Elkhorn Basin Ranch
Part 2: Farmers of the Elkhorn District

As you recall from Part 1, Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) acquired a 1,700 acre working walnut farm between the Sacramento River and the Yolo Bypass in 2008, in partnership with Yolo Land Trust (YLT). Many farmers over the years have shaped the agricultural flavor of the area.

SVC purchased Elkhorn Basin Ranch from Layton Knaggs. Mr. Knaggs was a car dealer and farmer who owned several thousand acres in the area. He was a colorful character, with a can-do attitude who didn’t believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. Knaggs owned a series of car dealerships, owned a passenger airplane and built one of the most sophisticated walnut drying facilities in the area for its time. He was a world traveler who traveled to China and Russia before it was common to do so. He worked up until the time he died at 95 in 2001.

The Latter Day Saints (Mormons) bought large parcels in the area in 1951 and started a welfare farm. In fact, one of the fields YLT owns is still known as “Welfare”. The Lang family has been a long-time force in the Elkhorn area. Frank Lang came to area during the Depression to work for his uncle and bought a nearby chicken ranch in 1939. His character, with a can-do attitude who didn’t believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. The Lang family has been a long-time force in the Elkhorn area. Frank Lang came to area during the Depression to work for his uncle and bought a nearby chicken ranch in 1939. His character, with a can-do attitude who didn’t believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. The Lang family has been a long-time force in the Elkhorn area. Frank Lang came to area during the Depression to work for his uncle and bought a nearby chicken ranch in 1939. His character, with a can-do attitude who didn’t believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. The Lang family has been a long-time force in the Elkhorn area. Frank Lang came to area during the Depression to work for his uncle and bought a nearby chicken ranch in 1939. His character, with a can-do attitude who didn’t believe in doing things small and always had time to talk. The Lang family has been a long-time force
The Next 50 Years . . . (continued from page 1)

Look at our 21st Century Open Space Vision for the Sacramento Region – go to www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org under “What We Do”. Look at how we’ve grown so far – what it’d we’ve been thinking 30 years ahead?

Where do you live? Where do you need flood protection, local food, wildlife habitat or trails? Do you run, hike, raise cattle, farm local food, farm international food that supports the local economy, ride horses, bird-watch, sell food at farmer’s markets, buy food at farmer’s markets, or live and farm dry, instead of flooded? Heritage land provides necessary services – SVC protects these lands for future generations.

We cannot operate and accomplish our mission without you and your support. Keep up your good work by supporting SVC!

Elkhorn Basin Ranch - Part 2 . . .

active in walnut farming themselves. The civic-minded Langs have sat on many boards over the years, and Kent currently sits on YLT’s Board and offers guidance to SVC as well.

Currently we work with José and Ricardo Garcia of Garcia Farms, Inc. and Ken and Maureen Gregory to improve the walnut orchards and annual crop lands for the future. We use revenues from the farming to fund management of the site. This spring, older walnut trees have been removed, and new baby walnut trees are being planted. Walnut trees take 5 years to produce, so the wait is a bit long, but will pay off in the long run.

Row crops at the farm include rice, corn, and tomatoes.

This year Yolo Land Trust will hold their Day in the Country fundraiser on the property on Sunday September 12, 2010. SVC and YLT collaboration benefits both land trusts, and though both organizations are new to farming, the combination of the preservation of local agriculture, the future plans for habitat restoration on lands not viable for farming, and the potential for compatible recreational uses will be a model for other land trusts on this border between the two counties just north.

Next issue: Future of the Elkhorn District

Support Takes Many Forms for our Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) Program

A heart-felt cash donation . . .

The hard reality of moving cattle hasn’t changed much, according to those who’ve been doing it as long as Dick Harry, owner/partner of the Lucky Seven Cattle Ranch. It’s tough chore to move 500+ head of cattle, when the cattle have been grazing over 4,000 pristine acres, since last November.

Dick Harry was both enlightened and tickled, not by the cattle drive, but by the 60 elementary school children conducting a field trip with Sierra Nevada Journeys, SVC’s new YES (Youth Education & Stewardship Program) Partner. A visit to Deer Creek Hills is a final experience in the unique environmental program Sierra Nevada Journeys offers the Sacramento Region’s elementary classrooms. As Dick visited with the teacher and principal of the school group, he quickly came to understand that not all kids from the underprivileged areas could afford the $5 fee to visit Deer Creek Hills. With Mr. Harry’s disappointment, came the solution to donate $500 to the YES program. He wants to make a difference by ensuring struggling families the ability to afford this unique experience, at beautiful Deer Creek Hills with Sierra Nevada Journeys. Thank you Dick!

An in-kind donation . . .

Many thanks to Bill Wenrich who saw our wish list in the last newsletter and donated a two-person tent to our YES program. Our youth overnight camping guides will be getting a good night’s sleep this summer. Thank you Bill!

How you can help . . .

Your support really makes a difference. You can make an online donation to this program. Click http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/help-donate.asp

Visit our Wish List by clicking on “How to Help” at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

How You Can Help! Volunteer Opportunities

Late August and month of September: Need 3 people to drive to different businesses and artists and pick up items and art for our Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction. This is fun because you get to meet artists and vendors face-to-face. Flexible around your schedule.

September 30th: Need 2-3 people with large capacity vehicles to move silent auction items from our Mariner office to Sac State for our Treasures of the Valley event. And many other ways to volunteer that day or evening: set up, food service, silent auction monitor.

October 23rd: Autumn Service Project at Deer Creek Hills. Make a visual difference by hanging signs, picking up trash and shot gun shells. Register online to become involved at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org, click on Calendar.

Contact:
Kathy Reynolds, Stewardship Coordinator, to volunteer at 916-731-8798 or kreymonds@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Join Us for Fun, Food & Company at our Summer Social
June 17th, 5:30pm to 7pm
Register at: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 163351
Sacramento, CA 95816
Phone (916) 492-0908
Fax (916) 448-4120
info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Nonprofit ID: 68-0256214
Summer 2010

Donations Form

Here is my tax deductible donation of:

$1,000 $500 $250 $100 $35 $20 Other

Name ____________________________
Company/Title ___________________
Street ____________________________
City __________________ Zip _______
Home Phone ______________________
Work Phone ______________________
Email ____________________________
Fax ______________________________

Contact me about: Planned Giving✓ Becoming a Volunteer✓

Thank you.