



Volume 1, Issue 2
Fall, 2009

Yolo Natural Heritage Program Newsletter

Upcoming Events

- **Riparian Conservation Strategy Workshop:**
October 26, 2009
- For a list of community events through the month of November, see page 3.



Ferris' milk vetch
Jennifer Buck, CNPS, 2007

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Yolo HCP/NCCP Update

This fall we began releasing working draft chapters of the habitat conservation plan document for review and comment. Your early input is appreciated as we continue to shape the plan's objectives and outcomes. The first three draft chapters (*Introduction*, *Existing Ecological Conditions*, and *Covered Activities*) are available for downloading on the Yolo NHP homepage, along with a comment form. The fifth chapter,

Conservation Strategies, which identifies conservation strategies for the four ecological zones described in the plan (Upland, Valley Community, Riparian, and Agriculture), is in various stages of completeness. We expect to have all five chapters, including Chapter 4 (*Impact Analysis*), available in working draft format by the end of this year.

Questions, comments, or suggestions? Please contact us at:
maria.wong@yolocounty.org.

Featured Yolo County Landscape

Visit to Chickahominy Creek Ranch

On October 7th, members of the YNHP Steering Advisory Committee visited an ongoing riparian and wetlands restoration project on the Chickahominy Creek Ranch. The restoration effort, managed by Charles and Kathryn Tyson, is supported by a broad partnership comprised of the Yolo Resource Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game, Audubon California's Land Owner Stewardship Program, the Yolo County Habitat Joint Powers

Agency (JPA), Yolo County Supervisor Duane Chamberlain, Center For Land Based Learning, and the California



YNHP Group near slough and wetlands

Waterfowl Association. The Project permanently protects open space,

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News

Conservation Easements

Last year the JPA completed several conservation easements benefiting special status species, including the Swainson's hawk, and preserving the habitat on which they depend. We thank our landowner and local conservation partners for their support and commitment to conservation. The following is the first in a series highlighting our

conservation efforts. More information on the JPA's conservation easement program can be found on our website.

Putah Creek Corridor

The JPA, working with the Yolo Land Trust and several land owners along Putah Creek, completed five conservation *continued on page 4*

Featured Yolo Landscape *continued from previous page*



Slough with pumps, adjacent to farmland

enhances agricultural lands, restores critical wildlife habitat, and improves water quality.

Chickahominy Creek Ranch is in various stages of restoration and when complete will provide habitat for a number of special status species, including Swainson's hawk. Restoring riparian and wetland habitat provides much needed breeding and foraging habitat for waterfowl, migratory song birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians. Restored riparian corridors also help manage local flooding and provide water quality benefits.

Several funding sources, including state, local and private funds were assembled to pay for the restoration work, ongoing maintenance, and a conservation easement to permanently protect the property. The Center for Land Based Learning's Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship Program ("SLEWS"), based in Winters, introduced a group of local high school students to the outdoors by giving them hands on experience preparing the ground and planting trees and shrubs. The students learned about conservation and land stewardship through both field and classroom exercises.



Restored wetland pools



Chickahominy Creek with restored riparian habitat. © Kent Reeves

Chickahominy Creek Ranch remains a working farm where a number of crops are planted and harvested for commercial sale. Everyone involved hopes this project will serve as a model

for future partnerships between farmers and those interested in preserving and restoring natural habitat in Yolo County.

Upcoming Events

Riparian Conservation Strategy Workshop

On Monday, October 26, we will hold the first topic-specific workshop on the riparian conservation strategy for the Yolo HCP/NCCP document. Discussions at the workshops will lead to recommendations that will inform the development of draft riparian conservation strategies over the next few months. The public is encouraged to participate.

Date/Time: Monday, October 26, 2009
5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: Yolo County Administration Building,

Atrium
Training Room
(in the basement),
625 Court St.,
Woodland, CA.



Riparian area along Cache Creek, Yolo County

For information: Contact Maria Wong at Maria.Wong@yolocounty.org or visit www.yoloconservationplan.org.

Community Events

Friends of the Swainson's Hawk/Audubon Sacramento

Date/Time: October 22, Thursday 6:45- 8:45

Location: South Natomas Community Center,
2921 Truxel, Sacramento CA 95833

For information: RSVP 447-4956 (to plan refreshments and seating)

Guest Speakers Ed Pandolfino and Zack Smith will speak about wintering grounds for Swainson's Hawks, and how other raptors winter in the Central Valley. Learn more about Friends of the Swainson's Hawk www.swainsonshawk.org

Winters Farmers Market & Harvest Festival

Date/Time: Sunday, October 25, 2009
8:00 a.m.- 12 noon

Location: Rotary Park, 201 Railroad Avenue,
Winters

For information: (530)297-1900 or visit www.wintersfarmersmarket.com

This will be the last Farmers Market of the season and the annual Harvest Festival in historic downtown Winters.

