**Calendar of Upcoming Events 2012**

NEW! Starting in February 2012, every Saturday is open to the public for self-led hiking trail. You must check in and out with staff at corral. Check online calendar for times, usually 9am-1pm (7am in summer).

Register on line please to get directions and print liability form.

- Sat, January 14 (28th rain day), 8:30am – 1pm Service Project
- Sat, June 23, 7:30am – 10am Mountain Biking
- Thurs, June 7, 5:30pm – 7pm Summer Social
- Sat, May 26, 9am – 1am  History/archeological interests of DCH
- Thurs, May 17, 5:30pm – 7:30pm Bat Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
- Sat, May 5, 9am – 1pm Cowboy Breakfast
- Sun, April 29, 10am - 2pm Equestrian Ride
- Sat, April 28, 9am – 1pm Birds and Wildflowers of DCH
- Sun, March 25, 10am – 2pm Equestrian Ride
- Sat, March 24, 9am – 1pm Wildflower Hike
- Sun, March 11, 10am - 2pm FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick’s Equestrian Ride
- Sat, March 10, 9am – 1pm FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick’s Hike
- Sat, February 25, 9am – 1pm Geology Hike
- Sat, January 14 (28th rain day), 8:30am – 1pm Service Project

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**Hillside Hikes/Ride Tours allow meet at Latrobe and Stone Roads (N of Highway 16 or Jackson Rd. and W of Rancho Murieta). Both roads can be accessed off of Jackson Rd. Carpooling is encouraged since parking is limited, and all vehicles should park on the dirt portion of Latrobe Rd. Weather is unpredictable, so please bring layers of clothing for all weather types. Water, light snacks and a hat for warmth and shade are also suggested. There is active cattle grazing at Deer Creek Hills, and the conditions of hiking routes vary and may include stream or fence crossings and uneven terrain.**

**Who needs a jump house when you have a tarp and starthistle?! See Deer Creek Hills Wish List. Mary Sue Hart had a great idea. She used some credit card points to get three $100 Home Depot gift cards and gave them to SVC! We immediately put these to use purchasing paint, shovels, Carpenter aprons, and other supplies for our October 15th Service Day at Deer Creek Hills, as well as some long-handled ground pruners that will help us with startchile and stinkwort invasive weed abatement. For more gift card ideas, please see our Wish List on the back page for other stores we frequent.**

**We also thank Charles Ritchie, owner of MetaVista Consulting, for donating two gently used laptops with installed software and a flat screen monitor – all very important and useful to our growing programs.**

**Our YES (Youth Education and Stewardship) program benefited from the donation of a new 5-person tent donated by Jon Ursino, and the external hard drive he donated has been in use backing up Stewardship files for a number of months. Richard Peter donated a used but fully functional GPS unit that will be used by YES to do geo-caching. And, here’s another way to help:**

**Three ways to Register**

1) 0 www.sacramento valleyconservancy.org/calendar
2) Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramento valleyconservancy.org
3) by email to information@sacramento valleyconservancy.org

- See the “Calendar” on our website and on this back page for more information.

**Staff Changes**

We are sad to announce that Kathy Reynolds, SVC Stewardship Director, will be leaving us as of November 15, but excited that she will be seeking out new opportunities. Kathy was with us for over two years and helped propel our land stewardship programs forward.

We are excited to announce that Lucie Adams will be joining us as SVC Stewardship Director. Lucie brings science and agency experience to SVC, as well as experience with local ecology and habitats. And, thrilled that Matthew Gaylord and Fred Tracy, SVC Programs Assistant are willing to increase their time with SVC to include more land stewardship and YES trip-leading tasks. Paulette Burgess will also be joining SVC as Administrative Assistant to help boost our administrative program. Welcome to Lucie and Paulette and thanks to Matt and Fred as they help SVC continue onwards and upwards!

**Wish List Wonders!**

**Credit Card Points Transformed to Shovels**

We are so grateful for the recent items donated to us from our Wish List. Mary Sue Hart had a great idea. She used some credit card points to get three $100 Home Depot gift cards and gave them to SVC! We immediately put these to use purchasing paint, shovels, Carpenter aprons, and other supplies for our October 15th Service Day at Deer Creek Hills, as well as some long-handled ground pruners that will help us with startchile and stinkwort invasive weed abatement. For more gift card ideas, please see our Wish List on the back page for other stores we frequent.

As Project YES expands, more youth find themselves visiting Deer Creek Hills in the “Sock Busting Season”. You may ask

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**Deer Creek Hills Master Plan Approved**

**Habitat, Grazing and Recreation Benefit**

The Deer Creek Hills Master Plan was adopted and its companion Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified on October 25, 2011 by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. SVC raised over $300,000 and held five public outreach meetings in 2006 to work with our neighbors and ranchers, users of the preserve, and funding and ownership partners to complete the plan. Sacramento County funded the EIR that was completed in 2009.

