

# South Coast Habitat Restoration Fall 2013 Newsletter

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Fall 2013



WESTERN PIPISTRELLE



TWO STRIPED GARDER SNAKE



COMMON YELLOW MONKEY FLOWER



Post Office Box 335,  
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Place  
Stamp  
Here

## In This Issue

CCWC ANNUAL CELEBRATION Page 1

The CCWC celebrates the coalitions accomplishments with a community event

SANTA BARABRA CREEK WEEK Page 1

14th Annual Creek Week is September 21st-29th

SB AXCESS CARDS Page 1

Support SCHR with your purchase of a Santa Barbara Axxess card

UPCOMING EVENTS Page 2

Community events, volunteer opportunities and items of interest.

SALMONID CONFERENCE Page 2

The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Salmonid Restoration Conference will be held in Santa Barbara

PROJECT UPDATES Page 3

Status of three upcoming restoration projects

CREEK PRESENTAION SERIES Page 3

The CWCC will host and evening with Geologist Ed Keller from UCSB.

The mission of **South Coast Habitat Restoration** is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

For more information please visit us at:  
[schabitatrestoration.org](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

**Support SCHR**  
[Click here to support our ongoing efforts.](#)  
[your contribution is tax deductible](#)

## CCWC's 12th Annual Celebration



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration will take place Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> at Carpinteria's Linden field from 11:00am- 2:00pm.

The event is used to highlight the CCWC accomplishments and commitment to restoring the watershed. CCWC member organizations will be there to present and discuss the restoration efforts that have been completed in the watershed over the last 12 years. The celebration follows on the success of last years event and will include information for the public in the form of posters and tabling organizations as well as activities and games for children. This year's event will coincide with Coastal Cleanup Day, the official kick off of Creek Week in Santa Barbara County. SCHR

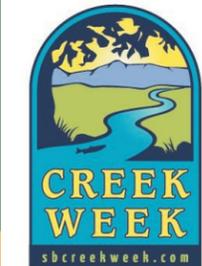
will be there tabling with information about what we are up to. Please come out and see us. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org).



PHOTOS FROM THE SUCCESSFUL 2012 CCWC CELEBARTION.



## Santa Barbara Creek Week



The 14th Annual Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. Many local groups sponsor events to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural resources of Santa Barbara. This year's events get started with Coastal Clean Up day on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> and finish with a celebration at the Watershed Resource Center on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>. For a full schedule of events [sbcreekweek.com](http://sbcreekweek.com).

## Support SCHR with a purchase of a SB Axxess Card

SCHR will once again be fundraising with Santa Barbara Axxess. Purchase your SB Axxess card from SCHR and \$10 of your purchase will go directly to supporting SCHR's restoration efforts! The Axxess card is a community savings guide that features discounts to over 500 local restaurants and merchants in Santa Barbara and beyond. For a full list of participating businesses and associated discounts check out [sbaxxess.com](http://sbaxxess.com). Cards go on sale **Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>**. The cost of the Axxess card is \$30, with \$10 of every sale going to SCHR. If you are interested in purchasing an Axxess card contact us at [info@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:info@schabitatrestoration.org)



## CREATURE FEATURE: AMERICAN DIPPER (*Cinclus mexicanus*)



The American Dipper is a native songbird ranging from western North America down into Central America. This species does not migrate in winter, instead they may move down to lower elevations in their region or to larger bodies of water. The dipper is a gray, black, or grayish-brown bird with white eyelids; measuring about seven inches from beak to tail. It is seen along rivers and streams with cliffs, ledges or bridges nearby for nesting. These birds bob up and down in the stream, occasionally diving down and walking along the stream bottom, in search of food. The dipper's diet is comprised of insects and their larvae, fish eggs and small fish. A female dipper chooses her mate based on the male's song. Nest are built in high place including cliff walls and trees to avoid flooding. In colder climates the nest may be insulated with a double layer of moss, grass, leaves and bark to keep the eggs warm. Adaptations to the aquatic lifestyle include a slow metabolism, many waterproof feathers, the ability to carry extra oxygen in their blood, and nasal flaps that can cover the nostrils and prevent inhalation of water. Habitat for the American Dipper is currently stable, but has been reduced by development along rivers.

## Upcoming Events

### Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. For a full list of scheduled events visit [Sbcreekweek.com](http://Sbcreekweek.com)

### CCWC Annual Celebration

The CCWC will host its annual celebration of the watershed during Creek Week on Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup>, at Carpinteria's Linden Field. The annual event allows the CCWC and member organizations to celebrate their accomplishments and provide information and activities for the community to get involved. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)

### CCWC Quarterly Presentation Series

The CCWC will be hosting the next evening presentations on the Geology of the Watershed. Ed Keller from UCSB will join us to give an overview of the watershed and the geology of the Carpinteria Valley on Thursday September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm-8:00pm at Carpinteria's Veterans' Memorial Building, at 941 Walnut Avenue. Additional quarterly evening presentations will be held on Thursday December 19<sup>th</sup>. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)

### Coastal Cleanup Day!

Interested in cleaning up your local stream or beach? Coastal Cleanup Day events will be happening through out the state on Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. For a list of local cleanups scheduled in Santa Barbara County check out the [Sbcreekweek.com](http://Sbcreekweek.com)

### Refugio Creek Mouth Volunteer Planting Day

The Refugio Creek Mouth project is underway and volunteer planting events will take place throughout October and November. Stay tuned for exact dates to be announced.