Fall Festival at the Davis Farmers Market

Date/Time: Saturday, October 31, 2009
8:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Location: Central Park, 3rd & C Streets, Davis

For information: (530)756-1695 or visit www.davisfarmersmarket.org

This Halloween-themed event includes lots of fun activities: pie by the slice, baby piggies, scarecrow contest, dog costume contest, face painting, kids' crafts, jugglers, pumpkin patch, and more!

Sandhill Crane Festival

Date/Time: November 6-8, 2009

Location: Lodi, California

For registration and information: Visit <http://www.cranefestival.com/>

Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival celebrates the return of thousands of cranes to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands. The Festival features tours, workshops, and exhibits.

Bucks for Ducks

Date/Time: November 6-8, 2009

Location: Davis Veterans Memorial Center
203 E. 14th St. Davis

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Conservation Easements *continued from page 2*

easements benefiting the Swainson's hawk through the preservation of agricultural lands that provide high value foraging habitat. Totalling 770 acres, these easements compliment existing conservation in the area and form a cornerstone of permanently protected foraging habitat benefiting Swainson's hawks and other raptors. The easements also protect nesting habitat along Putah Creek.



View toward Putah Creek east of Mace Boulevard, Yolo County.
© Yolo Land Trust

Other News

California Roadkill Observation System

UC Davis' Road Ecology Center and Information Center for the Environment invite you to join the cadre of Roadkill Reporters on the California Roadkill Observation System, at: <http://wildlifecrossing.ucdavis.edu>. Using this web site, you can report roadkills you observe anywhere in the state, helping all of us to understand the causes of roadkill and how we can reduce the conflict between animals and vehicles. Roadkill is a major cause of mortality for many animals in California, but designing appropriate management responses takes political support, money, and knowledge of where

and how to act. Roadkill data are an important part of that equation and you are invited, as expert colleagues, to join in collecting these data on a public site.

Visit the California Roadkill Observation System website and create an account, print or download a reporting form, log your observations, and help reduce the thousands of deaths of wildlife on our highways every year. Also, please consider passing this along to others who might want to join in.

Thanks from the UCD Road Ecology Center:
Fraser Shilling, Dave Waetjen, and Jim Quinn
UC Davis Road Ecology Center
(<http://roadecology.ucdavis.edu>) & Information Center for the Environment (<http://ice.ucdavis.edu>).

Links to Other Organizations and Events

Cache Creek Conservancy
<http://www.cachecrk@yolo.com>

Yolo Audubon Society
<http://www.yoloaudubon.org>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/hcp.htm>

Putah Creek Council
<http://www.putahcreekcouncil.org>

Yolo Basin Foundation
<http://www.yolobasin.org>

California Waterfowl Association
www.calwaterfowl.org

Tuleyome, Inc.
<http://www.tuleyome.org/>

Yolo Land Trust
<http://www.yololandtrust.org>

California Dept. of Fish & Game
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/>

Community Events *continued from page 3*

For registration and information: Contact Dee Feliz at (530) 757-3780 or visit www.yolobasin.org

This is the Yolo Basin Foundation's annual fundraiser.

Taste of Capay

Date/Time: Friday, November 13, 2009
5:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Location: Taber Ranch Event Center, Capay

For information: (530)787-3353 or visit www.capayvalleyvision.org

Sponsored by: Capay Valley Vision

The Taste of Capay is a benefit dinner and auction for Capay Valley Vision, held at the beautiful Taber Ranch Event Center. This event celebrates the Capay Valley Region with food, music, and community spirit.

Habitat Conservation Planning from Tahoe to the Bay: Northern California Conservation Partners Annual Workshop

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 18, 2009
8:30 a.m.- 3:45 p.m.

Location: Ulatis Community Center,
1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville

For registration and information: Visit www.conservationplanning.info or contact the Institute for Ecological Health at ieh@cal.net or phone (530) 756-6455

Sponsored by: Northern California Conservation Planning Partners

This workshop will provide essential information, ideas, and discussion opportunities for the wide range of stakeholders and local officials involved in the development of a regional conservation plan, and for all citizens who are concerned about these issues.



Gerald and Buff Corsi Copyright © 2002
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American badger

About the Yolo Natural Heritage Program

The Yolo Natural Heritage Program (YNHP) is tasked with preparing a county-wide Natural Communities Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP) for Yolo County. The YNHP plan will develop strategies to conserve the natural open space and agricultural landscapes that provide habitat for many special status and at-risk species found within the natural communities in Yolo County. It will also describe measures to allow appropriate permits for urban growth and public infrastructure projects, while preserving Yolo County's rich agricultural heritage.

YOLO NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Primary Business Address
Yolo Habitat JPA
120 West Main Street, Suite C
Woodland, CA 95695

Phone: 530-406-4885
Fax: 530-668-1801
E-mail: Yolonhp@yolocounty.org