

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

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

Sat, April 16 or 30, 9am - 1:00pm	Service Project
Sun, April 17, 10:00am - 2:00pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, April 23, 9:00am - 1:00pm	Birds and Wildflowers of DCH
Sat, May 7, 9:00am - 1:00pm	Cowboy Breakfast
Thurs, May 19, 5:30pm - 7:30pm	Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
Sat, May 28, 9:00am - 1:00am	History/archeological interests of DCH
Sun, May 29, 10:00am - 2:00pm	Equestrian Ride
Thurs, June 16, 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Summer Social
Sat, June 25, 7:30am - 10:00am	Mountain Biking
Sat, July 23, 7:30am - 10:00am	Mountain Biking
Sat, August 6, 7:00pm - 11:00pm	Sunset Hike-Bat Night - Astronomy Night
Sat, August 27, 7:30am - 10:00am	Mountain Biking
Sat, September 24, 7:30am - 10:00am	Mountain Biking
Thurs, October 6, 5:30pm - 8:00pm	Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction
Sat, October 15, 9:00am - 1:00pm	Service Project
Sat, October 22, 7:30am - 10:00am	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 outing routes vary and may include stream or fence crossings and uneven terrain.

Heavy rain and/or wind cancel hike/ride.

Mountain biking events are held when the cattle are off the site.

Three ways to Register

www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp (Register On-Line)

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

outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Announcements

SAVE THE DATE!

Free Food & Fun

at Sunrise & Sundown - Join us!

Cowboy Breakfast & Hike, May 7

Twilight Wine & Cheese, May 19

Sunset Hike, Bat Night - Astronomy Night, Aug 6

Wish List

Gift Cards

for any amount from Office Max, Office Depot, Staples, Costco, REI or Home Depot

6 Month Port-A-Let Rental

2 Full Sized Laptop Computers
running Windows, no more than 3 years old

2 Portable USB External Harddrives

4 GPS Units

used is ok!

Please contact Kathy or Wendy at 916-731-8798 for more information, or visit our website at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



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Generosity Fuels Future of Deer Creek Hills

The Walthall family connects to the mission of Sacramento Valley Conservancy in a very special way. Together, they have visited the Deer Creek Hills Preserve for more than 40 years, even though the Preserve was only officially established in 2002!

Through their father's (Randy "Cotton" Walthall) relationship with Dick Harry, the founder of Lucky Seven Ranch, their family grew up visiting the creeks, ponds, oaks and wide open spaces at Deer Creek Hills (previously called "the Rock"-short for the name of the previous owner-Roque Miranda, a sheep rancher of Basque descent).

Randy's oldest son, also named Randall Walthall, vividly recalls fishing, picnicking, hiking, and climbing oaks in this beautiful setting as he grew up. His father, a Sacramento dentist by day and an avid duck hunter and back country enthusiast in his off hours, led the family on many outings in the Valley and the Sierras, but they always returned to Deer Creek Hills as their special, local place to enjoy the outdoors.

After serving the Sacramento community with his practice for over 60 years and living close to his children in Bozeman, Montana for the last years of his life, Randy "Cotton" Walthall passed away last month. In his memory, the Walthall family generously asked that friends and family remember Mr. Walthall by making memorial donations to Sacramento Valley



The Walthall family enjoyed a visit to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve in 2004 as a surprise gift for their father on his 80th birthday.

Photograph by Walthall Family

(See Deer Creek . . . page 2)

Service Days – a Wonderful Way to Feel Good!

You've missed some kind of fun if you weren't present at the October 2010 or January 2011 Service Days. At our REI sponsored Service Day in October, the Roots to Horizons kids looked cute and sporty in their REI t-shirts as they picked up trash and hung signs. What fun to use giant magnets to pluck up spent shot gun shells! Adults looked gung-ho in their blue REI t-shirts as we leveled a large pile of dirt and gravel, and upgraded our hitching posts. Our reward was a deep sense of satisfaction topped off with hot chicken sandwiches!

The January Service Day sparked poetry and prose and great photos. (See "Ode to Garbage Collection" and photo inside.) As we rebuilt our kiosk at the corral, volunteers got into the zone picking up trash, and almost couldn't be bothered to learn how to hang signs! The Wire Team had their own adventure in the ghostly fog... *The coiled and bent wire, sitting and rusting in place for years, resisted all efforts to untangle it. Cable cutters were clearly useless. The only solution...* (Excerpt from *Rusty Wire and Long Dead Beer Cans* - read the entire story on our Facebook page)... all while the lasagnes warmed in a nearby oven.

Here's what the volunteers had to say: A jovial group that worked well together... willingness and enthusiasm... had fun in the process... this event was well organized... we were re-

(See Service Days . . . page 2)

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Spring 2011

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

Conservancy and the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. The family is also planning a memorial gift of their own to support SVC and help care for the Deer Creek Hills Preserve for future generations.

We thank the Walthall family and are proud to have them in the SVC family of donors. Our strong base of local donors allows us to pursue local and regional priorities and accomplish our 21st Century Open Space Vision. Look at our vision at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org under “What We Do” and find your special place. Your donations make it possible to protect open space, for all of us, and for our future generations.

Service Days . . . *(continued from page 1)*

warded with a view of garbage-free property and a wonderful, hot lasagne lunch... hot tasty meal for a foggy day...It was amazing how quickly the morning went by as we worked and how quickly the fog rolled in to take away our sunny morning start!

Our next Service Day honors Earth Day and is April 16th (April 30th rain day). Celebrate Earth Day by getting a little dirt under your nails, and do something for the greater good.

What’s on SVC’s Facebook Page Right Now?

View photos from our Service Days including the eerie Ghost Truck, the poem Ode To Garbage Collection and the story Rusty Wire and Long Dead Beer Cans. Go to our home page at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on the blue Facebook link.

To become a fan of Sacramento Valley Conservancy, sign into your Facebook account

Just as the Walthall family had fun and grew a strong appreciation for nature and our place in it at Deer Creek Hills, many youth and school children visit the Preserve through SVC’s Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) program. This season, we are proud to be working with over 13 youth groups, including seven new groups on almost 20 day and overnight trips. We are also working with Sierra Nevada Journeys to bring over 16 classrooms to the Preserve. Help make special memories for your family on our over 16 public outings and for others by donating today. Without your support, we cannot continue these special programs. *Thank you.*

A wide variety of tasks will be available for wide variety of skill levels. Enjoy a free lunch, a sense of accomplishment and meet others with similar goals by keeping Deer Creek Hills tidy and user friendly. Tools and training provided to all volunteers on the SVC’s Clean Team! Bring work gloves, a chair and your own water bottle. Registration required, go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp.

Ode To Garbage Collection
(inspired by January 2010 Service Day)
Lisa S. Couper, DVM and SVC Docent

What a lovely and enriching way

To spend a foggy January day.

Laughing and tidying the place

Managed to put a smile on everyone’s face.

‘Cause every pick-up no matter how small

Gave a better look to the place over all.

At the end hot food and good conversation

*Left everyone with the feeling of
a job well done.*

**Get out, Have Fun
Get Fit for Spring with SVC!**

Or, for you Foodies – dine at Deer Creek Hills at Sunrise and Sunset!

Come and join us for our many public outings – enjoy a docent-led tour on wildflowers, birds or history. Or, have your own adventure during our staffed public events on our “Check In, Check Out” self-guided trail. A docent or staff person will exchange cell numbers and orient you with a map and check you out of the Preserve prior to 1pm.

Foodie? (And, really, aren’t we all?) Come to our Cowboy Breakfast on Saturday, May 7 or to our Twilight Wine and Cheese on Thursday, May 19. You can enjoy hot coffee, warm pancakes (with healthy blueberries), sizzling bacon, horses and real cowboys at the corral at Deer Creek Hills. Or, you can revel in the green grass, blue oaks and orange sunset at the proposed Cummings-Stathos addition to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Or, both!

Late nighter? Come to our Sunset Hike and Star and Bat Night on Saturday, August 6. See back page for full event schedule. Go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org to register. Registration required for each event, see the website.



Roots to Horizons youth celebrate volunteering and having fun outside at SVC’s January Service Day at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve.
Photograph by Gina Silvernale

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:

\$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$35 \$20 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 info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



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THANK YOU.