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

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Click here to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible.

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.

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 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.
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 in the air maintain 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 coastal open 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 that 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.

Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 15th Annual Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 20th through Sunday, September 29th, 2014. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. For a full list of scheduled events visit Sbcreekweek.com

CCWC Presentation

The CCWC will host an evening of presentations on Wednesday September 24th, 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 ccwc.org

Refugio Creek Restoration Presentation

SCHR and Channel Islands Restoration will host an evening of presentation on Thursday September 25th, at Carpinteria’s Island Brewing at 7:00pm, and a field tour of the project site on Saturday September 27th at 10:00am. The field tour will discuss the restoration efforts that have taken place at the Creek Mouth over the last year from 10:00am to 11:30am. The following day a field weed event to remove non-natives from the restoration site from 11am-12pm.

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 27th at 10:00am. The field tour will discuss the restoration efforts that have taken place at the Creek Mouth over the last year. From 10:00am to 11:30am participants will follow a volunteer led by Matt Clifford, Staff Scientist for SCHR in removing non-native vegetation to create a resting 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, SCHR will be hosting a presentation on Thursday September 25th at the Watershed Source Center in Santa Barbara at 7:00pm, and leading a field tour of the project site on Saturday September 27th 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 refugiocromemouth.blogspot.com

Patagonia Salmon Run

The 21st Annual Patagonia Salmon Run will take place on Sunday November 9th, 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 a chance to learn about local environmental groups! SCHR will be there if you want to come see what we have up to. For more information or to register for the race visit patagonia.com

Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 15th Annual Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 20th through Sunday, September 29th, 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 Cleanup Day and a screening of Damsation on Saturday the 20th. SCHR is helping to host a presentation on restoration in the Refugio Watershed on Tuesday the 23rd 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 24th, at Carpenteria’s Island Brewing at 7:00pm. For a full schedule of events sbcreekweek.com

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