Approval of the Master Plan and certification of the EIR mean that SVC can now move ahead to work on habitat restoration and grazing improvement projects and utilize a weed removal and trail improvement grant obtained by Sacramento Local Conservation Corps with the support of SVC. We can also do capital campaigns to raise funds for a permanent restroom at the corral (composting variety, since no water or sewer), and other items needed to improve the preserve experience.

We will now form a Deer Creek Hills Preserve Advisory Council consisting of designated representatives from each of the ownership and funding partners (Sacramento County, CA State Parks, CA Department of Fish and Game and SVC), interested community groups and surrounding landowners and ranchers. This council will meet annually, but ad hoc meetings could be requested at any time by members of the council. This council
Wish List . . . (continued from page 1)
yourself, what is Sock-Busting Season? It’s when grasses and tarweeds go to seed, turn into a prickly spurs and embed themselves into one’s socks. To dodge this effect we need 15 pairs of low-cut REI Desert Gaiters (item number 803452 $26.50). These will en-
Sure protection from thistles for kids while hiking at Deer Creek Hills in the next dry season.

Starthistle Jumphouse, Praying Mantis Rescue

There was a Service Day at Deer Creek Hills . . .

. . . and I helped! October 15th was another temperate fall day with over 30 volunteers that helped make our Deer Creek Hills a more pleasant place to be. Sponsored by REI with free t-shirts and sandwiches, volunteers painted picnic tables under the shade of tall oaks, had fun stoming on a tarp full of invasive starthistle, and collected buckets, yes “buckets” –plural, of nails from a party and dumping spot on Latrobe Road. Weary and damaged fence and boundary signs were replaced and a pickup bed of trash was collected. Praying mantises were the stars of the day, dozens being gently relocated from starthistle plants to safer zones, and painters conscientiously painting “exclusion fences” around their egg cases before coating the pond tables with “Moroccan Henna”. Two “Big”s and two “Littles” from Big Brother Big Sister helped us out, as did the “Two Daves”, our dedicated head equestrian docent David Jones and his friend Dave, with their co-owned backhoe who, after filling in an open pit, fished a small pickup truck from Crevis Creek that had washed downstream nearly a decade ago. A quick trip to the dump and calls to CHP and Sacramento City Police resolved all found items, from the fish out pickup and found wallet to the starthistle and trash. Don’t miss the mystery, intrigue and a giving-something-back feeling of the next service day! It will be held on January 14, 2012 (January 28 rain-day). Sign up for fun at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org. We also plan to staff and open the self-guided equestrian docent David Jones and his docents, and especially our lead docents for all three user groups (hikers, mountain bikers and equestrian) and our lead docents for our Service Days and YES program for propelling us onwards and upwards as we provide “Open Space, For All of Us!” We continue to be awe-inspired by what SVC has been able to accomplish in our community. Way to go, everyone! And, we’re only just begun. Please help us keep up the momentum with a generous year-end gift!

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Right Now on Facebook

See what’s happening at SVC’s preserves right now:

• Photos from our October Service day.
• Video of a newly installed cattle trough with a California tiger salamander escape ramp at SMUD Nature Preserve at Rancho Seco – we need the cows to graze the weeds to help the salamanders travel from uplands to breeding ponds
• Video of a YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) classroom from Kevin Johnson’s charter school PS7 from the Oak Park neighborhood in downtown Sacramento visiting Deer Creek Hills! Search the internet for “Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Facebook” – you don’t have to be a Facebook member to check it out!

Treasures of the Valley 2011
YES Program to Double in 2012
Over 156 SVC supporters gathered on October 6 at the California State University Alumni Center to celebrate an announcement that we recently received over $40,000 in grants from Sierra Health Foundation, REI, Gencorp Foundation, Hemispheres Arts, Sonopromist International of Metro Sacramento, Sierra Nevada Journeys, Lucky Seven Ranch and individuals to continue to grow our YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) program and to expand our service days. With your support, we will now be able to double the size of the YES program at Deer Creek Hills from 20 classrooms to 40 classrooms and expand our youth group day and overnight outings. Contact Gina Silvernale, SVC Outreach Coordinator, at 916-612-3719 to schedule youth outings.

We are thrilled to announce that with the support of all the attendees and sponsors we raised almost $50,000 and a ton of fun doing it! Your support of our main annual fund-raiser is critical to SVC . . . thanks!

Special thanks to our Land Acquisition and Stewardship level sponsors:

Land Acquisition:

Donations Form

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