

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 check-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, February 25, 9am – 1pm	Geology Hike
Sun, February 26, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, March 10, 9am – 1pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick's Hike
Sun, March 11, 10am – 2pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick's Equestrian Ride
Sat, March 24, 9am – 1pm	Wildflower Hike
Sun, March 25, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, April 7, 7pm – 11pm	Full Moon Equestrian Ride
Sat, April 28, 9am – 1pm	Birds and Wildflowers of DCH
Sun, April 29, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat, May 5, 9am – 1pm	Cowboy Breakfast
Thurs, May 17, 5:30pm – 7:30pm	Bat Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
Sat, May 26, 9am – 1am	History/archeological interests of DCH
Thurs, June 7, 5:30pm – 7pm	Summer Social
Sat, June 23, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, July 28, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, August 11, 7pm – 11pm	Sunset Hike-Bat Night- Astronomy Night
Sat, August 25, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat, September 22, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Thurs, October 4, 5:30pm – 8pm	Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction
Sat, October 13, 8:30am – 1pm	Service Project
Sat, October 27, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking

Hikers/Riders/Bikers should meet at Latrobe and Stone House 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. Heavy rain and/or wind will cancel hike and equestrian outings.

Three ways to Register

- 1) www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar
- 2) Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or
- 3) outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Announcements

Deer Creek Hills Self-Guided Trail Open Saturdays in 2012!

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 Coordinator, 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 Program Assistants 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 – Help us by donating stuff we need!

- 6 months port-a-let rental
- 3 GPS units (used is OK!)
- 15 pairs summer/desert gaitors (adult sized)
See front page for detailed information
- Gift cards for any amount:
OfficeMax, Office Depot, Staples,
Costco, REI, Home Depot



sacramento valley conservancy

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



Who needs a jump house when you have a tarp and starthistle?! See Deer Creek Hills October Service Day article inside.

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 starthistle 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 flatscreen 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 our youth program:

Later Gaiters!

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

(See Master Plan . . . page 2)

(See Wish List . . . page 2)

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Fall 2011

Master Plan . . . *(continued from page 1)*

will serve the role of discussing and resolving any issues about management of the Preserve under the Memorandum of Understanding between Sacramento County and SVC. This agreement, also adopted by the Board of Supervisors, designates SVC as the continued manager of the Preserve.

We also plan to staff and open the self-guided trail at the Preserve every Saturday next year. This is all very exciting news, especially considering we also just found out last week that we have enough grant funds to double our YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) program next year! See article next page.

Wish List . . . *(continued from page 1)*

yourself, what is Sock-Busting Season? It's when grasses and tarweed 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

Huge thanks go to all our hard-working staff and 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've only just begun. Please help us keep up the momentum with a generous year-end gift!

number 803452 \$26.50). These will ensure protection from thistles for kids while hiking at Deer Creek Hills in the next dry season.

Starthistle Jumhouse, 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 helping 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 stomping 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 north pond tables with "Moroccan Henna".

Two "Bigs" 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 fished-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.

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 150 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, Soroptomist 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 had a ton of fun doing it! Your support of our main annual fundraiser is critical to SVC . . . thanks!

Special thanks to our Land Acquisition and Stewardship level sponsors:

Land Acquisition:



MURPHY AUSTIN
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Our motto is "Party hard, bid high, eat well and go home happy knowing you preserved more 'Open Space. For All of Us.'" Photograph by Eddy Roth

Stewardship:

Al and Christie Jahns, Law Office of Alfred F. Jahns
Angelo G. Tsakopoulos
Vulcan Materials Company, Western Division

See all our sponsors and photos of the event at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/help-tov.asp, or go to our home page and click on the blue box "Sponsor an Event". Thanks so much for everyone's support. We need it and appreciate it. We look forward to protecting more "Open Space. For All of Us" and to partying with you all again in 2012.

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:

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

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer

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THANK YOU.