New 90 acre Conservation Easement protects Tri-Colored Blackbird habitat along Elder Creek

SVC recently worked with Teichert to protect over 90 acres of wildlife habitat along Elder Creek in south Sacramento County. SVC holds a conservation easement over the preserve, which supports riparian birds, hosts native oaks (many restored along the creek) and has habitat to support the threatened tri-color blackbird. Some years hundreds of tri-color blackbirds occupy blackberry brambles. Just like high-rise condos, the birds live in high concentrations and dramatically fly in and out in groups to forage for insects and other food nearby. One of their favorite nearby foraging locations is SVC’s Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve. SVC is excited to protect more habitat near the Preserve to help tri-color blackbirds and other wild critters thrive. Soon, SVC and Teichert will partner to protect more of the Elder Creek corridor - stay tuned!

Photograph by Jaymee Marty

25th Annual Treasures of the Valley

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy celebrated their 25th annual Treasures of the Valley fundraiser on Thursday Nov. 9 in the beautifully restored Myrtle Johnston Interpretive Center at Camp Pollock. Guests tasted the treasures of the Sacramento Valley, with local “farm to fork” fare sourced from farm and ranch lands protected in perpetuity by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

A highlight of the night was Conscious Creamery’s seasonal flavor of dairy free gelato. The pumpkin spice gelato was made fresh from seasonal squash grown on an SVC protected conservation easement, which serves as Swainson’s Hawk foraging in Sloughhouse. Thanks to you and our community, the 2017 event was a huge success. Special thanks to the generous in-kind support from Hoppy Brewing Company, Bogle Vineyards, Grindstone Wines, Il Gioiello Winery and Morse Wines. Some of this year’s silent auction items included native plants and trees from Sacramento Tree Foundation and Cornflower Farms, Disney tickets, Southwest tickets, and locally hand-made jewelry. All proceeds from the event benefit the Sacramento Valley Conservancy’s work preserving the beauty, character, and diversity of the Sacramento landscape in Yolo, Sacramento, Sutter, Placer, Amador and El Dorado Counties. Thank you to each of our 250 attendees and all of our supporters!

Photograph by Matt Muirhead
Inspiring the next generation of outdoor stewards

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy has a long history of engaging youth outdoors. For the past 10 years SVC’s YES (Youth, Education and Stewardship) program has connected kids throughout the greater Sacramento Valley to the natural environment, on properties we have protected, allowing kids to experience and explore the outdoors while creating lifelong memories. These YES activities integrate STEM curriculum, teach kids the importance of caring for the environment and introduce the principles of Leave No Trace. In 2017 SVC hosted more than 2,000 youth at Deer Creek Hills and Camp Pollock. You can help get more youth in the outdoors in 2018! We are seeking to build local partnerships with teams and clubs, hosting youth summer camps and after school programs, to reach more local kids and maximize our youth education program. Join an SVC group camping event (May, June and September) or book your own for $3/per person, and ask about 50% off for non-profit groups. Pick-up a NEW Lower American River Parkway Passport and collect a stamp. Explore Deer Creek Hills Preserve – Join docent guided hikes including geology, stargazing, history, birding, yoga, wildflower, and more! These outings can teach kids the value of important resources in their backyards. Let’s get more kids out to explore the natural world.

Mountain Biking comes to a close at Deer Creek Hills

That’s a wrap! Thanks for another GREAT Mountain Biking Season at Deer Creek Hills Preserve! You joined us for 26 Mountain Bike rides, 4 Saturday rides and 22 Monday night rides, and you generously gave over $900 in donations! More than 350 Mountain Bike visitors to Deer Creek Hills; with 8 docents participating in 2 or more rides. A special mention to Bill Claypool, Jim Carr and Greg Tenorio for being the most active of the MTB docents this season. These dedicated docents take time to mark trails and clean up cones each week and they help to make rides at Deer Creek Hills more memorable for all guests to the preserve. Thanks to our friends at the local REI co-op who came out in 2017 with bicycle mechanics and bikes to demo. HUGE thanks to the volunteers who took on the task of re-positioning the Eagle Corral kiosk, special thanks to Bill, Jim and Kurt. MORE upgrades and improvements to the kiosk in the new year. Be sure to check out the calendar of events and outings for 2018 for upcoming rides, hikes and outings.

25th Annual Treasures of the Valley
Volunteers make our outings and education programs possible

Our projects and events would not happen without fantastic volunteer support. We can help you find a way to invest your time in the Sacramento Valley Conservancy’s outings and hikes on our beautiful properties. Join our amazing group of trained volunteers to help with our docent-led-activities at Deer Creek Hills and Camp Pollock. No experience is necessary, just a desire to learn about the land and to share your knowledge with the public, we provide the training. We are always looking for volunteers to help lead or supplement the leader on our docent-led-events:

- Birding, botany, geology and more!
- Equestrian Rides (must have your own horse)
- Mountain Bike Rides
- Youth Education and Stewardship Program (YES) for day hikes and campouts
- Volunteer Days

Contact Phred Strickland SVC Program Assistant at 916/612-3719 or outreach@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org for more information about the SVC docent program. Training sessions are held in January and February each year.

SVC Attends the National Conference

Kelly Hopkins, Evan Griffiths, Amy Rodrigues and Tim Fiock traveled to Denver to attend Rally, the annual National Land Conservation Conference. Rally is a gathering of inspired and passionate land conservationists from the US, Canada, South America and beyond, who are dedicated to conserving cherished places in local communities. “We’re very excited to bring back what we’ve learned and look forward to sharing” said Kelly Hopkins, Communications and Marketing Director. “It was awe-inspiring to see such continuity amongst all of these organizations and to hear about the lasting work being done throughout the country.” The Land Trust Alliance is a national organization whose mission is to save places people love by strengthening land conservation. The Alliance leads a network of more than 1,100 member land trusts with 12,000 staff, 15,000 board members and five million members, who have conserved more than 50 million acres. SVC has been a member of the Land Trust Alliance for 23 years.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Health does not only happen in a doctor’s office - it also happens in our homes, our schools, and our communities.

Californians need neighborhoods where children can ride bikes and play together in nearby parks, where parents can buy healthy, affordable foods at local markets, and places where everyone feels safe walking to school or work. Californians need schools with quality school food and beverages, where exercise is part of the school day, and social-emotional health is promoted, leading to improved behavior and better decision-making.

Whether you just stepped foot in California or you were born and raised here, we want your communities, and the local and statewide policies - or “rules” - that affect your life to work for everyone.

With smart grant making - which we call “change making” - good leadership, and people power, we believe we can make the state of health in California better for all.

Learn More, Get Involved

www.calendow.org

DONATION 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. For more info, please call (916) 731-8798 or email us: info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Here is my tax deductible donation of:

- $1000
- $500
- $250
- $100
- $50
- Other

Name ____________________________

Company / Title ____________________________

Street ____________________________

City ____________________________ State _________ Zip__________

Home Phone ____________________________ Work Phone ____________________________

Email ____________________________

To make an easy and secure credit card donation, visit our website www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

THANK YOU.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Dec 2</td>
<td>Camp Pollock Volunteer Day</td>
<td>9am - 1pm</td>
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<td>Sat, Dec 9</td>
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<td>Tues, Jan 23</td>
<td>Nature Bowl Coach Workshop</td>
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<td>REI &amp; NOLS Wilderness First Aid</td>
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<td>Annual Docent Training</td>
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<td>Deer Creek History Hike</td>
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<td>Sat, Feb 3</td>
<td>Deer Creek Hills Open Hikes</td>
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<td>9am - 1pm</td>
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