

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Our docent-led hikes are filling up fast! Call 731-8798 to RSVP, or to ask about a special group hike.

Deer Creek Hills Docent-Led Hikes

Learn about plants, oaks, geology, history, cattle ranching and more. Carpooling encouraged. Porta-potty. Wear layers, good walking or hiking shoes, and bring water. Families welcome. 4th Saturdays, Jan - May, Mar 26th, April 23rd & May 28th. 9am-1pm

First Deer Creek Hills Equestrian Docent Tour!

RSVP soon-limited availability. Sunday, April 17th at 10am

Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Flower Tour

Join host Carol Witham, President of the California Native Plant Society, and learn about the unique native plants harbored in our special vernal pools. Families welcome. Sunday, April 17th, from 2pm-4pm

California Native Plant Society Vernal Pool Tours

See the vernal pools at Mather Field. Meet at park next to Mather Heights Elementary. Sundays: April 10th, 17th & 24th 10am to Noon & 1pm to 3pm

Announcements

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

Conservancy Wish List

4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck
Weed sprayers-backpack or truck mounted
Quad-runner vehicle
Free porta-potty service for one year

Volunteers Needed

- Administrative Work on Weekdays
- Booth Staffing on Weekends
- Future weeding parties

Deer Creek Workshops Online

Couldn't make our recent workshops? Go virtual at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on "workshop materials" in the upper left corner of home page. Download info you want and email us with comments.



sacramento valley conservancy

Oak Woodlands, Working Ranches and Deer Creek Hills Master Plan

By Aimee Rutledge

Donor support and partnerships create great opportunities for Sacramento Valley Conservancy. We purchased the 4062 acres at Deer Creek Hills with the support of over 16 funding partners and over 400 individuals. Now, with great new donor support and partnerships (page 3), we are embarking on a public education process on the importance of oak woodlands, working ranches and future potential uses at Deer Creek Hills.

We still need over \$100,000 to meet our \$350,000 budget. Please help if you can!

Five workshops were held in Sloughhouse, Rancho Murieta, El Dorado Hills, Folsom and downtown Sacramento. Over 100 people attended, including ranchers and landowners, residents of Folsom, El Dorado County, Sacramento, Rancho Murieta and other areas.

Feedback from these workshops are available for download on our website www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org. Just click on "public workshop materials" on the upper left corner of the home page. Please give us your feedback via email at info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org. We need your input!



Deer Creek Workshop participants help shape Master Plan.

Progress Made in East County Blue Oak Hills Area

In February, the State of California Parks and Recreation Department, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division, working together with the local Barton-Ledbetter ranching family, protected 1000 acres of

rangeland as open space buffer adjacent to the Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area.

"With the rapid pace of residential development in California closing in on many of our OHV parks, it is important that we purchase open space buffers to maintain our riding opportunities," said Daphne Green, Deputy Director, OHMVR Division. "Prairie City faces intense pressure from surrounding devel-

opment, and we are very pleased to make progress on establishing buffer there."

The OHMVR Division and Barton-Mosher Sacramento Ranches, LLC agreed to partner for the long-term, by the OHMVR Division purchasing a restriction on residential development over a large section of the ranch. The restriction will remain in place for 50 years or the life of the OHV facility, whichever is longer.

"We have the opportunity to work together to provide ser-

(See Oak Woodlands . . . page 2)

(See Progress . . . page 2)

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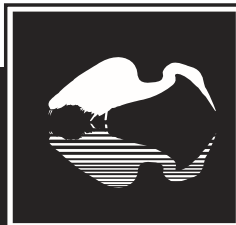
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Spring 2005

Dry Creek Parkway Easement Purchased

Sacramento Valley Conservancy has purchased an easement on 4.5-acres along Dry Creek in Rio Linda.

This property contains valley oak seedlings, provides a trail link and adds to the over 370 acres that the Conservancy has directly helped to protect in the Dry Creek Parkway. The County of Sacramento's Dry Creek Parkway Plan combines trails, fish projects, flood control and traditional agricultural uses.

