



**Come Join Us on December 9th
Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm
for our Winter Open House**

Entrance is by donation. Field parking is free. The gate will close at 1:30pm to allow you enough time to tour. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely and there are more opportunities to take pictures. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions that you have and to share stories about some of our permanent residents. The gift shop will be open where you can find gifts for the holidays. We have a picnic area, so bring a lunch or the country store next door has refreshments. There will also be a bake sale where holiday goodies will be on sale. Call (559) 338-2415 or email at crittercreekwildlife@hughes.net for information.

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Members receive our quarterly newsletter
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Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675



Don't Make This Your Last Newsletter!

Due to printing costs for the newsletter, we try to update our mailing list. If we haven't heard from you in the past two years we will be dropping you from our mailing list. So if you enjoy our quarterly newsletter please send your support by using the Circle of Supporters Membership Form on the back of this newsletter. Thanks.

Gray Fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*)

Gyro

California Gray Fox are unusual because they are capable of climbing trees and unfortunately henhouse fences. They are smaller than the red fox found in the Midwest and east Coast, but are larger than the endangered kit fox. Fox are especially shy and timid in the wild and so you might not see them as often as you will their bolder cousin the coyote. Gray foxes are most easily distinguished from the kit fox by the black strip that runs the length of the top of their tail while the kit fox only has a black tipped tail.

Gyro

When this fox came to us this spring she only had half a tail and was quite habituated to people. She whimpered and was attracted to people as soon as she saw or heard them. Her tail bothered her constantly. She continually chewed at it until there was almost nothing left. The veterinarian said there was very little blood flow to the tail. This may have contributed to the discomfort, not unlike your leg or arm when it falls asleep and then has blood flow return. Fox use their tail for balance and without hers, we're not sure how well she will survive in the wild. Fox also use their tail as a warm cover in cold weather. Not a lot is known about fox communication, but the tail does play a role in fox etiquette. For all of these reasons, we are not comfortable releasing her into the wild.



Cooper's Hawk Releases

We had a larger number of orphaned Cooper's Hawks than normal come in this spring. They did well and have been released during August and September. Here two are released in the foothills. Farmers with orchards or groves find that these hawks help to protect their crops by scaring away birds that feed on the fruit.



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Learning How to Properly Rehabilitate Squirrels by Sharron Baird



Join us!

Saturday, January 20, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

Free Workshop

Sharron is the Founder and Director of Squirrlemender Wildlife Rehabilitation in Thousand Oaks. She has been working with squirrels for over 28 years and is permitted by CDFW and the City of Thousand Oaks. She takes in 300-350 squirrels a year. RSVP by January 15th by emailing: SykLnsoph@yahoo.com The workshop address is: 2352 Cromwell Ave. Clovis, CA 93611

Fencing Project Finally Completed

It has been several years in the making but we have finally completed the perimeter fence around our new piece of property. It took 1,400 feet of fencing to surround the property. We have many people to thank starting with the Fresno County Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Tulare County Fish and Wildlife Commission for providing the materials. We want to thank Richie Jones from Sierra Range Construction for having his crew and equipment dig the post holes. A big thanks to Ray, Dave, Kirk, Lee, Valerie, Steve, Tyler, Louise, and Dan for clearing the fence line, tamping the fence posts, stretching the wire, and stapling it into place.



Top from Left to Right: Lee, Steve, Dan, Louise, Lee, Dan moving fencing roll. Below are completed fencing lines.

