



Critter Creek Wildlife Station's Spring Open House



SATURDAY, March 30th
11:00 AM until 2:00 PM

CIRCLE OF SUPPORTERS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Membership Categories	Annual Dues
Student	\$ 15
Senior	\$ 15
Individual	\$ 25
Family	\$ 50
Sponsor	\$ 100
Patron	\$ 250
Corporate or Life	\$ 1000

Make checks payable to:
Animals for Education

Members receive our quarterly newsletter
Visit CritterCreek.org to see back issues of the Chronicle

Mail to:
Critter Creek Wildlife Station
36710 Sand Creek Road
Squaw Valley, CA 93675

Enjoy the wildflower display on your way to Critter Creek. The Open House will be unguided, so the pace is leisurely offering more opportunities to take pictures. Our volunteers will be on hand to answer questions. Visit our gift shop which is overflowing with new items. A picnic area is available so bring a lunch. For more information or directions to Critter Creek, call (559) 338-2415 or look online at www.crittercreek.org

Gate will close at 1:30 pm to allow you enough time to tour.
Entrance is by donation and tour takes about 1 ½ hours.
Our field parking is free.
Country Store has refreshments for sale next door.



Winter Open House—A Great Success

We had 247 people attend for the three hour open house. There was lots of sunshine and cheer. It was a very warm day for the start of winter and most of our animals were out enjoying the warmth and visitors.



Visitors enjoying Tonka in his new loft Crossing the foot bridge Enjoying our eagle flight cage

Treasures to be found in the Gift Shop



Food Crisis

Due to our local hatchery going into bankruptcy, our free source of food has disappeared. We are supplementing as best as we can but to purchase rats, mice and bird of prey diet is costing us \$2000-\$2500 a month. This is not sustainable and we are at the time of the year when the number of birds of prey is at the lowest. Once spring arrives the cost will increase. Please help us over this rough patch with any donation you are able to give.

Didn't Mean to Go Along for the Ride

During the winter we don't get any orphaned babies, but we still get injured wildlife. This season we have had an unusual number of birds of prey hit and then stuck in truck and car grilles. It sometimes takes a body shop to actually be able to get the bird out of the grille. Some of these birds are in shock, but are otherwise unharmed. Some are injured but are able to recover. Our volunteers try their best to rescue the bird which has sometimes traveled many miles before the driver realizes that it is there. We are often quite amazed at the resiliency of nature's creatures.



Cooper's Hawk was rescued from this truck grille and able to be immediately released. The Great Horned Owl was lodged in an open fog light compartment and was rescued.

New Art in the Gift Shop

Come visit our gift shop and see the incredible items donated by Vern West. They include a great collection of knot head wooden sculptures and other fine art he has collected over the years. The wire sculptures represent a wide variety of sport activities and everyday life. His collection also includes sets of tavern puzzles, real challenges to the avid puzzler...and much, much more.



Springtime Wildlife Advice

- ❖ Remember this is the breeding season for most wildlife, so if an animal is annoying you and you kill it or relocate it, you are probably sentencing its young to death by slow starvation.
- ❖ Do not prune trees, especially palm trees, during the spring season.
- ❖ If you plan to disc or mow, try a cursory walk over the area first to check for dens or nests of ground-nesting birds.
- ❖ Baby birds do fall out of nests, but parent birds will accept the young when placed back in the nest or as near to the nest as possible. With the exception of the turkey vulture, birds have little sense of smell.
- ❖ If you own a swimming pool, frequently check your yard for wild, nesting ducks. Baby ducks just don't appear in your pool.
- ❖ Remember for many days deer leave their fawns hidden in a safe place and return only to feed them until they are strong enough to keep up with the herd. So if you find one leave it alone unless you know the mother is dead.
- ❖ Our advice is to learn to share your environment with the native dwellers. Remember they were often there first.

Volunteers Needed For Spring

Due to several retirements from our ranks of "Runner" volunteers, we need people who can answer animal calls and pick up and transport animals to our vet in Fresno or to Critter Creek. If you have the next 6 months free and are interested in helping, please give us a call at 559-338-2415 and we will schedule you for an orientation.