

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information contact Tammy Mebane at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

2008 Hike Season

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy offers docent-led educational hikes and equestrian rides at Deer Creek Hills Preserve (equestrians must have their own horse). 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 9am and end at 1pm (unless otherwise noted). All tours will be posted on our website by the end of December, please check back for additional events.

The fee for hikes is \$10, \$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 (January through May).

Hike & Self-Guided Trail Schedule

January 26, February 23, March 22, April 26 and May 24

Equestrian Schedule:

February 24, March 23, April 27 and May 25(TBD)

Announcements

Sacramento Valley Conservancy has moved!

Our new office is located at 4426 Excelsior Road at Mather. Our mailing address remains the same, as do our phone numbers and email contacts. SVC is proud to be sharing office space at the Splash Education Center. Sacramento Splash, a watershed education program, delivers its environmental science curricula to more than 3,000 school children every year. Splash is supported by the Sacramento County Regional Sanitation District, the City of Sacramento Department of Utilities and the County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources. The Splash Center includes a wetlands critter room (with jumping bullfrogs, snakes, salamanders and Yurtle the Turtle) and a great conference space!

Conservancy Wish List

We need this equipment for the hiking program and to start implementation of the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan. Donations are tax deductible. Contact Tammy Mebane, Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net, if you would be interested in donating or sponsoring any of these items or filling volunteer roles. Thank you!

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



sacramento valley conservancy

SVC Partners with Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County

to Protect Swainson's Hawk Foraging Territory and Local Farmland

Sacramento Valley Conservancy partnered with the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County to protect 52 acres of productive farmland along the Jackson Highway 16 corridor near Sloughhouse, along Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River. The land serves as both local farmland and Swainson's hawk foraging territory. This land is adjacent to the 162 acres mentioned in the other front-page article in this newsletter, making up a block of 214 protected acres.



The fertile valley formed by the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek at Sloughhouse spreads before the eyes of travelers on Jackson Highway 16 just past Grant Line Road.

"As you drive east on Highway 16 out of the urban area of the County and just a few miles east of the city limit of Rancho Cordova, you reach a high point with beautiful views of the fertile valley formed by Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River," said Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director. "With the oak-studded foothills and the mighty Sierras as a backdrop, it's a stunning view."

Local heritage abounds on this land. The Westerberg family (descended from a local 1840's resident, Jared Dixon Sheldon) still owns the land. Sheldon and William Daylor saw virtually the same view in 1842 when they moved from

(See Partners . . . page 2)

More Swainson's Hawk and Local Agriculture Protected

SVC, Wildlands, JTS Communities and Dunmore Homes

Sacramento Valley Conservancy is the proud easement holder on 162 acres of irrigated pasture land along the Jackson Highway 16 corridor. This land is adjacent to the 52 acres mentioned in the other front-page article in this newsletter, making up a block of 214 protected acres.

Wildlands, Inc., a locally-based company, worked with SVC, JTS Communities and Dunmore Homes to protect this land for Swainson's hawk foraging in place of land taken for nearby development projects.

"It's great to work on projects where individual mitigation purchases

combine to protect larger blocks of land to help endangered species like the Swainson's hawk have permanent places to survive into the future," said Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director. "It's a double-benefit, since Sacramento-area cows need a place to graze in the summer, and local irrigated pasture is very important for the viability of local ranchers' operations."

SVC continues to work with multiple partners, including farmers, ranchers, developers, mitigation banking companies and agencies to help required mitigation from local

(See Protected Land . . . page 2)

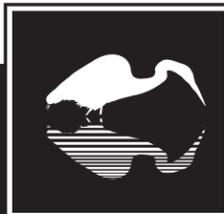
www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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Fall 2007

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

Sutter's Fort to the land granted to Sheldon by the Mexican government. (The survey for the Rancho Omochumney grant was performed by William Tecumseh Sherman—who would later become the famous Civil War general.) For thousands of years, Native American Indians used many spots along Deer Creek and the Cosumnes as living and gathering areas.

