

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### 2007 Hike Season

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy offers docent-led educational hikes and equestrian rides at Deer Creek Hills Preserve (equestrians must have their own horse). We offer a diverse group of trained SVC docents that lead and educate participants on the natural history, geology, birds, wildlife, plant life, and wildflowers of the area. Hikes and Equestrian rides start at 9:00 and end at 1:00 (unless otherwise noted). All tours will be posted on our website soon. Please check back for additional events. There will be a fee for hikes of \$10, and \$20 for equestrian rides (unless otherwise noted). Children 16 and under are free. Our new interpretive trail will be open and free to the public on Fourth Saturdays from 9:00-1:00.

### Hike Schedule:

Saturday Jan 27, Deer Creek Overlook Hike  
 Saturday Jan 27, North Pond Stroll  
 Saturday Feb 24, Geology Hike  
 Saturday Feb 24 Deer Creek Overlook Hike  
 Sunday Feb 25, Equestrian Ride  
 Saturday Mar 24, Wildflower Hike  
 Sunday Mar 25, Equestrian Ride  
 Saturday Apr 28, Birds of Deer Creek Hills  
 Saturday Apr 28, Wildflower Tour  
 Sunday Apr 29, Equestrian Ride  
 Saturday May 26, Natural History Hike  
 Sunday May 27, Equestrian Ride (TBD)

For information about our events please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Kelly van Boxtel at (530) 400-5922, or [kelly\\_sacvalleyconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:kelly_sacvalleyconservancy@yahoo.com).

## Announcements

### Treasures of the Valley 2006

For those of you who were not able to attend Treasures of the Valley this year, we are proud to report it was a huge success. The event was held at a new venue, the CSUS Alumni Center, which received great reviews. Wineries, food vendors, and artists displayed great creativity in their craft. The Silent Auction was a big hit and the jazz band 'Shake Don't Stir' was the perfect accompaniment to the evening. Thank you for supporting the event and SVC. A special thank you to all the volunteers who made the event possible and to our Event Board Chair, Cydney Bender-Reents.

### 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](mailto: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

### SVC Partners With Amador Land Trust

Sacramento Valley Conservancy recently executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formally establish a partnership with Amador Land Trust to protect land in both eastern Sacramento County and western Amador County.

"The county boundary does not affect the oak woodlands, vernal pools and endangered lone chaparral plant communities we're working hard to protect. And, family ranches don't stop at the county line either," said Amanda Bohl, Board member of the Amador Land Trust. "We're partnering with SVC to make our conservation goals happen on a larger scale."



*SMUD Board Vice President Susan Patterson signs the agreement to form the SMUD Nature Preserve. Photo by Steve Yeater, provided by SMUD*

Sacramento Valley Conservancy's Board of Trustees member Tim Curran is a family rancher whose home ranch is based in Western Amador County, but who owns and grazes land permanently protected by a conservation easement in eastern Sacramento County. SVC works hard to protect large tracts of traditional ranchland, blue oak woodlands, and vernal pool grasslands. Working with Amador Land Trust will strengthen SVC's ability to achieve our mission.

A grant from the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Conservancy Program helped fund outreach to

### SVC, SMUD and The Nature Conservancy Work Together to Protect Vernal Pools

1200 Acres at Rancho Seco to Become Permanent Nature Area

SVC is working with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to set aside a 1200-acre nature preserve on land just east of the decommissioned Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. SVC has partnered with SMUD and TNC to set up a 30-month temporary easement for the protection of critical ecological and agricultural resources, including seasonal vernal pools that support threatened and endangered species. The land was ceremoniously dedicated in a signing ceremony at the

site on October 18. SVC will hold the easement and manage cattle grazing at the site.

SVC and TNC will help conduct biological surveys in the area to support the ultimate goal of creating a permanent wetlands mitigation bank and easement. The mitigation bank must be approved by state and federal agencies.

The 1200 acres includes land east of the decommissioned Rancho Seco Nuclear Station and east of the newly constructed Cosumnes Power Plant. It also includes the

[www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org](http://www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org)

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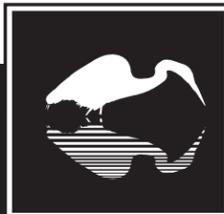
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(See SVC's Amador . . . page 2)



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(See SMUD Preserve . . . page 2)



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68-0256214

**Fall 2006**

**SVC's Amador . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

farmers and ranchers in both counties about working with land trusts. It also funded GIS mapping of natural resources and agricultural lands, and joint strategic conservation planning that led to the execution of the MOU.

Potential joint SVC/ALT projects include more outreach to landowners

**SMUD Preserve . . .** *(continued from page 1)*

Performing Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). The existing Rancho Seco Recreation Area is not included in the set-aside. But, the recently opened Rancho Seco Howard Ranch Trail is included in the nature area and is open to the public. The trail is a cooperative project between SMUD and TNC. It connects Rancho Seco Park to Howard Ranch, and traverses 7 miles of vernal pools, seasonal wetlands, creek and marsh areas. These areas provide ecological havens for rare, native species and contain carpets of colorful flowers in the spring.

"By working together with SMUD and TNC, SVC will achieve permanent protection of a critical habitat area for over 14 rare and endangered vernal pool species, like the California Tiger Salamander and many native plants. These creatures have less and less area to live and need this space to survive," said Aimee Rutledge, SVC Executive Director. "We'll also help to maintain

**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.

on potential conservation easements on farms and ranches in both counties, exploring mitigation options for new developments in Amador County, and potentially working on Howard Ranch East (which contains 20,000 acres and is next to Howard Ranch West, a 12,000 acre preserve and working ranch protected by The Nature Conservancy).

our heritage of family cattle operations by adding 1200 acres of grazing land to over 15,000 acres of currently protected land. The trail allows all of us to experience the beauty and importance of the vernal pools and green pastures in person."

For more information on SVC's efforts to protect homes for animals and plants, scenic vistas and recreation, and our agricultural heritage, visit [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org). The Nature Conservancy is an international nonprofit membership organization, whose mission is to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. For more information on the Conservancy's work in California, visit [www.nature.org/california](http://www.nature.org/california). Protecting the environment is one of SMUD's core values. For more information about SMUD's commitment to the environment visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

**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: bond13mac@aol.com.

**Crevis Creek Trail to Open in 2007 at Deer Creek Hills**

Equestrian Improvements, Kiosk Also Planned

SVC volunteers and staff will be working hard this Fall to design and prepare a trail along Crevis Creek at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve. This trail area is identified in the Deer Creek Hills Master Plan as the first to be developed on the site. SVC plans to open this trail in January 2007 for public access during fourth Saturdays from 9am to 1pm. The trail may be open other hours, depending on the availability of docents and staff to check in trail users. Check out [www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org](http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) for more information on hours as the 2007 hike season progresses.

The mile-long trail will traverse an 80-acre area of the site and will have interpretive stops illustrating blue oak regeneration, Basque sheep ranching and mining history, native American use of the site, plants and animals present along Crevis Creek, native grassland plants and our local heritage of cattle grazing.

SVC and Eagle Scout David Golden from Boy Scouts of America, Troop 633 are cooperating to build an



*Threatened California Tiger Salamanders thrive on the new SMUD Nature Preserve. Photo by David Rosen*

interpretive kiosk in the corral staging area for hikers and equestrians.

"I am excited about the opportunity to coordinate this project with SVC," said David. "It will leave a legacy for future generations."

SVC is also working with the equestrian docents and Lucky Seven Ranch to build several hitching posts in the corral area for use on equestrian outings.

**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](http://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.