

Cache Creek Talk



Volume 36 / Winter 2009

Calendar of Events

December

No Open Day at Preserve
Closed Dec. 24th—Jan. 3rd

January

Jan. 16th—Open Saturday

February

Feb. 15th

Closed Presidents' Day
Feb. 20th—Open Saturday
Yolo Basin Foundation
Duck Day program at the
Nature Preserve



Lesser & western sandpipers have taken up temporary residency and are enjoying the low water levels in the wetlands

Off Highway Vehicle Use Along Cache Creek!

Kent Reeves

Yolo County Parks & Resources, Natural Resources Division Manager



Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on Cache Creek is a very emotional topic for many people. It is one of the most important issues for residents of the lower watershed, which is why the Yolo County Parks & Resources Department is focusing considerable time and energy to address this issue. Department staff is collaborating with the Yolo County Sheriff's Department to develop a comprehensive program to effectively address OHV issues for not just Cache Creek, but for the county.

In 2008, as part of a team of ecologists to evaluate the state OHV Division Habitat Monitoring Program, we travelled to all of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRA) to assess monitoring of wildlife and related habitat in relation to OHV use. This provided us with an opportunity to not only evaluate terrestrial wildlife monitoring, but to see what is involved with the management of lawful OHV riding. It is clear that a three pronged approach

of 1) law enforcement, 2) restoration/signage/restriction, and 3) planning will be essential for a successful comprehensive OHV program in Yolo County.

Law Enforcement:

The first and foremost component of the county OHV Program is to develop an effective law enforcement strategy. A county ordinance for OHV's is being developed collaboratively with the Sheriff's Department, Board of Supervisors, the Yolo County District Attorney, and County Counsel. This important aspect of the program needs laws that can be enforced.

An effective law enforcement unit will be essential to enforce these laws. The Sheriff's Department received a \$34,000 grant in 2009 from the State Parks & Recreation OHV Division for equipment essential to this law enforcement unit. In 2010 Yolo County will expand our grant application to the State OHV program to include funding requests for restoration, education and outreach, and planning/

development.

Restoration:

Unrestricted OHV use along Cache Creek has caused damage to the area. Restoration grants from the state are designed to plan and implement restoration for this kind of damage and restrict access through barriers and signage. The county Parks & Resources Department in cooperation with the Planning & Public Works Department has identified areas to begin restricting access to Cache Creek from county owned property. In addition to restricting access we will begin planning and implementing restoration projects at sites where OHV's have impacted riparian areas along the creek. In combination with law enforcement, restoration, and access restriction the county will begin an education and outreach program about lawful OHV riding. In addition to these programs the county will begin planning to provide opportunities for lawful OHV riding. This requires extensive public involvement.

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2010 Writer-in-Residence Workshop Starts Soon

The 2010 writing workshops at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve will begin in late January, meeting on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Join Writer-in-Residence Rae Gouirand for powerful workshops on topics in poetry that will extend your relationship to your creative practice. Participants will develop new work each week from writing assignments, and will be building a portfolio of both new poems as well as reflective writings from their individual projects. All interested community members are welcome, regardless of whether or not they already think of themselves as 'writers.'

Writer-in-Residence Rae Gouirand began teaching at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve in 2006. Rae has a background as a writer, scholar and educator. She has a BA in urban stud-

ies from Bryn Mawr College, and completed her MFA in poetry at the University of Michigan where she also served as a Lecturer in English. Her creative interests encompass areas such as contemporary poetry and prose, the prose poem, the short essay, modern lyric in poetry and song, feminist writing, and experimental narrative.

Rae states, "The Writer-in-Residence program at Cache Creek Nature Preserve provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn from the local landscape and to experience the connection between the natural world and creative practice. Our outdoor classroom and gathering spirit make this workshop series a unique opportunity for those who would like to grow their creative lives from the support of both human and natural community."

As in the past there will be no charge to the participants of the workshop. This program has been generously supported in the past by a grant from the Teichert Foundation. Unfortunately, grant monies are not available this year, but the Conservancy has agreed to fund this successful program. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

For more information about the 2010 workshop series, email Rae at

rgouirand@gmail.com or contact the Cache Creek Conservancy at 530 661-1070 or by e-mail at admincrk@yolo.com. Space is limited, and pre registration is necessary.



