

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Hikes

4th Saturdays at 9am

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22 & May 27

### Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Equestrian Rides

4th Sundays at 9am

February 26, March 26, April 23 & May 28

(weather permitting)

### Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Tours

Sundays at 1pm

February 26 & April 23

For all tours, hikes, and rides portable restrooms will be provided. Children are welcome. Hats, sunscreen, water, snacks, sturdy walking/hiking shoes and appropriate clothing for weather conditions a must. Heavy winds and rain will cancel.

The Conservancy is now recruiting volunteer docents to help with hikes, rides, and tours. To get information about being a docent, to RSVP to Conservancy outings and get directions to hikes, rides, and tours please contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator at 916-216-2178 or [tammymebane@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tammymebane@sbcglobal.net).

## Announcements

### Deer Creek Hills Master Plan Draft Review

Deer Creek Hills Master Plan Draft will be ready for informal review in November. See [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) to look at our draft recommendations or contact Aimee Rutledge at 916/492-0908 or [bond13mac@aol.com](mailto:bond13mac@aol.com). This is an early draft of our recommendations for management of habitat, grazing and public access. The Notice of Preparation of environmental review likely will be issued by Sacramento County in January 2006, which is when formal comments will be taken. Thanks to your support we are on schedule to complete the Master Plan by the end of 2006, so we can start raising funds for improvements.

### Conservancy Wish List

*We need this equipment to start the 2006 hiking program and start implementation of the Deer Creek Master Plan*

- 4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck.
- Weed sprayers-backpack or truck mounted.
- Quad-runner vehicle. • Porta-potty service.

Please call 731-8798 if you would be interested in donating or sponsoring any of these items or filling volunteer roles.

Thanks!



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## REI Partners with Conservancy

### First Service Day a Success

On September 17th the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and Roseville REI hosted a service day at Deer Creek Hills. (See photo inside) The day proved to be a fun success all around. About 30 volunteers spent the day hanging new signs along Latrobe and Michigan Bar roads, marking the boundaries of the Deer Creek Hills property and hauling away two truck-loads of trash. Volunteers of all ages were on hand to enjoy a picnic lunch provided by REI staff and learn about the property on a guided hike after lunch. Carol Witham, president of California Native Plant Society and ecologist, educated the group on native plants, history, and habitat of Deer Creek Hills.



*Gallop with SVC into 2006 hike and ride season!*

The Conservancy recently accepted a \$5000 grant from REI to build our docent hiking and education program.

“REI is excited to work on hands-on education and hiking in our special local areas, like the oak woodlands at Deer Creek Hills,” said Larry Mesa, Outreach Specialist, REI. “Our partnership with the Conservancy is all about what we do . . . providing great outdoor recreation experiences and extending our Community Grant program to organizations protecting open space.”

*(See REI Service Day . . . page 2)*

## Docent-led Tour Program Expands

### Equestrian Rides New in 2006

Don't miss out on the 2006 Conservancy docent-led tour season. It will be an exciting season with vernal pool tours, Deer Creek Hills oak woodland hikes and equestrian rides. Carol Witham, current president of California Native Plant Society and vernal pool expert will lead vernal pool tours at the Conservancy's Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area. If you would like to view the endangered tadpole shrimp, fairy shrimp and all kinds of water creatures, don't miss the February 26th vernal pool shrimp tour. The April 23 wildflower vernal pool tour is a must for viewing native plants and wildflowers, some endemic to Sacramento.

The Deer Creek Hills hikes are led on fourth Saturdays, January-May by the Conservancy volunteer docents, all with diverse backgrounds and expertise. The hikes are anywhere from 3-6 miles and take approximately 2-3 hours. We break into groups and offer varying difficulty and length of hikes to suit a diverse group. The hikes meander through oak woodlands and grasslands, blanketed with wildflowers in the spring and with stunning views of the Coast Range and the Sierras on clear days. 2006 hikes will focus on geology, history, wildflowers, birds, bats and stars.

*(See 2006 Hike Season . . . page 2)*

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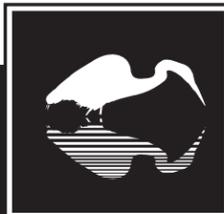
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Fall 2005

**2006 Hike Season . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

The Deer Creek Hills Equestrian rides are new to the 2006 season and will be on fourth Sundays from February-May (weather permitting). We held our first equestrian ride in 2005 and received such a great response we are offering several scheduled rides.

“Equestrian rides at Deer Creek Hills are about getting out on the range. . . and riding for miles through gorgeous scenery,” said Bill Katen, SVC Equestrian docent and member of the California State Horsemen’s Association. “Riding opportunities like this are fast disappearing in California and across the nation.”

There will be a fee for these rides and attendance will be limited, so pre-registration will be necessary. Some horses may be available for rental for a fee. More details will be provided on

our website as they develop, or contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net for more information.

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**REI Service Day . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

The service day was a great example of our partners getting hands-on experience in conservation and education. Service days are an essential part of maintaining the properties the Conservancy manages. We always have projects that need to be completed such as hanging signs, trash and weed removal, trail maintenance and posting

trail markers. We can accommodate any size and age group who are interested in volunteering. Thanks REI and all the volunteers who came out to help! Contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net to find out about service day opportunities for you or your group.



*REI Service Day volunteers picnic, learn about Deer Creek Hills.*

**Partners, Awards, Parties**

Volunteer of the Year and other awards were handed out at the Conservancy’s annual “Treasures of the Valley” event on October 6th. The Conservancy Volunteer of the Year award went to Winston Lancaster, California State University, Sacramento professor and bat expert. When Winston is not eavesdropping on the bats at Deer Creek Hills, you can find him leading hikes as a volunteer docent, sharing his knowledge with hike participants. The Conservancy salutes Winston’s dedication and passion for conservation. His dedicated volunteer work helps make the hiking program possible.

Other awards were handed out to Agilent Technologies, AKT Development, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Great Valley Center, REI, Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, Sacramento Open Space (SOS), Soroptomist International, the Strong Foundation, and Teichert Foundation for their contributions to the Conservancy hiking and education programs.

**Parties for the Conservancy** support land acquisition efforts, docent-led tours and all SVC’s programs. The first “Pleasures of the Valley” party, hosted by Lynn Sadler



*Winston Lancaster accepts award at Treasures of the Valley*

and Cydney Bender at the Phil Evans Gallery in Fair Oaks, gathered 20 Conservancy supporters. A Ranch BBQ with live jazz at the Nicolaus Ranch, hosted by Wendel Flint and Chris Unkel, gave Conservancy supporters Mike Eaton, Charity Kenyon, and Dave and Maxine Clark and friends a chance to view Sandhill Cranes, eat steaks donated by Lucky Seven Ranch of Deer Creek Hills, and take a hayride. Host a party for us and have great fun with friends, while supporting SVC . . . call Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 for help getting started.

**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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**THANK YOU.**