Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Sunset Hike and Astronomy Night!
New for 2008 Mountain Bike Rides
August 23, 2008
Sunset Hike and Stargazing Event
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Join us for a sunset hike at Deer Creek Hills, followed by an evening with the Sacramento Astronomical Society, viewing the night sky through high powered telescopes. Great for the entire family.
Contact Gina Silvernale, SVC Outreach Coordinator, at 916/731-8798 or ginasilvernale@hotmail.com for more information.

August 16 and September 20th, 2008
Mountain Biking at Deer Creek Hills
8:00 am – 11:00 am
Join us as we traverse 4x4 dirt roads and single track trails, exploring the biking at Deer Creek Hills. Contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Director, at 916/216-2178 or tammy@svccglobal.net for more information.

There will be a fee for hikes and bike rides of $10 (children 16 and under are free). Our self-guided interpretive trail is open to the public on the fourth Saturday, from 9am-3pm, January-May, on a sign in basis. To view a complete list of events go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

Deer Creek Hills Service Day a “Picnic”
REI Pitches In and Gets Dirty!

May 17th was the 3rd annual service project coordinated by REI and SVC. Despite the 100+ degree temps, the volunteers proved to be ready for the day. About 55 volunteers and staff participated, including youth from Robert’s Community Center, Families First, Skylab Youth Production, and the skilled help from Heritage Park Bike Club.
Volunteers spent the day building and staining 10 picnic tables to be used at Deer Creek Hills for the overnight camping program and the parking area for our docent led hikes and rides. Volunteers installed a hitching post to be used for our equestrian rides and by the ranching operation on the property. Trash was picked up along Latrobe Road and preserve signs were posted. The service projects are a part of our youth education and stewardship program for Deer Creek Hills and maintenance of the working cattle ranch.
These are just a few of the projects being completed to get ready for increasing access to Deer Creek Hills. Currently, we offer docent led hiking, equestrian and biking trips on the property. Mountain biking occurs in the summer when

Winterport Farm Protected
Longtime Amador Tradition Upheld

Farmer Dan Port can attest to the historic significance of the name “Winter” in the Amador County community of Ione, population 4,000 people.

“I’ve been here about 40 years and people still don’t know my name. They refer to me as being married to the Winter girl,” he said with a laugh.

The Winter family started farming in the area in 1867. George Winter, the grandfather of Dan’s wife, Susan, bought a 180-acre parcel in 1906. Dan and Susan live on that land today. They call it Winterport Farm, a combination of the two surnames.

“I had to get my name in there somehow,” Dan said.

By any name, Winterport Farm will remain in agricultural use forever under a just-completed arrangement between the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the landowners and the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. Through the California Farmland Conservancy Program, DOC funded the conservancy’s purchase of an agricultural conservation easement on the property. The Port family will continue to own the farm and control the agricultural...
the cattle are not on the property, and the hiking and equestrian rides are primarily held in the late winter and spring, January to May. You can find a full list of events on our website at www.sacramento-valley-conservancy.org.

Winterport Farm (continued from page 1)

operations, but the land’s development potential is permanently extinguished.

“We’re very pleased to have shielded this fine farmland from future development,” said Brian Leahy, head of DOC’s Division of Land Resource Protection. “This farm has a long-term connection with the local community, but there would have been intense development pressure if the landowners were not so committed to farmland preservation. We realize that development is inevitable, but we strive to direct the growth away from prime farmland when possible.”

Winterport Farm is located just south of Highway 104, within half a mile of Ione’s Sphere of Influence. It is currently being used for grazing and other tours of the property over the years.

“We applaud the Port family for its commitment to farmland preservation. Their efforts are exemplary and have encouraged educational tours of the property over the years. We’re relieved and happy that both of our children say they want to return to the farm and take over someday,” said Susan Port. “Now we know that it will be here waiting for them.”

SVC partners proudly with the Mother Lode Land Trust (serving Amador and Calaveras Counties) to help develop and accomplish farm, ranch and natural land preservation. Joint planning by SVC and MLLT, funded by a planning grant from DOC, led to the Winterport Farm conservation easement project.

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All photos courtesy of Michelle Whitford, 916/425-5879 or bond13mac@aol.com. Your investment and planning provide all of our children and grandchildren with the opportunity to experience our Sacramento heritage.

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.

Gifts to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy are tax deductible. If you would like more information, please call 916/425-9000 or email us at info@Sacramento-valley-conservancy.org.