

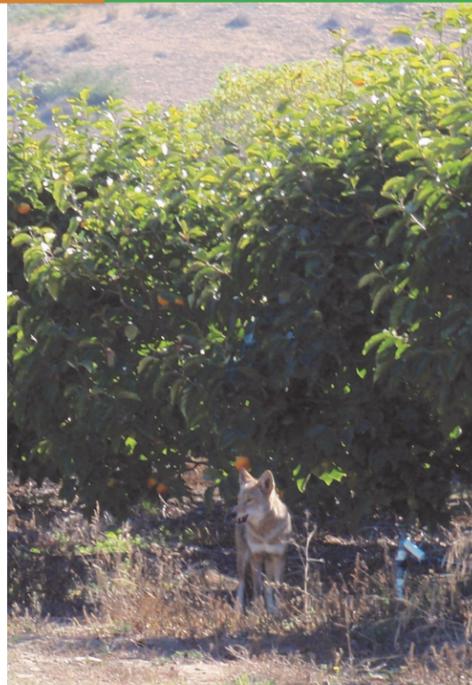
# South Coast Habitat Restoration Fall 2014 Newsletter

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Fall 2014



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TECOLOTE CREEK



Post Office Box 335,  
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[www.schabitatrestoration.org](http://www.schabitatrestoration.org)

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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](#)

## Fish Passage Restoration in the Tajiguas Watershed

Construction has started on Phase 2 of efforts to remove fish passage barriers on Rancho Tajiguas. Phase two of the project will remove two low flow concrete crossings from the stream channel and install two aluminum arched culverts in their place. The sites are being completed one at a time in order to provide the property owner some access across Tajiguas creek. The upper most culvert is nearing completion and construction on the second culvert has begun. In addition Phase 3 of the project which will remove an additional two barriers will be starting this month. Overall the project will significantly improve conditions for steelhead in the watershed, and follows on the success of Phase 1 which removed 5 low flow crossings from Tajiguas Creek.

Continued on page 2



DEMOLITION OF THE CONCRETE CROSSING



NEW ARCHED CULVERT INSTALLED IN ITS PLACE

## UCSB Coastal Fund Restoration Assistance

SCHR is excited to present our newest restoration assistants! Tanner Yould and Julián Hiltbrand Consoli are both students at UCSB. Thanks to a grant from the UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund, SCHR has been able to work with Julian and Tanner over the Summer academic quarter. Julián is a fourth-year undergraduate student at UCSB. He is studying to receive a B.S. in Earth Science with an emphasis in Geohydrology. While his studies are focused on geology, geomorphology, and groundwater, he has a great interest in surface-water hydrology and a passion for seeing to it that our watersheds are kept clean and healthy. In his free time, Julián loves camping, hiking, skiing, and playing football and soccer.

Tanner is a recent graduate of UCSB with a B.S. in Environmental Studies and an emphasis in wildlife and habitat conservation. Tanner has



TANNER AND JULIAN HELPING SCHR TEND TO THE NATIVE PLANTS AT THE REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH RESTORATION PROJECT

participated in a variety of field studies throughout the western United States during his time at UCSB. Tanner is an avid outdoors-man and if he's not in a coffee shop studying, he'll be out hiking in the mountains or kayaking in the ocean. He has enjoyed being part of a team that helps to restore the habitat that so many of our native animals depend on. We thank both of them for all their work this quarter and wish them the best of luck in their future accomplishments.

## CREATURE FEATURE: WHITE TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*)



The White Tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is a moderately sized bird of prey that is considered a resident bird of coastal and interior California, Southern Texas and the American tropics. A standard sized white tailed kite is roughly fifteen inches in length with a wingspan of thirty-six to forty-two inches. The bird is mostly white with a grey back, has black patches on the shoulders and undersurface of the wing-tip, and a white tail. A distinguishing characteristic of the kite is its hovering technique high in the air maintained by a constant flapping of the wings that is utilized when hunting for prey. The kite's diet consists almost entirely of small insects and a few species of rodents. Due to this fact kites commonly inhabit open country and farmlands including open coastal areas such as grasslands, marshes, and bays. The bird nests in tall trees near water and lays four to five white eggs, which are heavily spotted with brown. In the 1930's and 1940's the kite was nearly hunted to extinction by farmers who feared that the birds were preying on chickens. Since that time the birds have made a healthy comeback and are common again within their residential region.

## Upcoming Events

### Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. For a full list of scheduled events visit [sb creekweek.com](http://sb creekweek.com)

### CCWC Presentation

The CCWC will host an evening of presentations on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>, at Carpinteria's Island Brewing at 7:00pm. The three presentations will include information about fish passage efforts in the watershed, water quality monitoring in the Carpinteria Valley, and Steelhead trout population monitoring efforts. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)

### Refugio Creek Restoration Presentation

SCHR and Channel Islands Restoration will host an evening of presentation on Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Watershed Resource Center in Santa Barbara at 6:30pm.