**Nothing is so welcome
As the rain that heals the cracks
Within the stream**

*Poem & Photo by WIR student:
Ronald Edwin Lane*

OHVs continued from page 1

Lawful OHV Riding: Currently there are no legal managed OHV parks in Yolo County. And if access is going to be restricted on Cache Creek, it will be essential to have a successful comprehensive OHV program to provide a place for people to ride. This requires an extensive public planning effort and ultimately a site. This third and final component of the overall plan, being developed by the county with state Parks & Recreation support, will require important public participation and a strong cooperative approach among stake-

holders and public agencies. If you have questions about this program, contact Kent Reeves at 530.406.4888 or kent.reeves@yolocounty.org.



Did You Know?

In California, burrowing owls are often conspicuous in open fields standing outside of their reclaimed ground squirrel burrows. With their long speedy legs, these smallest of owls often sprint after their prey or catch prey in low flight. They eat insects and small mammals such as grasshoppers, crickets, voles and lizards. Studies in Brazil show that burrowing owls preferentially eat insects such as wolf spiders over other types of spiders.

Owls mate for life and are thought to live for 8 or 9 years. They lay eggs in spring and chicks venture carefully to the burrow entrance after 3-4 weeks of hatching. After one year, they are ready to mate and will often relocate to new burrows nearby if the premises get too crowded.



Athene cunicularia hypugaea

Thank You to Our Donors

Thank you very much to our friends and supporters who have donated to the CCC over this past year. Your consideration is greatly appreciated and has certainly helped us in carrying out our mission. This year more than ever your generosity in supporting the CCC has meant so much as our revenues have been lower due to the downturn in the economy. Nonetheless, we remain positive and continue moving forward doing as much as our resources will permit. Please think about us as you consider year-end donations; an envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who have helped us with various projects. The contribution of your time and talent is very much appreciated and has contributed to our overall accomplishments.

- Rob Beggs**
- Cemex**
- Donald & Carol Edwards**
- Stella Eilola**
- Esparto RISE after school program**
- Golden Empire Council BSA**
- Granite Construction Co.**
- Sue & Harland Kenyon**
- Lester Messina**
- Nature Bowl**
- North Davis Elementary School**
- Herb & Lynnel Pollock**
- Ramon S. Tafoya Elementary**
- Wayne & Bertha Taresch**
- Teichert Aggregates**
- Syar Industries**
- George & Bonnie Weiss**
- Kimberly West**
- YMCA**



Max Stevenson, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD, supported Creek Cleanup efforts.



Spencer Defty, Diamond D General Engineering, always willing to lend a helping hand.



Cache Creek Conservancy

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- Molly Ferrell**
Habitat Restoration Manager

Retiring Board Members are Appreciated

Two members of the Board of Directors will be leaving us at the end of this year. Bob Eoff and Kim Carpenter deserve a great deal of thanks for their contributions to the Cache Creek Conservancy.

Bob Eoff joined the board in 2004 and has completed two three-year terms. He has served most of that time as the Treasurer and as a member of the Executive Committee. Bob brought a strong financial management background to the board and has helped immensely in streamlining and strengthening our financial management practices. He recommended changes in the way financial matters were reported to the board so that



Robert Eoff—CCC Board Member 2004-2009

the overall knowledge and understanding of the Conservancy finances were enhanced. Bob is looking forward to more time for family and travel.

Kim Carpenter has been a board member for almost three years and served on the Education Committee. Kim is an anthropologist and has become very involved in work-related endeavors. We appreciate the hours that she has contributed helping out with various events, and enjoyed having her and her children at the Preserve. We look forward to seeing them in the future as we know they will be back for visits.

CCC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Cache Creek Conservancy is to preserve, restore, enhance and promote the stewardship of the stream environment along Cache Creek.

Fred Vanderwold
Education Specialist

*The Jan T. Lowrey
Cache Creek Nature Preserve*

Hours

Monday – Friday
7AM – 4PM

WE ARE ALSO OPEN

THE THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

9AM—2PM

Come enjoy the trails or have a picnic on an open Saturday. Open Saturdays at the Jan T. Lowrey Cache Creek Nature Preserve are generally held on the **third Saturday of each month**. No reservations are necessary for Open Day.
(No Open Day in August or December)

Cache Creek Conservancy

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*The Jan T. Lowrey Cache Creek Nature Preserve is managed by the
Cache Creek Conservancy which is dedicated to education, restoration and outreach.*

*Cache Creek Conservancy
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