Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Docent Hike at Deer Creek Hills – Saturday May 26
Equestrian Ride at Deer Creek Hills – Sunday May 27

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 2, 2007
Join the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and BLM for a day of service. Working together to coordinate other service day efforts with Granite Construction, Eagle Scouts, and Rancher Mike Harry, we will wrap up all our stewardship activities withproper including; cleaning up an old barn area, installing new trail head kiosks, posting signs, and lots more, all followed by lunch and a short hike on the property.

Astronomy and Bat Night – August 11, 2007
Join us for an evening of stargazing. Listen in on bat calls at feeding time with bat expert, Winston Lancaster, CSUS professor. After the sun goes down, the Sacramento Astronomical Society will be on hand to lead the group in viewing the stars through telescopes. Don't miss this great event! Perfect for the whole family.

Treasures of the Valley – October 4, 2007
Mark your calendars for our annual Treasures of the Valley, October 4, 2007! The event will be held at the CSUS Alumni Center. It will be a night of great food, wine, beer, live music, good company, silent auction and great way to support the Conservancy and Open Space! Larger ticket and sponsorship packages available. Call Tammy Mebane at 916/216-2178.

Conservancy Wish List
We need this equipment for the biking 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

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Support Open Space - Bring Friends
$50/ticket at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Larger ticket and sponsorship packages available.

Treasures of the Valley 2007
October 4, 2007
Libations, Friends, Colleagues
CSUS Alumni Center
5:50-8pm

Support Open Space - Bring Friends
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Larger ticket and sponsorship packages available.

History Comes Alive at Deer Creek Hills
By David Scharlach, SVC Docent

"The land is generally low rolling hills... and portions can be settled by grazing as there is good grass and water in the spring of the year" (E. Dyer /Surveyor, 1857). So is described Deer Creek Hills. But there is so much more to the story: The Deer Creek Hills Preserve is an amazing area with a rich cultural history that reflects the birth and coming of age of California.

Native California Indians lived with the land for over 10,000 years, using acorns from the majestic oaks as a food staple. Very recently, in the early to mid 1800's, Spanish explorers and “pioneers” from the eastern United States explored and mapped the land. Tragically, in a short time, most of the Indian tracks were lost, covered in the scramble of desperate miners, homesteaders and sheep and cattle ranchers. Many miners hoped that the hills above the gold-rich banks of the Cosumnes River harbored the same glitter. And, the ranchers made their homes and living on the land.

Due to the hard work of Sacramento Valley Conservancy, you (our members) and many loyal public agency and community supporters, time stopped for the land at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Now, current and future generations of the Sacramento region can see, feel and hear what it was like to “be settled by grazing as there is good grass and water in the spring of the year".
Robla Students . . . (continued from page 1)
the importance of conservation. The field trips present a wonderful way to extend what is learned in the classroom. Students kept field journals and learned to identify birds like great white egrets, great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, osprey and waterfowl. Students also searched for raccoon tracks, crawdads, bullfrogs, muskrats, among others in a scavenger hunt. Students learned about what birds need to survive, explored beautiful wetland areas to observe wildlife and their signs, and discovered how wildlife and endangered species are important in our environment. The Conservancy funded the field trips with a grant from the California Department of Water Resources in cooperation with the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Big thanks to Christine Somach and Lisa Hall for their help.

History at Deer Creek Preserve . . . (continued from page 1)
like before the turn of the last century. We can see the rolling hills, huge oak trees and the annual cattle round-up very much as they appeared 150 years ago; and, with the large exception of the replacement of native California grassland plants and flowers by largely Mediterranean species (which transformation occurred during the Gold Rush period) much as the land looked to the ancestors of the California Indians thousands of years before that.

At Deer Creek Hills, you can take a morning walk with Solomon Miner (OK, he’s really me – David Scarlach, current resident of nearby Rancho Murieta), one of the first pioneers to settle in the Cosumnes River Valley. He will tell you how he came to these

Fair Oaks Bluff Update
Since April 2006, the Donor Plaza Design Committee has been working with County officials to finalize the design of the Fair Oaks Bluff Donor Plaza. The design submitted by Hugh Gorman and his team was selected and approved by the County Parks Commission in November 2006. If you’d like to help with fundraising and implementation, or if you want more information, call Barry Brown at (916) 967-6528 or Marty Massaki at (916) 967-2472. Citizens to Save the Bluffs estimate the need is another $15,000 for the donor plaza (estimated cost $30,000). The Bluff property loan balance of $124,705 was paid off in December 2005, securing the land in public ownership and allowing management as a public park by Sacramento County and the Fair Oaks Park and Recreation District. Sacramento Valley Conservancy negotiated and handled the real estate deal that together with the support of our many loyal members made the preservation of the Fair Oaks Bluff possible. Thank you.

Member News
Sacramento Valley Conservancy members, Advisory Council and Board of Trustees enjoyed an outing to the Crocker Art Museum’s Ansel Adams exhibit on April 26. The exhibit on Adams’ 1938 trip to Yosemite with the likes of Georgia O’Keefe and the Godfrey Rockefellers was interpreted by a very knowledgeable Crocker Museum docent. The exhibit focused on a 10-day backcountry hiking and photography trip. (This trip involved a lot of mules to carry heavy equipment!) The work displayed was from custom photo albums that Adams made for his friends after the trip, including many breathtaking photos and personal notes about the trip by Adams. This event was hosted by SVC President Lynn Sadler, SVC Development Committee Chair Robert Jones and SVC Secretary Bob Slobe.

Don’t forget about signing up for Astronomy and Bat Night on the evening of August 11! A great family event – you will learn about bat behavior, be able to hear their ultrasonic calls, and, after dark, will be treated to tracking the constellations through sophisticated telescopes provided by the Sacramento Astronomical Society.

Robla students study nature at Hansen Ranch (See Front Page)

Donations Form
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✔

Registration for this event is open, but if you join SVC as a member, you receive a free coupon for a docent led outing, which you can use at any of our docent led outings.

Keep watching for future SVC member events. Plans to enjoy live jazz, landscape art and photography, food and libations at our annual Treasures of the Valley event on October 4 from 5:30-8pm at the CSUS Alumni Center. Support SVC, have fun!