Day Guided Equestrian Ride
Sat, Mar 18	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Mar 25	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Mar 25	9am - 1pm	Early Spring Blossoms DCH Botany Hike
Sat, Mar 25	9am - 1pm	Spring Clean Up at Camp Pollock

April 2017

Sat, Apr 1	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 1	10am - 2pm	DCH Equestrian Ride
Sat, Apr 1	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Thur, Apr 6	6pm - 8pm	Camp Pollock Riverside Concert Series
Sat, Apr 8	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 8	9am - 1pm	Stories in Spring Meadows DCH Botany Hike
Sat, Apr 8	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Apr 15	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 15	10am - 2pm	DCH Guided Equestrian Ride
Sat, Apr 15	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 15	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sat, Apr 22	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 22	9am - 1pm	Humans Shaping the Land DCH Botany Hike
Sat, Apr 22	6am - 11am	South Pond Birding Hike at DCH
Sat, Apr 22	9am - 1pm	Earth Day - Clean-up & Benefit Concert
Sat, Apr 29	9am - 1pm	DCH Free Self Guided Hikes
Sat, Apr 29	10am - 2pm	DCH Equestrian Ride
Sat, Apr 29	9am - 1pm	Camp Pollock Service Day
Sun, Apr 30	9am - 1pm	Native American History of DCH Hike

Check out all of SVC's events on our Online Calendar at
www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp