

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011

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

Thurs, June 16, 5:30pm - 7:00pm	Summer Social (overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park)
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 Murietta). 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 - October 6th

Fun, Food, Live Music, Friends, Libations, Support SVC at Annual

Treasures of the Valley

Tickets \$50/ea, Sponsorships \$250 and up include tickets

1. Go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org,
2. Click on "Sponsor an Event" to buy tickets or sponsor
3. Type "TOV" in tribute line

Volunteer and attend for Free.

Email Kathy Reynolds, SVC Stewardship Coordinator at kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 916-731-8798.

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

1 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



sacramento valley conservancy

Innovation and Your Support Keep

Deer Creek Hills Preserve Growing Strong

Parks are being cut or closed at both the state and local levels. Seventy State Parks are closing, including the Governor's and Leland Stanford Mansions, Brannon Island State Park in the Delta, and many others. Both the State and County are seeking partnerships with nonprofits and for profits to run facilities, including leasing out Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Gibson Ranch. State legislation is pending that would authorize State Parks to contract directly with nonprofits to run parks.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy foresaw this need almost a decade ago and found an innovative way to meet it at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve when we crafted agreements with our partners (Sacramento County, State Parks and California Department of Fish and Game) that allowed SVC to manage the Preserve and determined an appropriate balance among the partners' goals – preserving wildlife habitat, sustaining local agriculture (ecologically beneficial winter cattle grazing) and providing compatible public recreation. The Deer Creek Hills Preserve is run by your support and SVC entirely with private dollars, active volunteers and dedicated staff.

Deer Creek Hills is a part of the County Regional Parks and Open Space and State Parks systems. For more information about the current public funding crisis and recent citizen efforts to find a long-term funding source for all County Parks, includ-

Running a Preserve

Law Enforcement, Road Repairs, Service Days

Why does it cost money to manage open space? We have to keep it safe, clean and healthy for people, animals and plants. This takes funds, staff, volunteers, partnerships and equipment.

Your support sustains staff and trains over 60 (and growing!) volunteers to provide our public outing programs. We take time to coordinate all our programs very carefully with the rancher and the neighbors. Our hard-working staff (9 part-time staff total, with about 1.5 full-time equivalent positions dedicated to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve) spends time training, coordinating volunteers, organizing outings and service days, outreaching to youth, school groups and partner organizations and, of course, keeping track of our funds, insurance and paying our bills (fences, porta-potties, materials for service days, dump fees, etc. . .).

We outreach to our very hard-working law enforcement partners, including State Park rangers, Department of Fish and Game wardens, County Sheriff's deputies, Rancho Murietta Community Service District officers, CalFire, Amador and Sacramento Metro Fire fighters and emergency responders. Recently, we held a law enforcement "open house", including our neighbors, to discuss how to better prevent vandalism, fires, unauthorized camping, dumping and shooting on Latrobe and Michigan Bar Roads (that traverse the Preserve). The response has been tremendous and is helping prevent hazards



A young SVC supporter brought her own "horse" and got to experience a real horse at the Deer Creek Hills Cowboy Breakfast May 7. SVC President Kate Hart and son Jackson stand ready to feed the horse from the basket of carrots.
Photograph by Kathy Reynolds

(See Deer Creek . . . page 2)

(See Running a Preserve . . . page 2)

www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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Summer 2011

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

ing Deer Creek Hills, see www.sarariver-watch.org and click on "Grassroots Process".

For now, we continue to increase our fund-raising and services at the Preserve through our volunteers and community partnerships. We are not stopping our work to protect our planned 10,000-acre Blue Oak Hills corridor, with the ultimate goal of connecting the American River Watershed (and its parkway) and the Cosumnes River Watershed (Deer Creek Hills) to continue protecting wildlife habitat, sustaining beneficial local agriculture and providing compatible public recreation opportunities. We are working hard to expand the Preserve by 375 acres to the north along our planned corridor.

We have forged a long-term partnership with Lucky Seven Ranch, which helps sustain the ecology (via weed-eating cows) and economy of the Preserve (as our largest single fund-

ing source). We have established an over \$200,000 fund for management of the Preserve and we have raised almost \$100,000 in private, local funds to support our Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) program and provide day and overnight trips to youth groups and classrooms. See list of YES partners and article below. We have over 60 dedicated volunteer docents who run three types of public outing programs – equestrian, hiking and mountain biking – totaling over 20 outings per year. We work with community-based clubs and partner with REI to bring folks out to learn about and enjoy the outdoors at Deer Creek Hills. Thank you to all our supporters for making all this possible!

Help support SVC today and sustain our efforts to protect wildlife, to preserve our local agricultural heritage, and to provide youth, families and you the opportunity to visit this special place.

Running a Preserve . . . *(continued from page 1)*

like shooting on the roads during youth outings, shooting of our porta-potty and kiosk, vandalism of our picnic tables, and dumping of stolen cars, yard clippings, construction debris and other trash.

County road maintenance crews this spring responded promptly to help make Latrobe and Michigan Bar Roads safer by grading, filling in deep holes and providing more solid footing along tricky sections of the roads. We plan soon to install new fencing along wider sections of road that experience damage and trash dumping and illegal camping and fire activity. County Parks helps by donating use of their porta-potty and with some very strategic mowing, when needed.

What's on SVC's Facebook page right now?

YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) Program at Deer Creek Hills
Over 20 classrooms, 10 youth groups and 750 kids per year served and growing!

What they are saying:

"The students talked about Deer Creek Hills for weeks."

"For these students it was a good experience just to spend time in such a remote part of nature and observe what was around them. This is something I'm sure most have never done before."

Volunteers worked hard at two service days in January and April to remove trash, spruce up picnic tables, add trail markers, rebuild our information kiosk and hang signs. Hosted by lead docents and staff, volunteers will enjoy fun, satisfaction of helping the environment and will work off a "free" lunch on our final service day of the year on October 15. See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org and click on Calendar to register. Huge thanks to all our docents and volunteers, to our law enforcement and County road maintenance and parks staff and to our neighbors for their help! And, most of all, thanks for your support, which makes all of this great work possible!

"During the program (in class) we studied the watershed and students actually experience it and the plants and animals that depend on it (at Deer Creek Hills)."

Search "Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Facebook" and see photos and more quotes from kids!

HUGE Thanks to:
Sierra Nevada Journeys

(See Facebook . . . next page)

How You Can Help!
Volunteer Opportunities

If you had tons of fun helping us at the Cowboy Breakfast or the Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration or if you missed us at these fun events . . . there's more fun to be had!

Late August and month of September: Need 3 people to drive to different businesses and artists and pick up items and art for our Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction. This is fun because you get to be SVC ambassadors and meet artists and vendors face-to-face. Flexible around your schedule.

October 6th: Need 2-3 people with large capacity vehicles to move silent auction items from our Mather office to Sac State for our Treasures of the Valley event. And, many other ways to volunteer that day or evening: set up, food service, silent auction monitor, break down. Volunteers work off their ticket and attend the event for free.

October 15th: Autumn Service Project at Deer Creek Hills. Make a visual difference by hanging signs, picking up trash and shot gun shells. Register online to become involved at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org, click on Calendar.

Contact:

Kathy Reynolds, Stewardship Coordinator, to volunteer at 916-731-8798 or kreynolds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org



Look closely in grass – Water critter comes up for air to show YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) students how watersheds work.

Photograph by Kate Hart

Facebook . . . *(continued from previous page)*

REI
Sierra Health Foundation
Vulcan Materials
Teichert Foundation
Aerojet and GenCorp Foundation
Soroptimist International of
Metropolitan Sacramento
Lucky Seven Ranch / Dick Harry

Deacon Charitable
Foundation
And, YOU!

With your support, we look forward to growing the program and serving more kids next school year.

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.