Crops that may be grown on the protected land include tomatoes, alfalfa, wheat, oats and other grains, safflower, sunflowers (and seeds!), beans, peas, beets, carrots, potatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, watermelons, other melons, cucumbers, broccoli, squash, seasonal ornamental plants and flowers, gourds, pumpkins and corn. Davis Ranch currently leases the land for crop production, which is just down the road from their direct sale produce

Protected Land . . . *(continued from page 1)*

development projects have maximum ecological and community benefit.

Next time you see a hawk soaring over a field of crops or grazing cattle looking for food for its family, or next time you are grilling a tasty meal of local vegetables or meat for your family, think about how we are all connected by the land we choose to preserve for wildlife

Snipes-Pershing Ravine Trail Grant Received

The trail at Snipes-Pershing Ravine will receive much needed improvements due to a \$186,000 Prop 50 River Parkways grant. The Gold Fields District of California State Parks will construct 2,900 feet of improved trail along a user-created trail, including developing an accessible trail, building bridges, installing interpretive signs and treating invasive exotic species along the trail and ravine area. This property was acquired by State Parks to add public access from Orangevale to the American River Parkway. It contains stunning

operation on Jackson Highway 16. At their market, Davis Ranch sells their famous "Sloughhouse Corn" and many other vegetables and fruits, and hosts a pumpkin patch and Christmas tree farm. (www.sloughhousesweetcorn.com)

SVC worked with Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County to use Swainson's hawk mitigation funds (paid by developers to both agencies) to purchase a conservation easement to permanently protect agriculture compatible with Swainson's hawk foraging. Several known nest sites for Swainson's hawk have been located in the vicinity of the property. SVC continues to work with multiple partners, including farmers, ranchers, developers, local mitigation banking companies and agencies to protect additional land in East and South Sacramento County, important for local farmers and the Swainson's hawk.

habitat and local food production. Your loyal support allows SVC to continue to strive every day to achieve our slogan, "Open Space. For All of Us."

We invite you to consider a planned gift to SVC that will last generations. Call us at 916/492-0908 and we will be happy to help you create your own open space legacy.

views of vernal pools, wildflowers, native oaks and vistas of the surrounding area. SVC worked with State Parks and community activists, including Norma Hamlin to help support the acquisition.

Check out the site sometime and enjoy a wonderful treat. The entry to the trail area is near the intersection of Snipes Boulevard and Pershing Avenue in Orangevale. It's beautiful in all weather. The improvements (which will be constructed in the future) will make it easier for all to access.

Kiosk completed at Deer Creek Hills

Just in time for the upcoming hike season the Eagle Scout project, led by David Golden, to construct a kiosk at the Deer Creek Hills parking area is complete. With the help of Abram Woodward of Granite Construction, the project will benefit all the users to DCH. "It shows what true work and dedication can look like," says David Golden, who worked with Herb Kelly Roofing, Plex Plastics, Granite Construction, Kiwanis Club and the Optimist Club to complete the project. Thanks to all who contributed to the project.



Abram Woodward of Granite Construction and Eagle Scout David Golden welcome you to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve.

Treasures of the Valley 2007

For those of you who were not able to attend our annual fundraiser Treasures of the Valley this year we are proud to report it was a huge success. Rancho Cordova Mayor, David Sander, Sacramento Councilmember Rob Fong, Sacramento County Supervisor Susan Peters and Elk Grove Councilmember Gary Davis all addressed the crowd of SVC supporters and boosted silent auction activity. Wineries, food vendors and artists displayed great creativity in their craft. The jazz band 'Shake Don't Stir' was the perfect accompaniment to the evening.

Thank you for supporting the event and SVC. SVC gives special thanks to the over 90 sponsors and over 20 volunteers who made the event possible and to our Event Board Chair, Cydney Bender-Reents.

See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org for a full list of 2007 sponsors, wineries, food vendors, silent auction donors and photos. Plan to support them throughout the year and to join us for a great time next 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:

\$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.