

Calendar of Upcoming Events

For more information contact Tammy Mebane at 916/216-2178 or tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

Docent Hike at Deer Creek Hills – Saturday May 26

Equestrian Ride at Deer Creek Hills – Sunday May 27

National Trails Day – Saturday, June 2, 2007

Join the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and REI for a day of service. Working together to coordinate other service day efforts with Granite Construction, Eagle Scouts, and Rancher Mike Harry, we will wrap up all our stewardship activities with projects including: cleaning up an old barn area, installing new trail head kiosk, posting signs, and lots more, all followed by lunch and a short hike on the property.

Astronomy and Bat Night – August 11, 2007

Join us for an evening of Bats and Stargazing. Listen in on bats at feeding time with bat expert, Winston Lancaster, CSUS professor. After the sun goes down, the Sacramento Astronomical Society will be on hand to lead the group in viewing the stars through telescopes. Don't miss this great event! Perfect for the whole family.

Treasures of the Valley – October 4, 2007

Mark your calendars for our annual Treasures of the Valley, October 4, 2007! The event will be held at the CSUS Alumni Center. It will be a night of great food, wine, beer, live music, good company, silent auction and great way to support the Conservancy and Open Space! See www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org to sponsor or purchase tickets. \$50/ticket. Larger sponsorships needed!

Announcements

Save the Date!

Treasures of the Valley 2007

October 4, 2007

Food, Fun, Live Music
Libations, Friends, Colleagues

CSUS Alumni Center

5:30-8pm

Support Open Space - Bring Friends

\$50/ticket at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org

Larger ticket and sponsorship packages available.

Call Tammy Mebane at 916/216-2178.

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

Robla Students Discover Nature

In Their Own Backyard

Every late winter and spring the Sacramento Valley Conservancy leads classes on field trips that explore open space areas around the Sacramento area. This year over 400 K-5 students from Bell Avenue Elementary in the Robla School District visited one of SVC's protected properties, Hansen Ranch, which contains branches of both Robla and Dry Creeks.



SVC docent David Scharlach welcomes you to Deer Creek Hills as Solomon Miser, a homesteader from the 1800's.

Dry and Robla creeks are part of the Dry Creek watershed in the Rio Linda area. On the Hansen Ranch property, students can see these two creeks joining, as they flow to Steelhead Creek, which then flows to the American River, which joins the Sacramento River at Discovery Park, heading for the Delta and San Francisco Bay.

One enthusiastic second grade student named Jose loudly exclaimed to the group during our closing circle at Dry Creek. "This is the most fun place in the history!"

One parent chaperone said "...we walk on the levee often but from now on we will look at the area differently."

The Robla Creek field trips provided children with the opportunity to explore natural habitat in their own backyards and gain an appreciation for open spaces, learning

(See Robla Students . . . page 2)

History Comes Alive at Deer Creek Hills

By David Scharlach, SVC Docent

"The land is generally low rolling hills... and portions can be settled by grazing as there is good grass and water in the spring of the year" (E. Dyer /Surveyor, 1857). So is described Deer Creek Hills. But there is so much more to the story. The Deer Creek Hills Preserve is an amazing area with a rich cultural history that reflects the birth and coming of age of California.

Native California Indians lived with the land for over 10,000 years, using acorns from the majestic oaks as a food staple. Very recently, in the early to mid 1800's leather boots of European descent, like those of

Spanish explorers and "pioneers" from the eastern United States explored and mapped the land. Tragically, in a short time, most of the Indian tracks were lost, covered in the scramble of desperate miners, homesteaders and sheep and cattle ranchers. Many miners hoped that the hills above the gold-rich banks of the Cosumnes River harbored the same glitter. And, the ranchers made their homes and living on the land.

Due to the hard work of Sacramento Valley Conservancy, you (our members) and many loyal public agency and community supporters, time stopped for the land at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. Now, current and future generations of the Sacramento region can see, feel and hear what it was

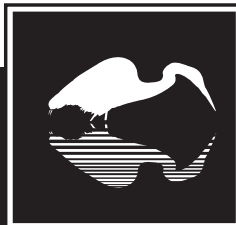
(See History at Deer Creek Preserve . . . page 2)

www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org

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Summer 2007

Robla Students . . . *(continued from page 1)*

the importance of conservation. The field trips present a wonderful way to extend what is learned in the classroom.

