Under the Cover of Darkness
New Deer Creek Hills Events in 2014

New and exciting events are scheduled at Deer Creek Hills Preserve in 2014. Most events are held during daylight hours, but some outings take place at sunset, dusk and under a full moon! The always popular Bat Night has now been extended into two outings; Saturday, May 17th and Saturday, August 16th. Learn with experts about these fascinating mammals from experts in the field. Each outing has something different - a sunset hike, full moon hike, or star party. Register now for one, or both for these captivating outings. This outing sells out every year - sign-up now! Do you wish to take your Equine pal on a sunset ride with a star party to follow? If so, check out the events scheduled on; March 29 and May 10th. Simply register on-line for these special excursions.

New this year, a bird outing will be hosted under a full moon, while searching out our activity at Deer Creek Hills. Sign-up for this invigorating venue scheduled for Saturday, April 26th 7-11pm.

Back by popular demand, every MondayNite Mt Biking (June thru October) from 4:30pm-to dusk. Set your own pace and riding skills at Deer Creek Hills. Don’t forget to register on-line for these outings!

If darkness isn’t your thing, see Deer Creek Hills during daylight hours. Every Saturday Deer Creek is open (9am-1pm) for self-guided hiking, trail running, birding or photo opportunities in this pristine oak woodland setting. Many diverse guided outings are offered to Mt Bikers, Hikers and Equestrian outings. See the back page of this newsletter or view all outings and register on-line at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp.

Deer Creek Hills is open every Saturday, February to May and October and November.

Come out to Camp Pollock this Spring
Concert Series, GlampOut, Youth events or Host Your Own Public and Private Events

Camp Pollock Fireside Concert Series to kick off Spring 2014! Enjoy music featuring local bands at Pollock this spring and summer. Our fireside concert series will host an eclectic mix of bands including David Silva, Taylor Chicks, Derek Thomas, The Shade Chasers, River City Ukulele Orchestra and more! Playing free of charge to the public at Camp Pollock every Second Thursday April through August. Enjoy tunes indoors in the lodge beside the 1920’s stone fireplace or in warmer weather, outside in the beauty of nature, under the stars on the Pollock grounds, often near one of our fire-pits. We do not have food or drink vendors on site, but attendees are welcome and encouraged to bring your own picnic basket & blanket. We will have the lodge open for use of restrooms and the picnic tables set up in the courtyard area. Parking and entry are free, however we do ask for donations to SVC and to help with our lodge renovation project. Concert dates April 8th, May 6th, June 3rd, July 8th and August 12th.

Save the Date! Our Second Annual Glamp-Out at Camp Pollock will be Thursday, May 29th from 5:30 to dark. Join us for a fun evening of starry skies, tastes glamping fare (dinner and local beverages included), great company all to help raise funds in support of SVC’s mission to protect our special places and to share them for youth education and outdoor recreation. Buy your tickets now $50 for individuals and youth are free! Kayaking with Current Adventures, live animals, primitive skills demonstration, and fly casting, as well as Mama Kim’s Catering, local wine, cider and beer. As twilight approaches we will have campfire songs with the Shade Chasers, River City Ukulele Orchestra and more. Enjoy tunes indoors in the lodge beside the 1920’s stone fireplace or in warmer weather, outside in the beauty of nature, under the stars on the Pollock grounds, often near one of our fire-pits. We do not have food or drink vendors on site, but attendees are welcome and encouraged to bring your own picnic basket & blanket. We will have the lodge open for use of restrooms and the picnic tables set up in the courtyard area. Parking and entry are free, however we do ask for donations to SVC and to help with our lodge renovation project. Concert dates April 8th, May 6th, June 3rd, July 8th and August 12th.

