

Calendar of Upcoming Events 2013

Please join Sacramento Valley Conservancy for the 2013 Season at Deer Creek Hills

Special events listed below. The Preserve is always open February-October for hiking Every Saturday morning and Sunday Sunset and June-October for Monday Nite Mountain Bike Rides. Check our website for open hours.

Sat.	Jan. 12 or 26, 8:30am – 1pm	Winter Service Project	Sun.	Apr. 28, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride
Sat.	Feb. 23, 7am – 11am	Upland Winter Birding	Sat.	May 4, 9am – 1pm	Cowboy Breakfast
Sat.	Feb. 23, 7am – 1pm	Geology and Gold History Hike	Thur.	May 16, 5:30pm – 7:30pm	Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration
Sun.	Feb. 24, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride	Sat.	May 25, 7am – 11am	Oak Woodland and Pond Birding
Sat.	Mar. 16, 9am – 1pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick's Hike	Sat.	May 25, 9am – 1pm	Grinding Holes to Cattle Brands History Hike
Sun.	Mar. 17, 10am – 2pm	FREE Green for No Green St. Patrick's Equestrian Ride	Thur.	June 6, 5:30pm – 7pm	Summer Social
Sat.	Mar. 23, 7am – 11am	Blue Oak Woodland Birding	Sat.	June 22, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat.	Mar. 23, 9am – 1pm	Native Americans at DCH History Hike	Sat.	July 27, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sun.	Mar. 24, 10am – 2pm	Equestrian Ride	Sat.	Aug. 10, 7pm – 11pm	Sunset Hike-Bat Night-Astronomy Night
Sat.	Mar. 30, 7pm-11pm	Full Moon Equestrian Ride	Sat.	Aug. 24, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat.	Apr. 20, 8:30am -1pm	Spring Service Project	Sat.	Sep. 28, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking
Sat.	Apr. 27, 7am – 11am	Riparian Birding at Cummings-Stathos	Thur.	Oct. 3, 5:30pm – 8pm	Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction
Sat.	Apr. 27, 9am – 1pm	Wildflowers of DCH	Sat.	Oct. 19, 8:30am – 1pm	Autumn Service Project
Sat.	Apr. 27, 9am – 1pm	Early Settlers at DCH History Hike	Sat.	Oct. 26, 7:30am – 10am	Mountain Biking

Hikers/Riders/Bikers should meet at Latrobe and Stone House Rds (north of Hiway 16 or Jackson Rd. and west of Rancho Murieta). Both roads can be accessed off of Jackson 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. Heavy rain and/or wind will cancel hike and equestrian outings.

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.

Three ways to Register

- 1) www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp 2) Contact Gina Silvernale, Outreach Coordinator at 916/612-3719 or 3) outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Holiday Gifting

Deer Creek Hills Season Passes and SVC Gift Memberships are available online by selecting the Holiday Gifts button at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 916/731-8798."

www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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A New Beginning for the Lower American River Parkway?

SVC Works to Protect and Manage Land Near Discovery Park

SVC is partnering with state and local agencies and working with private property owners in the lower American River Parkway near Discovery Park to protect "inholdings"—private property inside the Parkway Plan boundary. (More details to come as these deals move forward in 2013.)

Youth programs, habitat restoration and additional services for Parkway users, including trail and river use, are the goals for this project. Think of the joy and inspiration for a child living only minutes away, but seeing the River for the first time and actually dipping a toe in. We can rejuvenate the heart of the region's most important natural treasure.

We aim to create a safe and clean environment for water quality, wildlife and people. SVC plans to have an active caretaker presence on site. We actively will engage as a community stewardship group cooperating with the County and City to create a safe environment for youth and Parkway users in an area that is heavily impacted by illegal camping.

Your support makes these projects possible—please consider a year-end donation to SVC at the highest level possible for you. We need and appreciate your help—stay tuned for updates in the spring of 2013.

Lucky Seven Ranch Patriarch Celebrates 50 Years

Grazing Deer Creek Hills Since 1962

Dick Harry, the patriarch of the Lucky Seven Ranch family, remembers he started grazing Deer Creek Hills the week before his youngest son, Mike, was born in August 1962. The property was known as "the Rock", a nickname for Rocque Mirande, a Basque sheep rancher who had previously grazed his stock there.

Dick, his older son Tom, Mike, and Mike's sons Elliott and Mitchell, worked in the family business. Mike manages daily operations. Dick is still out from dawn to Noon supervising the unloading of cows and calves for the 2012-13 grazing season.

