

Calendar of Upcoming Events

August 26, 2006 at 7pm to past dark

Stargazing and Bat Night at Deer Creek Hills

Join bat biologist and CSUS professor Winston Lancaster at 7:00 for an evening of eavesdropping on the dinnertime chatter of the bats of Deer Creek Hills. To navigate and locate their prey in darkness, bats make intense, high-pitched calls and listen for the echoes returning from flying insects. These calls are at frequencies far above the range of human hearing, but using electronic listening devices, we will hear the calls of the bats and see computer-generated images of the sound structure. After the sun goes down the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society will be on hand with telescopes and plenty of knowledge to view the sky for an evening of stargazing. Bring flashlight and mosquito repellent, water and snacks. Space is limited please RSVP at 916/216-2178

October 5, 2006 at 5:30-8pm

Treasures of the Valley at CSUS Alumni Center

Come to our wonderful annual event with local food, wine, microbrews, auction, art displays and live jazz! This fun event is a great way to support the Conservancy and party with friends, meet others interested in open space and relax. Tickets are \$50. Sponsors of \$250 and up will receive special recognition and complimentary tickets. Buy tickets online at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org by hitting "donate" on the top of the home page, and indicating "Treasures of the Valley" in the comment section. Volunteer to work and get in free! Call Wendy at 916/731-8798.

Announcements Treasures of the Valley

Save the Date!

October 5, 5:30 to 8pm

Food, Wine, Microbrews, Auction, Art, Live Jazz, FUN! Tickets \$50. Plan to come and bring your friends to support the Conservancy! (If you volunteer to work, you can get in free-call Wendy at 916-731-8798.)

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Deer Creek Hills Master Plan draft posted at www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org! Check it out

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**

www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org



sacramento valley conservancy

New Acquisition

SVC and Reynen & Bardis Communities Preserve Vernal Pool Property

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC), working with Reynen & Bardis Communities, Inc., has preserved 75 acres of pristine vernal pools and a section of Laguna Creek.

The project adds to the over 2000 acres of vernal pool grasslands already preserved in SVC's Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area in southeast Sacramento County, just south of Highway 16, west of Sunrise Boulevard. The newly-protected 75-acre site serves as high-quality mitigation for vernal pools used for development in the Elk Grove, Laguna Ridge area.



Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool popcorn flowers in full bloom.

Preserving larger areas of habitat creates better opportunities for plants and animals to survive and helps make long-term management of these areas more viable for the vernal pool grasslands, which require winter cattle-grazing to help encourage native plants and animals to thrive.

"Preserving high-quality vernal pools represents a commitment on the part of Reynen & Bardis to do our part protect our natural heritage and to make Sacramento and Elk Grove a great place for our kids to live," said Gary Parker, President of Land Development at Reynen and Bardis Communities, Inc.

(See New Acquisition . . . page 2)

Hike, Ride & Camp Season Draws 700

Bat and Astronomy Night Coming up on August 26

Wrapping up our main hike season, we had almost 700 visitors to Deer Creek Hills, the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area and the Dry Creek Watershed. And, we expect more to attend Bat and Astronomy Night on August 26 (announcement in "Events" section on back page) and our new Leadership Outings program, sponsored by A. Teichert & Son, Inc, which provides on-request outings for companies, agencies and regional leadership groups.

Five hundred hikers enjoyed Deer Creek Hills and the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool areas. We got great

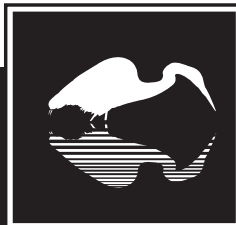
feedback about these fun and educational hikes that focused on Geology, Wildflowers, Birds, History, Photography and Adventure. New this year and supported by a very dedicated docent group, eighty equestrians enjoyed the breathtaking views of the oak woodlands and savannahs of Deer Creek Hills on four docent-led rides. In addition, nearly 100 kids from Sierra Club Inner City Outings, Skylab Cottage Housing, 4H groups and scouting troops, and California Middle School experienced the outdoors in a series of field trips. These young nature troopers learned about oak woodlands, unique vernal pools, ranching, creeks, water quality and flood control. We are working to expand our field trips and overnight trips further next season.

