

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 please to get directions and print liability form.

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

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-let 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



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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 Swainsons' 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 leases it to other local dairymen, the Gropettis, 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 Swainsons' Hawks that nest here and migrate south in the winter. Every year, thousands of hawks make the long (up to 14,000 mile)



Having fun outside and taking pictures are a “natural” at Deer Creek Hills for these girls from Jedediah Smith Elementary.

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 watersheds, 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.

(See Swainson's Hawk . . . page 2)

(See Photography . . . page 2 & 3)

www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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Spring 2012

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 scouring Latrobe Road of bottles, cans, trash and wooden palettes. 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 Couper 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)

journey from South America and some settle in the Sacramento Valley to nest and fledge their young. This year the Borrego Valley HawkWatch group near the Mexican border counted 8,868 hawks migrating north, compared to last year's 5,378.

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)



More 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.



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

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

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Fax _____

Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer

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



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THANK YOU.