Calendar of Upcoming Events

2007 Hike Season

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy offers docent-led educational hikes and equestrian rides at Deer Creek Hills Preserve (equestrians must have their own horses). We offer a diverse group of trained SVC docents that lead and educate participants on the natural history, geology, birds, wildlife, plant life, and wildflowers of the area. Hikes and equestrian rides start at 9:00 and end at 1:00 (unless otherwise noted). All info will be posted on our website soon. Please check back for additional events. There will be a fee for hikes of $10, and $20 for equestrian rides (unless otherwise noted). Children 16 and under are free. Our new interpretive trail will be open and free to the public on Fourth Saturdays from 9:00-1:00.

Hike Schedule:
- Saturday Jan 27, Deer Creek Overlook Hike
- Saturday Jan 27, North Pond Stroll
- Saturday Feb 04, Geology Hike
- Saturday Feb 24, Deer Creek Overlook Hike
- Sunday Feb 25, Equestrian Ride
- Saturday Mar 24, Wildflower Hike
- Sunday Mar 25, Equestrian Ride
- Saturday Apr 28, Birds of Deer Creek Hills Hunt
- Saturday Apr 28, Wildflower Tour
- Saturday Apr 29, Equestrian Ride
- Saturday May 26, Natural History Hike
- Sunday May 27, Equestrian Ride

For information about our events please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Kelly van Boxtel at (530) 400-5922, or kelly_sacvalleyconservancy@yahoo.com.

SVC Partners With Amador Land Trust

Sacramento Valley Conservancy recently executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formally establish a partnership with Amador Land Trust to protect land in both eastern Sacramento County and western Amador County.

“The county boundary does not affect the oak woodlands, vernal pools and endangered lone chaparral plant communities we’re working hard to protect. And, family ranches don’t stop at the county line either,” said Amanda Bohl, Board member of the Amador Land Trust. “We’re partnering with SVC to make our conservation goals happen on a larger scale.”

Sacramento Valley Conservancy’s Board of Trustees member Tim Curran is a family rancher whose home ranch is based in Western Amador County, but who owns and grazes land permanently protected by a conservation easement in eastern Sacramento County. SVC works hard to protect large tracts of traditional rangeland, blue oak woodlands, and vernal pool grasslands. Working with Amador Land Trust will strengthen SVC’s ability to achieve our mission.

A grant from the California Department of Conservation’s Farmland Conservancy Program helped fund outreach to weedsprayers, backpack or truck mounted 4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck

Quad-runner vehicle • Porta-potty service

SVC, SMUD and The Nature Conservancy Work Together to Protect Vernal Pools

1200 Acres at Rancho Seco to Become Permanent Nature Area

SVC is working with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to set aside a 1200-acre nature preserve on land just east of the decommissioned Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. SVC has partnered with SMUD and TNC to set up a 30-month temporary easement for the protection of critical ecological and agricultural resources, including seasonal vernal pools that support threatened and endangered species. The land was ceremoniously dedicated in a signing ceremony at the site on October 18. SVC will hold the easement and manage cattle grazing at the site.

SVC and TNC will help conduct biological surveys in the area to support the ultimate goal of creating a permanent wetlands mitigation bank and easement. The mitigation bank must be approved by state and federal agencies. The 1200 acres includes land east of the decommissioned Rancho Seco Nuclear Station and east of the newly constructed Cosumnes Power Plant. It also includes the

(See SVC’s Amador . . . page 2)
SVC’s Amador . . . (continued from page 1)

farmers and ranchers in both counties
about working with land trusts. It
also funded GIS mapping of natural
resources and agricultural lands,
and joint strategic conservation planning
that led to the execution of the MOU.

Potential joint SVC/ALT projects
include more outreach to landowners
on potential conservation easements
on farms and ranches in both counties,
exploring mitigation options for new
developments in Amador County, and
potentially working on Howard Ranch
East (which contains 20,000 acres
and is next to Howard Ranch West, a
12,000 acre preserve and working ranch
protected by The Nature Conservancy).

SMUD Preserve . . . (continued from page 1)

Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). The existing Rancho Seco Recreation Area is not included in the set-aside. But, the recently opened Rancho Seco Howard Ranch Trail is included in the nature area and is open to the public. The trail is a cooperative project between SMUD and TNC. It connects Rancho Seco Park to Howard Ranch, and traverses 7 miles of vernal pools; seasonal wetlands, creek and marsh areas. These areas provide ecological havens for rare, native species and contain carpets of colorful flowers in the spring.

“By working together with SMUD and
TNC, SVC will achieve permanent
protection of a critical habitat area for
over 14 rare and endangered vernal
pool species, like the California Tiger
Salamander and many native plants.
These creatures have less and less area
to live and need this space to survive,”
said Aimee Rutledge, SVC Executive
Director. “We’ll also help to maintain
our heritage of family cattle operations
by adding 1290 acres of grazing land to
over 15,000 acres of currently protected
land. The trail allows all of us to
experience the beauty and importance
of the vernal pools and green pastures
in person.”

For more information on SVC’s efforts
to protect homes for animals and
plants, scenic vistas and recreation, and
our agricultural heritage, visit www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org. The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit membership organization, whose mission is to preserve plants,
animals, and natural communities by
protecting the lands and waters they
need to survive. For more information
on the Conservancy’s work in California, visit www.nature.org/california. Protecting the environment is one of SMUD’s core values. For more information about SMUD’s commitment to the environment visit www.smaid.org.

Leadership Outings
These beautiful and fun outings educate
leaders, companies and agencies in our
region about our unique local scenic,
agricultural, natural and recreational
resources (including oak woodlands
and vernal pools close to work), how
they are protected and managed, and
build camaraderie in an “out-of-work”,
low stress environment. On request.
Call Aimee Rutledge, Executive Di-
rector at 916/492-0908 or e-mail to:
tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

SVC’s Amador . . . (continued from page 1)

Threatened California Tiger Salamanders thrive on the new
SMUD Nature Preserve. Photo by David Bauen

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interpretive kiosk in the corral staging area for bikers and

interpretive kiosk in the corral staging area for bikers and
equestrians.

“I am excited about the opportunity to coordinate this
project with SVC,” said David. “It will leave a legacy for
future generations.”

SVC is also working with the equestrian docents and
Lucky Seven Ranch to build several hitching posts in the
corral area for use on equestrian outings.

Crevis Creek Trail to Open in 2007 at
Deer Creek Hills
Equestrian Improvements, Kiosk Also Planned

SVC volunteers and staff will be working hard this Fall
to design and prepare a trail along Crevis Creek at the Deer
Creek Hills Preserve. This trail area is identified in the
Deer Creek Hills Master Plan as the first to be developed
on the site. SVC plans to open this trail in January 2007
for public access during fourth Saturdays from 9am to
1pm. The trail may be open other hours, depending on
the availability of docents and staff to check in trail users.
Check out www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org for more
information on hours as the 2007 hike season progresses.

The mile-long trail will traverse an 80-acre area of the
site and will have interpretive stops illustrating blue oak
regeneration, Basque sheep ranching and mining history,
native American use of the site, plants and animals present
along Crevis Creek, native grassland plants and our local
heritage of cattle grazing.

SVC and Eagle Scout David Golden from Boy Scouts
of America, Troop 633 are cooperating to build an

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here is my tax deductible donation of:
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Fax____________________________

Here is my tax deductible donation of:
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@sacramento valleyconservancy.org

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer

Nonprofit ID
68-0256214

Fall 2006

sacramento valley conservancy

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