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Without the necessary upgrades, compliance will result in the closure to all those who it is intended to serve, including salmon that greet them. Keys, deer, hawks, herons, egrets, beavers and bears that call the depressed North Sacramento side, wild turkeys and other wildlife thrive in the wild places to enjoy the River on the economically viable Sacramento River, many for the first time. The Camp Pollock area has been developed for fishing, kayaking, bird watching, picnics and youth camping. Camp Pollock is open free dawn to dusk every day for river access and grounds for family and corporate events and youth camping. Camp Pollock is open free dawn to dusk every day for river access for fishing, kayaking, bird watching, picnics or just relaxing by the river. Join us.

Meet Volunteer Docent - David Jones

David Jones, Lead Equestrian Docent understands the value and reward when volunteering within the community. After all, volunteering as an Equestrian Docent at Deer Creek Hills is one of three ways David volunteers in Sacramento. The River Tract Trail Patrol and a reenactment Buffalo Soldier volunteer are the additional groups David supports with history and interacting with others while outside, on horseback. His involvement with the Buffalo Soldier group took him to the national stage at this year’s Rose Bowl Parade.

David was born in England with an identical twin brother to a military family. He was raised in Rancho Cordova and has worked for SMUD for the past 28 years. David is the proud owner of Quinn, Strider and Moose, his beloved horses. David is one of three Lead Equestrian Docents at Deer Creek Hills.

Camp Pollock

Join Friends of the River Bank and Sacramento Valley Conservancy for a special Second Saturday presentation with primitive education expert Chuck Krichon on Saturday, June 14th at Camp Pollock. Travel back into the past of Camp Pollock, to see and experience how the native People didn’t just survive, but THRIVED on this land and it’s rich resources! Learn how to make whistles from local sources, see how fire and stone tools made life not only livable but really WONDERFUL! Make and play games and try out some ancient hunting and trapping techniques of these original Sacramento! We will even test some ancient foods that were all available HE,... you know where and when to look out for them!

Leave No Trace Traveling Trainers come to Sacramento

Join the Leave No Trace Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids (PEAK) traveling trainers for a special training just for leaders and parents of youth groups to learn how to teach your youth about the principals of Leave no Trace. The trainers will share tips, tricks and interactive games as well as resources for how to teach outdoor ethics to youth.

YES! - Connecting Youth to the Environment

Join SVC’s YES- Youth, Education and Stewardship program for a day at Camp Pollock.

Restore Camp Pollock Lodge

Camp Pollock is a piece of Sacramento history, a hidden gem, located on the American River just five minutes from the downtown area on the North side of the river. OPEN for youth camping and events, Camp Pollock allows youth to experience the American River, many for the first time. The Camp Pollock property contains 11 acres fronting on the American River, including a 4,000 square foot lodge with a two-story stone fireplace built in 1924 by the Lion’s Club. When children arrive at Camp Pollock, the only safe place to enjoy the River on the economically depressed North Sacramento side, wild turkeys, deer, hawks, herons, egrets, beavers and salmon greet them. But the lodge is in need of necessary upgrades, that if not met, may result in the closure to all those who it is intended to benefit.

Without the necessary upgrades, compliance with lease terms cannot be met and the lodge may need to be closed. Lack of a renovated lodge will result in a degraded recreational and educational experience for youth and families, rather than the maximization of its recreation and community value on the downtown and North Sacramento section of the American River Parkway. We have just kicked off our Restore Camp Pollock Lodge Campaign with an ambitious goal to raise $500,000 before the end of 2014. We need your help to Restore Camp Pollock! Log on to www.camppollock.com to donate or create a profile and begin fundraising! Top three fundraisers will receive a complimentary 2015 Season Pass to Deer Creek Hills!

The principal goal of Horizons is the result of a partnership between Dome Printing in Sacramento and Camp Pollock and Sacramento Valley Conservancy. A Big Thank You to Dome Printing!

SVC Applies for Accreditation Renewal

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservancy organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. SVC is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how SVC complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/tips-and-tools/indicator-practices.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email your comments to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be submitted to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Comments on SVC’s application will be most useful by June 2.

SVC’s Friends of the River Bank and Sacramento Valley Conservancy (continued from page 1)