Due to the Harry's grazing practices over the last half century, the Preserve is relatively weed-free and has a good mix of forage for cattle with native grasses and plants thriving in many

locations. About 500 cow-calf pairs graze 4,000 acres at the Preserve. The Harry's know the property like the back of their hands and share a love of the Preserve's beauty and habitat.

"I just for the first time in many years saw a three-point buck with three does bounding by the South Pond," said Dick.

SVC could not protect and manage the blue oak woodlands, creeks, grasslands and vernal pools in eastern Sacramento County without our grazing operators – Lucky Seven Ranch, Jonas Livestock at our Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve and Van Vleck Ranching and Resources at the SMUD Nature Preserve. Thanks for all the great years together and those ahead.



SRCC member takes a break from hard work on trails at Deer Creek Hills to enjoy wildlife. Can you find the spider? See article inside.

Photograph by Gina Silvernale



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Fall 2012

Building Trails, Attacking Weeds

SVC Partners with Sac Regional Conservation Corps

SVC and the Deer Creek Hills Preserve have the enthusiastic help of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (SRCC). Since July, SRCC performed needed restoration and maintenance identified in the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan. SRCC provides Sacramento area young adults an opportunity to further their education and get work experience. SVC partnered with the SRCC through a Proposition 84 Grant.

Despite the summer heat, the SRCC crew of about a dozen workers cleaned the south pasture of yellow star thistle and Klamath weed, installed permanent trail markers and began trail maintenance. The labor intensive weed work included hand pulling, weed whacking and disposing of the cut material.

You will see the new sturdy “cattle-proof” 6x6 trail markers along the self guided trail to the North Pond. The SRCC cut and installed eight markers and SVC staff placed new signs on each post.

Trail maintenance work has just begun to stabilize sloping trails and relocate sections of trail that impacted seeps along the self-guided trail. Eventually the old sections of trail will be decommissioned after the new trail sections are open for hiking.

This fall once the rains begin, SRCC crews will have two additional restoration projects. The first will be to plant native grasses in an area previously over run by yellow star thistle, and the second project will be installing new barbed wire fence at various locations to keep vehicles from eroding the shoulders along Latrobe Road.

Thanks to the hard-working SRCC members! The Deer Creek Hills campaign also raised over \$50,000 this year to provide matching funds to support SRCC’s work. We need additional matching funds for 2013. Call Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director, 916-425-5879 for how to help.

If You Build It, They Will Come

Looking Back, Rocketing Forward

Looking back over the years SVC realized the phrase, “if you build it, they will come” from the movie Field of Dreams.

Open Space Recreation, Project Y.E.S (Youth, Education and Stewardship) and Local Ranching... since preserving Deer Creek Hills 10 years ago, we have sensitively added recreation and continue to work with Lucky Seven Ranch to control weeds and raise local beef.

New trails and tours in 2013! Come on out February-June for Every Saturday and Sunday Sunset free access hikes with new trails laid out by staff each week, as well as our self-guided North Pond trail. Mountain bike with us June-October on our MondayNite Rides – ride a different trail every week. Check out our new guided birding tours at different locations on the Preserve. See our calendar on the back page and on our website to sign up for these events or just come on out. **Season passes are available online and are great holiday gifts, they allow you to attend all SVC’s events at Deer Creek Hills in 2013.**

This year the YES program hosted over 600 children from local elementary schools and youth groups. Call Gina Silvernale, SVC Outreach Coordinator, for day or overnight trips at 916-612-3719.

Habitat Restoration... Join us for the Saturday, January 12th service day. We’ll be putting together brush piles and fallen limbs creating natural habitat, attracting bird species to Deer Creek Hills. Your support makes SVC possible – please help us with a year-end donation that works for you. Thanks!

Treasures of the Valley... the SVC hosted the 20th Treasures of the Valley in October 2012, with almost 200 guests in attendance for the silent auction and annual event, raising over \$70,000. Huge thanks to our sponsors and to everyone who supported the event, including our dedicated volunteers.

Treasures of the Valley . . .



Photograph by Rachael Johnson

And Special Thanks to:

- Al & Christie Jahns, Law Office of Alfred F. Jahns
- Angelo G. Tsakopoulos
- Gilson Government Strategies • Teichert



Photograph by Lynn Holmberg-Gray

Sunday Sunset Hikers Stop for the View.



Photograph by Randy Smith

MondayNite Rides in Wide Open Spaces.



Photograph by Gina Silvernale

Bat Box in Use – Can you tell how we know?



Photograph by Lisa Camper

Can you find the new North Pond bird blind?

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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