### Refugio Creek Mouth Field Tour & Weeding

SCHR and Channel Islands Restoration will host a field tour and work day at the Refugio Creek Mouth project on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. The field tour will discuss the restoration efforts that have taken place at the Creek Mouth over the last year from roughly 10am-11am, followed by a brief weeding event to remove non-natives from the restoration site from 11am-12pm.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup>. For a list of local cleanups scheduled in Santa Barbara County check out the [sb creekweek.com](http://sb creekweek.com)

### DamNation Screening in Santa Barbara

The Los Padres Forest Watch will be hosting a screening of DamNation at Santa Barbara's Victoria Theater on Saturday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. SCHR will be there with information about our local efforts to restore steelhead trout. For more information and for tickets check out <http://lpfw.org/>

## Refugio Creek Mouth Update



SCHR in partnership with Channel Islands Restoration and California State Parks has completed a native restoration project at the mouth of Refugio Creek. Last fall non-native trees and shrubs were removed from the site. Starting in January and continuing through March over 2,500 native container plants were planted out at the site with the help of over 300 community volunteers. The project has increased 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. The diversity of native plants at the site will provide forage and

## Tajiguas Continued...

The project is being funded by the property owners and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. Construction will be completed by the end of October. The installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants will occur in conjunction with winter rains. In addition in the next month Caltrans plans to modify the culvert under Highway 101. Concrete baffles will be installed to provide resting areas with lower stream velocities that will increase fish passage opportunities through the culvert.

nesting habitat for native bird species as well as shade for aquatic species in Refugio Creek.

As part of the Santa Barbara's Creek Week activities CIR, and SCHR will be hosting a presentation on Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Watershed Source Center in Santa Barbara at 7:00pm, and leading a field tour of the project site on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, followed by a brief work event to remove non-native species from the site to further the success of the native planting. For more info about the project or field tour check out the project blog at [refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com/](http://refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com/)

Once all three projects are complete, a total of 5.47 miles of the historic steelhead habitat will once again be accessible to migrating steelhead trout. SCHR will continue to work with the property owners to maintain and monitor the restoration sites into the future. For more information about the Tajiguas Watershed check out our website [schabitatrestoration.org](http://schabitatrestoration.org).

## First Annual Steelhead Summit



The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) will host the 1st Annual Steelhead Summit on October 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, at the Four Points Sheraton in Ventura. The summit will focus on providing regionally focus technical education regarding steelhead restoration and recovery efforts. The two day summit will consist of a day of presentations and a day of field tours. For more information or to register [calsalmon.org](http://calsalmon.org). Early registration ends September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

In addition the Tri-County Fish Team is coordinating a one day workshop entitled Water Conservation Projects to Preserve Instream Flow for Steelhead in Southern California led by Matt Clifford, Staff Attorney for Trout Unlimited's California Water Project. The workshop will take place on Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at Ventura City Hall. For more information and to register [fishteam.org/](http://fishteam.org/).

## 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. Cards go on sale **Friday September 26<sup>th</sup>**. The cost of the Axxess card is \$30, with \$10 of every sale going to SCHR. For a full list of participating businesses check out [sbaxxess.com](http://sbaxxess.com). If you are interested in purchasing an Axxess card please contact us at [info@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:info@schabitatrestoration.org)



## Patagonia Salmon Run

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Patagonia Salmon Run will take place on Sunday November 9<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 the Los Padres Forest Watch. After the race stay for the awards ceremony, a raffle with great prizes, refreshments and to learn about local environmental groups! SCHR will be there if you want to come see what we have been up to. For more information or to register for the race visit [Patagonia.com](http://Patagonia.com).



SCHR TABLING AT THE 2013 PATAGONIA SALMON RUN.

## Santa Barbara Creek Week



The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. 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 and a screening of DamNation on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup>. SCHR is helping to host a presentation on restoration in the Refugio Watershed on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Watershed Resource Center in Santa Barbara at 7:00pm. In addition the CCWC will be hosting a presentation stream restoration and monitoring efforts in the area on Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, at Carpinteria's Island Brewing at 7:00pm. For a full schedule of events [sb creekweek.com](http://sb creekweek.com).

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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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Help Channelkeeper become the beneficiary of the SB Triathlon



Our friends at [Santa Barbara Channelkeeper](http://Santa Barbara Channelkeeper) are competing to become the beneficiary of the 2015 [Santa Barbara Triathlon](http://Santa Barbara Triathlon) and win \$50,000! Let's help them out! Click [here](http://here) or go to [sbck.org](http://sbck.org) to vote for Channelkeeper and spread the word to all your friends. \$50,000 would make a huge impact on Channelkeeper's ability protect clean water in the Santa Barbara Channel and our local watersheds – and needs your help! If Channelkeeper wins, you'll have a chance to win a \$250 gift card to REI or Patagonia your choose.

## Community Presentations at Island Brewing in Carpinteria

As part of Santa Barbara's Creek Week activities the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host an evening of interesting presentations on Wednesday September 24<sup>th</sup>, at Carpinteria's Island Brewing at 7:00pm. Three presentations will be given on topics relating to the watershed. Mauricio Gomez will given an overview of the CCWC's recent efforts to improve fish passage in the watershed, Ben Pitterle of Channelkeeper will give a talk on water quality monitoring efforts and results in the Carpinteria Valley, and local Tim Robinson will discuss steelhead trout life histories and the results of current population monitoring efforts in the Santa Ynez River. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)



PREVIOUS COMMUNITY PRESENTATION HOSTED BY THE CCWC