

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Hikes 4th Saturdays at 9am
 April 22 - Birds & Wildflowers & May 27 - Archeology & History

Deer Creek Hills Oak Woodland Equestrian Rides
 4th Sundays at 9am
 April 23 & May 28 (weather permitting)

Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Tours Sundays at 1pm
 April 23

For all tours, hikes, and rides portable restrooms will be provided. Children are welcome. Hats, sunscreen, water, snacks, sturdy walking/hiking shoes and appropriate clothing for weather conditions a must. Heavy winds and rain will cancel.

The Conservancy is now recruiting volunteer docents to help with hikes, rides, and tours. To get information about being a docent, to RSVP to Conservancy outings and get directions to hikes, rides, and tours please contact Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator at 916-216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

A big thanks to the Equestrian Trail Patrol, Unit 5 for sponsoring SVC's Deer Creek Hills equestrian rides with liability insurance!

Announcements Deer Creek Hills Master Plan

SVC delayed production of the final draft of the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan due to holidays and the desire to provide an adequate comment period for our agency partners, including the County of Sacramento, California State Parks and California Department of Fish and Game. We expect to have a draft ready for environmental review soon. See article on page one. Contact Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director, with any questions at 916/492-0908 or bond13mac@aol.com.

Conservancy Wish List

We need this equipment for the hiking program and to start implementation of the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan. Donations are tax deductible. Contact Tammy Mebane, Stewardship Coordinator, at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net, if you would be interested in donating or sponsoring any of these items or filling volunteer roles. Thank you!

4WD vehicle, preferably a pick-up truck
Weed sprayers, backpack or truck mounted
Quad-runner vehicle • **Porta-potty service**



sacramento valley conservancy

Deer Creek Hills Master Plan Update

14 Special Status Birds Found

Thanks to your donations, Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) retained consultants to do surveys of the oaks and grasslands, birds, streams and wetlands, and the cultural and archeological resources at Deer Creek Hills. These surveys started in Spring 2005 and some will continue for the next two years and will inform the Master Plan.

The surveys confirmed the special heritage Deer Creek Hills provides for future generations. A few highlights are . . . The bird survey found 121 species. Great-horned owls and 39 other birds nest at Deer Creek Hills. Fourteen special status birds were found using the site, including Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Burrowing Owls, and Tri-Colored Blackbirds.

The cultural survey found many Native American sites, including grinding rocks (for processing acorns), many mining sites, and Basque sheep ranching homesites.

SVC is excited to produce a final draft of the Master Plan soon, post it on our website, and work with the County of Sacramento to accomplish the necessary environmental review of the plan, which will allow for public comment.

(See Deer Creek Master . . . page 2)

Dry Creek Parkway Property Protected

70 Acres of Flood Control, Wildlife Habitat and Trails

Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC), working with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) and the County of Sacramento, recently protected 70 acres in the Dry Creek Parkway, near Rio Linda.

SVC holds a conservation easement to protect clean water and homes for wildlife on the site. SAFCA holds a flowage easement to provide a safe place for the creek to flood at high water times to protect the surrounding area from flooding. And, the County owns the property.

The County plans to develop bike, pedestrian and horse trails near the site as a part of the over

60-mile planned parkway loop, connecting the American River Parkway to the Dry Creek Parkway, from downtown Sacramento to Rio Linda, Roseville, Folsom and back.

Eldie Long, the property owner and a longtime Rio Linda resident, worked with SVC and its partners and received fair market value, protecting natural and flood control qualities.

Over the last seven years, SVC has worked with SAFCA and the City and County of Sacramento to protect over 450 acres in the Dry Creek Parkway. This land is all near the two forks of Dry Creek in Rio Linda, which floods more and

(See Newly Protected Property . . . page 2)



Cub Scouts line up to sight heron and egret rookery through scope at Dry Creek Parkway.

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Spring 2006

Deer Creek Master Plan . . . *(continued from page 1)*

When adopted, the Master Plan will allow SVC to work with our agency partners, the community and you--our donor family--to implement habitat and public education improvements and continue the working ranch at Deer Creek Hills.

Youth groups are already planning docent-led visits to experience spring nature education opportunities at Deer Creek Hills, including Skylab/Cottage Housing, Sierra Club Inner City Outings, and California Middle School.

SVC delayed production of our final draft of the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan due to the timing of the holidays

Newly Protected Property . . . *(continued from page 1)*

more frequently due to increased water runoff from pavement near the creek due to upstream development. This protected land provides flood protection for human homes in nearby Rio Linda, North Sacramento and Natomas.

The protected land also provides homes for wild animals, such as kingfishers, hawks, blue herons, black-crowned night herons, and great white egrets (including a large heron and egret rookery in the spring). Repair work to nearby dams and spawning grounds may bring more endangered Fall Chinook Salmon back to the creek.

New Board Members

The Conservancy would like to welcome our two newest Board members Troy Prather, Treasurer, and Jay Ziegler.

Troy Prather, CPA is the Senior Vice President of Consulting Services in the accounting and consulting firm of Perry-Smith LLP.

Jay Ziegler is the principal of a Sacramento-based public affairs

at the end of the year, and wanting to provide an adequate comment period for our agency partners, including the County of Sacramento, California State Parks and California Department of Fish and Game.

SVC is using information from the surveys, feedback from our public outreach sessions held in 2005, and comments from our partners and neighboring landowners to meet our goal of balancing public access, natural resources protection and traditional cattle grazing at Deer Creek Hills.

Join us for a docent-led tour of the property this spring. See back page.

SVC works with schoolchildren from the area to show them the special place in their own backyard. SVC recently gained grant support from the California Department of Water Resources to help fund field trips to the area. Glenwood School, Skylab/Cottage Housing youth group, Sierra Club Inner City Outings and California Middle School will all visit and learn about the special creatures who call the Dry Creek Parkway home. They will also learn how the creek provides clean water, and the land provides a place for the creek to safely flood when high water comes.

consulting firm, Ziegler Associates. The firm was founded in 2003 and specializes in land use issues, regulatory concerns and political communications.

Jay served in the Clinton Administration as Special Assistant to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt for intergovernmental affairs (1993-1996) and served as Assistant Trade Representative for Public Affairs (1996-1999).

Service Day Success and New Donors

Twenty-five young men and women from the Intelligence Squadron at Beale Air Force Base came out to SVC's Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area this winter and cleaned up several truckloads of trash.

"The Air Force volunteers were great, they all had such positive attitudes and were eager to work hard, we cleaned up the property in record time," said Tammy Mebane, SVC Stewardship Coordinator.

Call Tammy at 916/216-2178 to schedule a service day for your group.

. . .

Sierra Club Mother Lode Chapter and the Sacramento Earth Day Network each made \$1500 grants to SVC to help train docents and to design and print field journals for use on youth field trips. SVC thanks these partners for helping to expand our public education programs at our preserves!

. . .



Air Force volunteer tests aerodynamics of cow skull found at SVC's Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area.

Winston Lancaster, Professor of Biology at California State University, Sacramento and SVC docent, chose to donate \$600 from the sale of T-shirts at the 35th North American Symposium on Bat Research held in Sacramento last fall. Thanks for the support! Our local donors make SVC possible. How can you support SVC?

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.

Gifts to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy are tax deductible. If you would like more information, please call (916) 492.0908 or email us at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Here is my tax deductible donation of:

\$20 \$35 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other

Name _____

Company/Title _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer



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THANK YOU.