Part I: History

Elkhorn Basin Ranch

Celebrating 20 Years

Sacramento Valley Conservancy celebrates 20 years (1990-2010) of protecting our precious heritage land and water resources, local farms and ranches, and floodplain by offering special opportunities for you to see and share our preserves and success!

Come enjoy beautiful spring weather, wildflowers, creeks and sunsets with us at our Cowboy Breakfast at Deer Creek Hills corral on May 1, our Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration at our newest preserve along Deer Creek on May 7 and our Summer Social on June 17. All events are free! See inside and back page for registration information.

Your support makes our success possible. Dedicated and visionary local folks inspired to protect our special places for future generations founded the Conservancy in 1990. We started with a nine-member Board of Trustees, no staff, and no land protected. Today, we have a thirteen-member Board of Trustees, twenty-five member advisory council, seven staff members, over 1500 annual donors, over 100 overnight trips, produces walnuts, corn, rice and other row crops and provides habitat for Swainson’s hawks, river song-birds and many other animals. SVC acquired the ranch in 2008, in partnership with Yolo Land Trust (YLT), and the two organizations own and manage the ranch.

The purchase of the land was funded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the Packard Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Department of Fish and Game. Together, the two land trusts own over 1,600 acres, held in separate parcels.

The Elkhorn Basin area sits between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass. Historically, this area flourished with tule swamps and immense oaks with dense undergrowth of grape vines, willows, berries and rose bushes. Wildlife such as tule elk, grizzly bear, mink, weasels, badgers, coyotes, river otters, beavers and flocks of birds were found. The Southern Wintun Native Americans fished, hunted and gathered in the area. They traded, visited and feuded with the Nisenan who lived on the other side of the Sacramento River.

In more modern times the area has supported local agriculture. Crops grown include tomatoes, corn, hay and other row crops are now farmed here.
Join Us For Free Food and Fun! Three Free Events!

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy in honor of its 20th year anniversary and spring is hosting the following free events:

3rd Annual Cowboy Breakfast at Deer Creek Hills scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, 9am - 1pm. Join the SVC staff as we serve you a cowboy flapjack breakfast at Deer Creek Hills Corral. Soak up the beauty of the rolling hillsides, catch a whiff of maple syrup in the morning air to reconnect with friends and supporters of the Conservancy as you savor a hot cup of coffee. It’s just another way for staff to say thank you for your support over the past 20 years! A hike is scheduled to walk-off the pancake breakfast! Please bring your own camp chair (BYOC), if possible. Registration Required.

Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration at Cummings-Stathos on Friday, May 7th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm. New this year, a celebration of the 375-acre land acquisition of the Cummings-Stathos property. Sample exquisite cheese while sipping fine wine as you cradle a hot cup of coffee. It’s just another way for staff to say thank you for your support over the past 20 years! A hike is scheduled to walk-off the pancake breakfast! Please bring your own camp chair (BYOC), if possible. Registration Required.

Celebrate 20 Years . . . (continued from page 1) complete and many take as long as three to seven years. All have had at least three funding partners. Deer Creek Hills involved over 15 institutional partners and over 300 community donors. Elkhorn Basin Ranch involved seven funding partners. You and future generations now own and have access to over 4400 acres of blue oak woodlands, creeks and cattle ranching land at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Project YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) brings youth on day and overnight trips to the preserve. We also work with local farmers and ranchers on almost 7500 acres of land producing local rice, corn, walnuts, cattle and other crops. We manage these lands to maximize their habitat values and restore habitat in areas not viable for farming. These lands help sustain local farming, SVC and food, homes for wildlife and floodplain for us all.

We cannot continue operating and accomplishing our mission without you and your support. Keep up your good work by supporting SVC!

Elkhorn Basin Ranch . . . (continued from page 1) Access to the Elkhorn Basin has not always been easy. A bridge across the Sacramento River was only built in 1969! Prior to that, a ferry that ran for 50 years was the primary way to get across the river. Electric trains carried passengers and some freight from downtown Sacramento through the Elkhorn Basin up to Woodland, providing eight trains a day from 1912 until 1940.

SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural land. SVC and YLT’s goals for the property are to preserve local agriculture, restore habitat on lands where soils are incompatible with viable farming, and preserve the area as rural

Free Events . . . (continued from page 2) you become a part of this extraordinary landscape. Deep shadows, rich colors and subtle sounds of Deer Creek will remind you of the SVC’s mission statement, “...to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley...” A short stroll can be made to overlook the banks of Deer Creek, please wear sturdy shoes and bring your own camp chair to relax in this pristine environment. Join the Conservancy’s new supporters and long time patrons to this enchanted outside share tasting, celebrating our 20th anniversary! Registrations Required.

Summer Social overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park on Thursday, June 17th 5:30pm - 7pm This mid-week event is perfect to stop in and say hello to supporters, board and staff. Guests can sample a variety of world flavors in both food and wine, as they mingle with familiar and new faces associated to the Conservancy. The views overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park serve as a perfect backdrop to conversations of the accomplishments of the Conservancy in the past 20 years. Come celebrate our successes with us, as you couldn’t happen without your support! Registration Required.

THREE WAYS TO REGISTER
www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar
Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

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 ☐ $60 ☐ $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 1/800 492-5080 or email us at info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.