The Dry Creek Parkway links with the American River Parkway at Discovery Park (via the Ueda Parkway and Sacramento Northern Bikeway) and links near Lake Natoma (via Dry Creek Watershed in Placer County).

Oak Woodlands . . . *(continued from page 1)*

How can we successfully blend our three main goals – habitat, grazing and public access? Some workshop ideas are: rotate public use on a seasonal basis to lighten impacts on cattle grazing and habitat; educate public on ranching; provide field trips for kids; slowly integrate uses with needed security; identify areas to use mitigation funds from developers to help restore habitat at Deer Creek Hills and to work with willing landowners to

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

vices like additional camping areas for Prairie City or Ag related business, "said Herb Garms, representative of Sacramento Ranches. "Enhanced business opportunities and neighbors friendly to ranching can help keep our cattle operation going."

The portion of the ranch which provides buffer is located to the south and east of the OHV facility, which is located just over a mile south of Folsom, and borders on White Rock and Scott Roads. The buffer area extends several miles

Combined, the Dry Creek trail system and the American River Parkway will provide a loop almost sixty-miles of multi-use trails and habitat corridors. Stay tuned for information on the Laguna Creek Corridor, providing similar benefits to Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove and South Sacramento communities.

See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on "21st Century Open Space Vision" to see the Conservancy's vision for these regional corridors. Also, see a new regional trails plan at www.sacog.org/bikeinfo/bikeped.cfm. Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (www.sacbike.org) suggested many of the projects included. ■

protect and restore surrounding properties. Let us know your ideas!

A draft Master Plan will be posted on our website for review by early summer – a final draft by the end of 2005. Email us to make sure you are notified. The plan will undergo environmental review in 2006 and will be presented to the County Board of Supervisors for adoption. The plan will identify goals for future uses, fundraising and volunteers. ■

south along either side of Scott Road, to within a couple of miles (and two parcels) of the 4000-acre Deer Creek Hills oak woodland preserve and working ranch. Deer Creek Hills is owned by Sacramento Valley Conservancy, the County of Sacramento, and California State Parks.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy continues to actively work with willing sellers in the area to protect the landscape and traditional ranches. ■

Donor Spotlight

Workshops, Laptops, Retirements

BIG thanks to our Deer Creek Hills workshop supporters. We still need over \$100,000 to meet our \$350,000 budget. Please help if you can! See page 1 "Oak Woodlands" to participate in the workshop process. Heroic supporters so far include: Wildlife Conservation Board, CA Department of Fish & Game, CA Department of Parks & Recreation, AKT Development, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, American River Conservancy, Amador Land Trust, County of Sacramento, CA Department of Fire & Forestry, California Releaf, Great Valley Center, A. Teichert & Son, Inc., Sacramento Tree Foundation, Warmington Homes, Woodside Homes, Cassano Kamilos Homes, Murieta Holdings, CA Native Plant Society, Sacramento Audubon, City of Folsom staff, City of Rancho Cordova staff, Rancho Murieta Association staff, East County Landowners Group members, Dan Macon of the High Sierra Resource Council, Sloughhouse Inn staff, Sierra Health Foundation, Eric Stackhouse, The Dangermond Group, Foothill Associates, for their very valuable help in hosting our website, and the many special individual donors who have stepped up at all different levels to support this effort!



Our most consistent, annual \$60K donors. Profile in next issue.

Also, a big thanks to Linda Dixon, who recently donated an Apple G4 laptop computer.

Sincere appreciation goes to both John Iander, KOVR-13 reporter and recently retired SVC Board member of 3 years, and to Bill Morrison, former State Lands Commission staff and recently retired SVC Board member of over 10 years. Welcome to new Board members Robert Jones, recently retired Vice President of Development at CSUS, and Cydney Bender-Reents of the Bender Rosenthal appraisal firm! ■

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.