Calendar of Upcoming Events 2012

In 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 prior to get directions and print liability form.

SAT, APRIL 28, 9AM – 1PM  
Birds and Wildlife of DCH

SAT, APRIL 28, 9AM – 1PM  
Equestrian Ride

SAT, MAY 5, 9AM – 1PM  
Cowboy Breakfast

THURS, MAY 17, 5PM – 7PM  
Bar Twilight Wine and Cheese Celebration

SAT, MAY 26, 9AM – 1PM  
History/Archaeological tour of DCH

THURS, JUNE 7, 5PM – 7PM  
Summer Social

SAT, JUNE 29, 7AM – 10AM  
Mountain Biking

SAT, JULY 28, 7AM – 10AM  
Mountain Biking

SAT, AUGUST 11, 7PM – 9PM  
Swallow Tail Night-Astronomy Night

SAT, AUGUST 25, 7AM – 10AM  
Mountain Biking

SAT, SEPTEMBER 22, 7AM – 10AM  
Mountain Biking

SAT, OCTOBER 4, 5PM – 8PM  
Treasures of the Valley Silent Auction

SAT, OCTOBER 26, 9AM – 1PM  
History/archeological interests of DCH

SAT, NOVEMBER 24, 10AM – 2PM  
Equestrian Ride

SAT, DECEMBER 22, 7AM – 10AM  
Mountain Biking

Hillions/Brien/Reyes should 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. Harry's rain and 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 outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org
3) Register on-line please to get directions and print liability form.

Tour size is limited for your enjoyment.

Announcements

Cowboy Breakfast
Cowboy poetry, music, horses and more! Saturday, May 5 (Cinco de Mayo) 9am-1pm with huevos rancheros and a free docent-led hike and equestrian ride after a free breakfast.

Deer Creek Hills Self-Guided Trail Open Saturdays in 2012!
See the "Calendar" on our website and on this back page for more information.

Wish List
Help us by donating stuff we need!

• 6 months port-a-ler rental
• 3 GPS units (used is ok)
• 15 pairs summer/desert gaitors (adult sized)
• Call Gina Silvernale at 916/612-3719 for details
• Gift cards for any amount:
  OfficeMax, Office Depot, Staples, Costco, REI, Home Depot
• 3 GPS units (used is OK!)
• 6 months port-a-let rental
• 15 pairs summer/desert gaitors (adult sized)

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Swainsons’ Hawk Conservation Easements
149 acres of foraging territory protected
Sacramento Valley Conservancy recently worked with Recurrent Energy and SEAI America, Incorporated, two solar companies with local projects, to protect 149 acres of Swainson's Hawk foraging territory.

One easement covered 120 acres of a long-time family dairy in the Galt-Herald area, south of Twin Cities Road, near the Sacramento-San Joaquin County border. The Santos family has run the dairy for two generations, and now leaves it to other local dairymen, the Groppettis, who supply milk to Hilmar Farms. The easement covers fields that grow oats in the winter and corn in the summer to supply the dairy with feed. These fields also grow rodents, insects and reptiles for the hawks to eat.

Another easement covered 29 acres of land near other protected land near I-5 and Twin Cities Road near the south end of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the Cosumnes River Preserve. Both easements serve as mitigation for two solar facilities installed in south Sacramento County, to supply solar-generated electricity to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

The easements add protected land to areas already in active agricultural production that provide foraging territory for Swainson’s Hawks that nest here and migrate south in the winter. Every year, thousands of hawks make the long (up to 14,000 mile) journey from their summer breeding grounds in Alaska to the wintering grounds in Argentina.

Jedediah Smith Students Learn Photography
Hemispheres Arts Academy Grant Gets Them Out to Deer Creek Hills
With cameras in hand and open space in front of them, students from Jedediah Smith Elementary took amazing photos at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve with grant support from Hemispheres Arts Academy. See the photos on this page, inside and on SVC’s Facebook site to discover what the students viewed through the viewfinder, when visiting Deer Creek Hills in November 2011.

With Hemispheres Arts Academy providing disposable cameras and training from Gina Silvernale, a professional landscape photographer and SVC Outreach Coordinator, the students captured many dramatic and fun images. The students’ photographs found interesting vantage points, unique leading lines and introduced the “rule of thirds” to their compositions, resulting in beautiful images.

Jedediah Smith Elementary also benefited from “Classrooms Unleashed” with Sierra Nevada Journeys. “Classrooms Unleashed” provides students with a full day of discussions on water-terches, geology and biology at Sacramento’s largest open space preserve.

Jedediah Smith Elementary is located in the city low-income housing area along Broadway in downtown Sacramento.
January’s Service Day Starts the New Year Off Right!

With a team of 28 energetic people SVC started the New Year off right with a successful January Service Day. The volunteers, Deer Creek Hills docents and SVC staff picked up trash, constructed a bird blind, hung SVC events signs on fences and placed trail markers along the newly open self-guided trail.

Our enthusiastic volunteers from Girl Scout troop 3890 helped pick up Deer Creek Hills by scouting Latrobe Road of bottles, cans, trash and wooden pallets. The “ever-ready energy”, of the troop not only cleaned up all the visible trash but also cleaned the road of three full buckets of nails by swinging large magnets close to the ground. DCH docents Lynda Roper and Joanne Brandt then packed a trailer full of the collected trash and hauled it off to the dump.

New SVC events signs were hung along Latrobe Road and the Rancho Murieta fence line with the help of DCH docents Roger Brandt, Bob Ferguson, the Vargus family and SVC staffer Paulette Burgess. The weather was perfect for their leisurely stroll over the rolling hills in the blue oak woodlands of Deer Creek Hills.

At the North Pond, Deer Creek Hill’s docents Lisa Cooper and Brian Noble constructed a bird blind. The camouflage blind hidden amongst the trees will allow this year’s birders to add more species to their life lists because they can now sit undetected at the North Pond. Watch for dates of the upcoming guided bird walks at Deer Creek Hills.

Despite the lack of winter rains resulting in unseasonably hard ground, DCH docent David Jones and SVC staff Matt Gaylord placed trail markers along the new self-guided trail. Armed with a trail map and the trail markers, hikers can now confidently venture along the self guided trail every Saturday.

Swainson’s Hawk . . . (continued from page 1)

A concentration of hawks nest and raise their young in the agricultural areas of southern Sacramento County. They use the tall trees along rivers and the edges of agricultural fields to nest and forage in the surrounding fields before the long journey back to South America.

Photography . . . (continued from page 1)

Jedediah Smith Elementary student illustrates the “rule of thirds” - 1/3 subject of interest, 2/3 dramatic skyscape and another illustrates a dramatic full-frame photo of a majestic oak. Other students enjoy themselves by smiling at their classmates’ cameras.