(See Hike & Ride . . . page 2)

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Summer 2006

New Acquisition . . . *(continued from page 1)*

Located on ground that has traditionally been winter-grazed with cattle, and never plowed, these wetlands are especially significant for the many native and endangered plant and animal species that depend on these seasonal wetlands as their habitat.

Some vernal pool animals include fairy and tadpole shrimp, tiger salamanders, spadefoot toads, native bees. Raptors, including various falcons and hawks, soar over the grasslands to hunt rodents. The increasingly rare tri-colored blackbird also colonizes in blackberry

brambles and other bushy areas nearby, foraging in the surrounding grasslands for insects and seeds.

Vernal pool native flowers include the gorgeous purple downinga, pink monkeyflower, white meadowfoam and popcorn flowers and the famous brilliant yellow goldfields. SVC will own and manage the site to continue to provide homes for these special plants and animals, and will lead educational walks and allow researchers to access the site.

Hike & Ride . . . *(continued from page 1)*

Service projects with REI and Air Force cadets provided over 100 enthusiastic volunteers a "hands on" approach to conservation. These hard-working groups learned more about the open space that the Conservancy is working so hard to preserve, while cleaning up over 80 bags of trash and hanging over 100 signs at Deer Creek Hills, Kiefer Wetland Preserve and the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Area.

We couldn't have had such a successful season without the wonderful and

committed volunteer docents who led hikes, tours, and rides. SVC docents logged almost 1000 volunteer hours this season, between hikes, rides, tours, and service days. What an accomplishment and what a great example of stewardship! We can't put into words how much it means to us, but more importantly how much it means to the successful management and stewardship of our properties. Thank you all for your commitment and dedication.

Service Projects

Take a "hands-on" approach to conservation by organizing your work, church group, friends and family to join us for a service project to clean up properties, build bird boxes, hang signs or trail maintenance. The Conservancy can accommodate groups of 15 or more for service projects depending on our needs and the season. For more information contact Tammy Mebane, Stewardship Director, at 916/216-2178 or e-mail to: tammymebane@sbcglobal.net.

Leadership Outings

These beautiful and fun outings educate leaders, companies and agencies in our region about our unique local scenic, agricultural, natural and recreational resources (including oak woodlands and vernal pools close to work), how they are protected and managed, and build camaraderie in an "out-of-work", low stress environment. On request. Call Aimee Rutledge, Executive Director at 916/492-0908 or e-mail to: bond-13mac@aol.com".

Volunteer Spotlight

Equestrian Docents Saddle-Up To Lead New Ride Program

We had a new group of volunteers this year, the Equestrian Docents. Led by Bill Katen, the equestrian docents really stepped up and took ownership of the equestrian rides we offered at Deer Creek Hills. Their commitment and enthusiasm was much appreciated by the participants and SVC staff. Thanks to the docents, we offered four rides February - May including a moonlight ride in May. You can find more information about rides and get the 2007 schedule of events by the end of summer on our website.

Deer Creek Hills Steers Go to County Fair

Elliott Harry, son and grandson, respectively, of Lucky Seven Ranch owners Mike and Dick Harry, raised and showed two steers at the Sacramento County Fair in May 2006 with Elk Grove Future Farmers of America. Both steers grazed the winter pastures of Deer Creek Hills from November 2004 to May 2005. Ty is a Black Angus and weighed in at 1309 pounds at the fair. Rocky, pictured with Elliott, weighed in at 1206 pounds at the fair. When they left Deer Creek Hills, they weighed 700 and 800 pounds. Elliott achieved group 1 market ready ribbons for both steers at the fair after halter



Elliott Harry and Rocky, a 1200-pound Charolais steer from Deer Creek Hills, go to the fair.

breaking them and teaching them to lead and set their feet with a show stick. The steers fed on local irrigated pasture from June to December 2005 and then were grain-fed twice a day until the fair. Elliott sold both steers, made some money and learned a lot. He's planning on picking out new steers this month to start the process over again.

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 _____

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Email _____

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Contact me about: Planned Giving Becoming a Volunteer



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THANK YOU.