## 32nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference comes to Santa Barbara



The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Salmonid Restoration Conference will be held in Santa Barbara, next year, March 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. The four day

conference consists of two days of workshops and field tours on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by two days of concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday. The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) is currently seeking abstract submissions. SRF was formed in 1986 to help stream restoration practitioners' advance the art and science of restoration. SRF promotes restoration, stewardship, and recovery of California native salmon, steelhead, and trout populations through education, collaboration, and advocacy. In addition SRF will host a workshop and training event in Ventura. The training will demonstrate innovative, technical



methodologies in salmonid restoration to professional fisheries biologist and watershed restoration professionals. The training will be held January 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the Pierpoint Inn, in Ventura. SCHR is helping with the coordination of the field component of the workshop by visiting some of our local restoration projects. If you are interested in submitting an abstract or attending a training check out [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org).

## Patagonia Salmon Run

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Patagonia Salmon Run will take place on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am. The 5K race begins and ends at Patagonia's Great Pacific Iron Works, 235 W. Santa Clara Street, in Ventura. This year's event proceeds will benefit California Trout, which directs the Santa Clara River Steelhead Coalition. After the race stay for the awards ceremony, raffle, refreshments and opportunity to learn about local environmental groups! SCHR will be there if you want to come see what we are up to. For more information or to register for the race visit [patagonia.com](http://patagonia.com).



SCHR TABLING AT THE 2012 PATAGONIA SALMON RUN.

## Project Updates

### Refugio Creek Mouth Project

SCHR has started a native re-vegetation project at the Refugio Creek Mouth. In a few weeks we will begin the removal of non-native trees and shrubs at the site. Over the next month we will begin recruiting volunteers to help plant native species at the site through the Winter rainy season. The goal of the project is to increase the habitat and ecological value of the mouth of Refugio Creek through the removal of non-native vegetation and planting of native vegetation along the banks. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer planting events. For more information and to stay informed check out the project blog at <http://refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com/>



OVERVIEW OF THE REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH PROJECT AREA SHOWING NON-NATIVE VEGETATION TO BE REMOVED

### Pinkham Project



A 3D RENDERING, PRODUCED BY QUESTA ENGINEERING OF WHAT THE PINKHAM PROJECT WILL LOOK LIKE ONCE COMPLETE.

SCHR is gearing up for a busy and productive construction season. In Carpinteria, the Pinkham project is set to begin sometime this September. Funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the California State Coastal Conservancy is currently in place to construct the project. SCHR is working to select and hire a contractor to implement the project. We are excited that our work with the property owner on this voluntary habitat restoration project which will make considerable improvements for steelhead trout. Once the Pinkham Project and the County Debris Basin removal just upstream is complete one final major barrier will remain in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. We hope to have this final barrier removed in the next few years. Stay tuned for updates on this restoration project construction is set to being sometime in the next few weeks.

### Tajiguas Watershed Project

The Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project, phase two is moving forward and we hope to start construction sometime in the next few weeks. The project will remove two low flow concrete crossings from the stream channel and install two aluminum arched culverts in their place. The project will significantly improve conditions for steelhead in the watershed, and follows on the success of phase 1 which removed five low flow crossings from Tajiguas Creek. The project is being funded by the property owners and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. The project will start with the demolition of the existing crossings and the building of the footings for the new culverts. The construction phase of the project will be completed before the onset of significant winter rains. The installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants will occur in conjunction with winter rains to help plants get established. Stay tuned for more updates on the project and for information about phase 3 which will remove the last two barriers in the watershed. Grant applications to fund a portion of phase 3 are currently under review. Once phase 3 is complete, a total of 5.47 miles of the historic steelhead habitat will once again be accessible to migrating steelhead trout.

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## Watershed Coalition's Evening Presentation Series



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host a presentation on the Geology of the watershed as part of their evening community presentation series. Join us Thursday

September 26<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:00pm at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Carpinteria, 941 Walnut Avenue for an insightful presentation by UCSB Geologist Ed Keller on the Natural History of the Carpinteria Valley. The remaining presentation for the year is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>, and will focus on wildfire effects on local streams and steelhead trout in a presentation by Scott Cooper of UCSB. For more information visit [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)

## Thank you to Matt Murray!

SCHR was lucky enough to have Matt Murray, a local high school junior, volunteer his time with us a few days a week this summer. Matt is an extremely reliable and capable individual that worked over 90 hours on restoration projects with SCHR staff this summer. SCHR would like to thank Matt for his contribution to the work that we do. If you are interested in volunteering with SCHR please email us to enquire about opportunities.



MATT WORKING TO CHECK IRRIGATION LINES, REMOVE NON-NATIVE VEGETATION AND MONITOR CHANNEL PROFILES AT SCHR RESTORATION SITES

The mission of South Coast Habitat Restoration is to protect, conserve, and restore the various habitats and native biodiversity of Santa Barbara and Ventura. For more information please visit us at: [schabitatrestoration.org](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

Support SCHR Visit [www.earthisland.org/schr/donate](http://www.earthisland.org/schr/donate) to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

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