**Calendar of Upcoming Events 2011**

Join us for the 2011 Season at Deer Creek Hills & other venues for the following events:

- **Thurs, June 16, 5:30pm - 7:00pm** Summer Social (overlooking Ancil Hoffman Park)
- **Sat, June 25, 9:00am - 10:00am** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, July 23, 5:30pm - 10:00am** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, August 6, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Sunset Hike-Bat Night - Astronomy Night
- **Sat, August 27, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, September 24, 7:30am - 10:00am** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, October 15, 9:00am - 1:00pm** Service Project
- **Sat, October 22, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Sunset Hike-Bat Night - Astronomy Night
- **Sat, October 22, 7:30am - 10:00am** Mountain Biking

- **Sat, July 23, 7:30am - 10:00am** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, August 6, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Sunset Hike-Bat Night - Astronomy Night
- **Sat, August 27, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, September 24, 7:30am - 10:00am** Mountain Biking
- **Sat, October 1, 9:00am - 1:00pm** Service Project
- **Sat, October 22, 7:00pm - 11:00pm** Sunset Hike-Bat Night - Astronomy Night

**Weather is unpredictable, so please bring layers of clothing for all weather types.**

Hikers/Riders/Bikers should meet at Latrobe and Stone House Roads (north of Highway 16). Trails are accessible off of Jackson Rd. Carpooling is strongly 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.

**www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp**

**Register On-Line**

**To find a long-term funding source for all County Parks, including leasing out Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Gibson Ranch. State legislation is pending that would authorize State Parks to contract directly with nonprofits to run parks.**

Deer Creek Hills is a part of the County Regional Parks and Open Space and State Parks systems. For more information about the current public funding crisis and recent citizen efforts to find a long-term funding source for all County Parks, includ-

**www.sacramento-valleypreserve.org**

**Running a Preserve**

**Law Enforcement, Road Repairs, Service Days**

Parks are being cut or closed at both the state and local levels. Seventy State Parks are closing, including the Governor’s and Leland Stanford Mansions, Brannon Island State Park in the Delta, and many others. Both the State and County are seeking partnerships with nonprofits and for profits to run facilities, including leasing our Elkhorn Slough Nature Center and Gibson Ranch. State legislation is pending that would authorize State Parks to contract directly with nonprofits to run parks.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy foresees this need almost a decade ago and found an innovative way to meet it at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve when we crafted agreements with our partners (Sacramento County, State Parks and California Department of Fish and Game) that allowed SVC to manage the Preserve and determined an appropriate balance among the partners’ goals – preserving wildlife habitat, sustaining local agriculture (ecologically beneficial winter cattle grazing) and providing compatible public recreation. The Deer Creek Hills Preserve is run by our support and SVC entirely with private dollars, active volunteers and dedicated staff.

Deer Creek Hills is a part of the County Regional Parks and Open Space and State Parks systems. For more information about the current public funding crisis and recent citizen efforts to find a long-term funding source for all County Parks, includ-

**www.sacramento-valleypreserve.org**

**Innovation and Your Support Keep Deer Creek Hills Preserve Growing Strong**

*Why does it cost money to manage open space? We have to keep it safe, clean and healthy for people, animals and plants. This takes funds, staff, volunteers, partnerships and equipment.*

Your support sustain staff and trains over 60 (and growing!) volunteers to provide our public outing programs. We take time to coordinate all our programs very carefully with the rancher and the neighbors. Our hard-working staff (9 part-time staff total, with about 3.5 full-time equivalent positions dedicated to the Deer Creek Hills Preserve) spends time training, coordinating volunteers, organizing outings and service days, outreaching to youth, school groups and partner organizations and, of course, keeping track of our funds, insurance and paying our bills (fences, porta-potties, materials for service days, dump fees, etc.).

We outreach to our very hard-working law enforcement partners, including State Park Rangers, Department of Fish and Game wardens, County Sheriff’s deputies, Rancho Murieta Community Service District officers, CalFire, Amador and Sacramento Metro Fire fighters and emergency responders. Recently, we held a law enforcement “open house”, including our neighbors, to discuss how to better prevent vandalism, fires, unauthorized camping, dumping and shooting on Latrobe and Michigan Bar Roads (that traverse the Preserve). The response has been tremendous and is helping prevent hazards.
Deer Creek . . . (continued from page 1)ing Deer Creek Hills, see www.sacramento- watch.org and click on “Grassroots Process”. For now, we continue to increase our fund-raising and services at the Preserve through our volunteers and community partnerships. We are not stopping our work to protect our planned 10,000-acre Blue Oak Hills corridor, with the ultimate goal of connecting the American River Watershed (and its parks) and the Cosumnes River Watershed (Deer Creek Hills) to continue protecting wildlife habitat, sustaining beneficial local agriculture and providing compatible public recreation opportunities. We are working hard to expand the Preserve by 375 acres to the north along our planned corridor.

We have forged a long-term partnership with Lucky Seven Ranch, which helps sustain the ecology (via weed-eating cows) and economy of the Preserve (as our largest single fund source). We have established an over $200,000 fund for management of the Preserve and we have raised almost $100,000 in private, local funds to support our Youth Education and Stewardship (YES) program and provide day and overnight trips to youth groups and classrooms. See list of YES partners and article below. We have over 60 dedicated volunteer docents who run three types of public outing programs — equestrian, lukin’ and mountain hiking — totaling over 20 outings per year. We work with community-based clubs and partner with REI to bring folks out to learn about and enjoy the outdoors at Deer Creek Hills. Thank you to all our supporters for making all this possible!

Help support SVC today and sustain our efforts to protect wildlife, to preserve our local agricultural heritage, and to provide youth, families and you the opportunity to visit this special place.

Running a Preserve . . . (continued from page 1)like shooting on the roads during youth outings, shooting of our porta-potty and kiosk, vandalism of our picnic tables, and dumping of stolen cars, yard clippings, construction debris and other trash.

County road maintenance crews this spring responded promptly to help make Larnoo and Michigan Bar Roads safer by grading, filling in deep holes and providing more solid footing along tricky sections of the roads. We plan to soon install new fencing along wider sections of road that experience damage and trash dumping and illegal camping and fire activity. County Parks helps by donating use of their porta-potty and with some very strategic mowing, when needed.

Volunteers worked hard at two service days in January and April to remove trash, spruce up picnic tables, add trail markers, rebuild our information kiosk and hang signs. Hosted by lead docents and staff, volunteers will enjoy fun, satisfaction of helping the environment and will work off a “free” lunch on our final service day of the year on October 15. See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org, click on Calendar.

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

What’s on SVC’s Facebook page right now?
YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) Program at Deer Creek Hills
Over 20 classrooms, 10 youth groups and 750 kids per year served and growing!

What they are saying:
“The students talked about Deer Creek Hills for weeks.”
“For these students it was a good experience just to spend time in such a remote part of nature and observe what was around them. This is something I’m sure must have never done before.”

“During the program (in class) we studied the watershed and students actually experience it and the plants and animals that depend on it (at Deer Creek Hills).”

Search “Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Facebook” and see photos and more quotes from kids!
HUGE Thanks to:
Sierra Nevada Journeys

Volunteers work off a ticket auction monitor, break down. Volunteers work off their ticket and attend the event for free.

October 15th: 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.

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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.

Gifts to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy are tax deductible. If you would like more information, please call (916) 492-0908 or email us at info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

THANK YOU.