Students kept field journals and learned to identify birds like great white egrets, great blue herons, red-tailed hawks, osprey and waterfowl. Students also searched for raccoon tracks, crawdads, bullfrogs, muskrats, among others in a scavenger hunt. Students learned about what birds need to survive, explored

History at Deer Creek Preserve . . . *(continued from page 1)*

like before the turn of the last century. We can see the rolling hills, huge oak trees and the annual cattle round-up very much as they appeared 150 years ago; and, with the large exception of the replacement of native California grassland plants and flowers by largely Mediterranean species (which transformation occurred during the Gold Rush period) much as the land looked to the ancestors of the California Indians thousands of years before that.

At Deer Creek Hills, you can take a morning walk with Solomon Miser (OK, he's really me – David Scarlach, current resident of nearby Rancho Murieta), one of the first pioneers to settle in the Cosumnes River Valley. He will tell you how he came to these

Fair Oaks Bluff Update

Since April 2006, the Donor Plaza Design Committee has been working with County officials to finalize the design of the Fair Oaks Bluff Donor Plaza. The design submitted by Hugh Gorman and his team was selected and approved by the County Parks Commission in November 2006. If you'd like to help with fundraising and implementation, or if you want more information, call Barry Brown at (916) 967-6528 or Marty Maskall at (916) 967-2472. Citizens to Save the Bluffs estimate the need is another

wetland areas to observe wildlife and their signs, and discovered how wildlife and endangered species are important in our environment.

The Conservancy funded the field trips with a grant from the California Department of Water Resources in cooperation with the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Big thanks to Christine Somach and Lisa Hall for their help.

beautiful rolling hills from Missouri by way of the Isthmus of Panama and San Francisco in 1847. Having found his horse farm at Deer Creek Hills, he crossed the Sierras and headed East, to bring back his bride, Isabelle and child. He would captain a wagon train to do it.

Take our path into California history. The red tail hawks and coyotes will cast a knowing eye upon us. Along the way, you may find what they know: that there is a bit more to California than what we learned in school. And it is all right here, at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve.

Join docent David Scharlach on May 26th for a guided hike covering the history of Deer Creek Hills. (See back page.)

\$15,000 for the donor plaza (estimated cost \$30,000). The Bluff property loan balance of \$124,705 was paid off in December 2005, securing the land in public ownership and allowing management as a public park by Sacramento County and the Fair Oaks Park and Recreation District. Sacramento Valley Conservancy negotiated and handled the real estate deal that together with the support of our many loyal members made the preservation of the Fair Oaks Bluff possible. Thank you.

Member News

Sacramento Valley Conservancy members, Advisory Council and Board of Trustees enjoyed an outing to the Crocker Art Museum's Ansel Adams exhibit on April 26. The exhibit on Adams' 1938 trip to Yosemite with the likes of Georgia O'Keefe and the Godfrey Rockefellers was interpreted by a very knowledgeable Crocker Museum docent. The exhibit focused on a 10-day backcountry hiking and photography trip. (This trip involved a lot of mules to carry heavy equipment!) The work displayed was from custom photo albums that Adams made for his friends after the trip, including many breathtaking photos and personal notes about the trip by Adams. This event was hosted by SVC President Lynn Sadler, SVC Development Committee Chair Robert Jones and SVC Secretary Bob Slobe.

Don't forget about signing up for Astronomy and Bat Night on the evening of August 11! A great family event – you will learn about bat behavior, be able to hear their ultrasonic calls, and, after dark, will be treated to tracking the constellations through sophisticated telescopes provided by the Sacramento Astronomical Society.

Registration for this event is open, but if you join SVC as a member, you receive a free coupon for a docent led outing, which you can use at any of our docent led outings.

Keep watching for future SVC member events. Plan to enjoy live jazz, landscape art and photography, food and libations at our annual Treasures of the Valley event on October 4 from 5:30-8pm at the CSUS Alumni Center. Support SVC, have fun!



Robla students study nature at Hansen Ranch (See Front Page)

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

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer



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THANK YOU.