

South Coast Habitat Restoration

Spring 2014 Newsletter



S C H R

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SCHR Director recognized as recipient of award at Annual SRF Conference

The 32nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference was held in Santa Barbara this year. The conference focused on a broad range of watershed restoration topics of concern to restoration practitioners, watershed scientists, fisheries biologists, resource agency personnel, land-use planners, and landowners. SCHR lead a field tour to local fish passage restoration sites in Santa Barbara County and presented on the successful efforts of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition restoring habitat for the endangered southern steelhead trout.

In addition SCHR Director, Mauricio Gomez was recognized as this year's recipient of the Golden Pipe Award. The golden pipe award highlights individuals who have taken an



SCHR DIRECTOR MAURICIO GOMEZ LEADING A FIELD TOUR THROUGH THE CARPINTERIA CREEK WATERSHED

innovative approach to carrying out salmonid restoration efforts. Mauricio's efforts over the last 10 years have seen the removal of 12 fish passage barriers and opening up of over 30 miles of habitat thanks to his ability to foster positive relationships with property owners, funders and permitting agencies to complete meaningful restoration in a relatively short period of time.

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Continues!

South Coast Habitat Restoration has partnered with Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) and California State Parks at Refugio State Beach to plant thousands of potted native plants in an effort to restore the native habitat alongside the mouth of Refugio Creek. Since January 11, 2014 over 2,500 native container plants were installed at the site with the help of 214 community volunteers. 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 flora and planting of native flora along the banks. Non-native vegetation at the site included Fan Palms, Guadalupe Palms, Myoporum,



ONE OF MANY RECENT VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENTS AT REFUGIO STATE BEACH

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SCHR has a new video page on our website to highlight a newly produced short video about us

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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GREEN HERON



RINCON CREEK



HUMBOLDT LILY



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CREATURE FEATURE: PACIFIC LAMPREY (*Entosphenus tridentata*)



The Pacific Lamprey is an anadromous, semelparous fish-species occurring within the Pacific coast of North America and Asia. This jawless fish is dark blue or brown in color and can grow to about thirty inches in length as an adult. The species is reminiscent of an eel in form, but has a round sucker-like mouth, no scales, and breathing holes instead of gills. An identifiable characteristic of the adult Pacific Lamprey is the presence of three primary large teeth and two additional posterior teeth in the mouth. This fish is parasitic and feeds on other fish species such as Pacific salmon, flatfish, rockfish, Pollock and even sperm whales. After spending one to three years at sea Pacific Lamprey return to freshwater streams between February and June to spawn. One year after their return to fresh water spawning occurs in habitats similar to those of Pacific salmon between March and July. After hatching these larval fish called Ammocoetes spend between two and seven years in their freshwater streams feeding primarily by filter feeding on algae and detritus before they metamorphose into juveniles that migrate out to the ocean. Due to migration barriers, stream degradation, poor water quality and the impacts of climate change the population of Pacific Lamprey has been greatly reduced and even extirpated in certain streams along the Southern California Coast.

Upcoming Events

CCWC Quarterly Presentation Series

The CCWC will be hosting its quarterly evening community presentation on Tuesday April 15th at the Veterans' Memorial Hall in Carpinteria, 941 Walnut Avenue, from 7:00pm—8:00pm. This month's talk is entitled "Steelhead Trout: Why Are They Important?" For more information check out carpinteriacreek.org

Earth Day Festivals

Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara, will be held on Saturday & Sunday, April 26th and 27th from 11:00am - 6:00pm. More info at sbearthday.org

Ventura will also be hosting an Earth Day event, Saturday April 26th at Promenade park from 10:00am - 5:00pm. More info at venturaearthday.org

Ojai will celebrate Earth Day, Saturday April 19th at the Oak Grove School from 11:00am -4:00pm. For more information check out ojaiearthday.org

SERCAL Conference

The 20th annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, will be held at the Wells Fargo Conference Center in Santa Rosa, May 13th-15th, 2013. The three day conference will include workshops field tours, presentations, and other educational activities dealing with the restoration of California native habitats. For more information sercal.org

12th Annual H2O Conference

The 2014 H2O conference will cover a wide spectrum of coast and ocean issues, including but not limited to, climate change, sea level rise, coastal and estuarine processes, wetlands restoration planning and design, beach nourishment, water quality, ecosystem management, habitat management, invasive and exotic species management, wetlands biology and ecology, shore protection, and habitat preservation/management. The conference will take place May 27th-29th, in San Diego at the Catamaran Resort and Hotel. For more information check out www.coastalconference.org/

Tajiguas Project Update

SCHR is excited to announce that the Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project Phase Three has been awarded implementation funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. The project will remove two additional concrete barriers from the watershed. Due to delays in securing the necessary environmental permits phase two was not completed in 2013 as planned. With the award of this additional funding to the Tajiguas Watershed SCHR is now making plans to complete all four barrier removal efforts in the 2014 construction window.

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. Plans for phase 2 and 3 have been designed by Waterways consulting out of Santa Cruz. SCHR is planning for the project to go to construction this coming August, with construction through the fall. The installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants



ONE OF THE FOUR CONCRETE BARRIERS SCHR WILL WORK TO REMOVE THIS SUMMER (ABOVE) AND A COMPLETED PROJECT SITE FROM PHASE 1 (BELOW)



will occur in to December. Stay tuned for more updates on the project. Once phase 2 and 3 are complete, a total of 5.47 miles of the historic steelhead habitat will once again be accessible to migrating steelhead trout. For more information check out our [website](http://www.schr.org).

CEC's Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival



COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS MAKING STEELHEAD FISH PRINTS WITH SCHR AT THE 2013 EARTH DAY FESTIVAL.

Join SCHR Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th, 2014 at Alameda Park to celebrate Earth Day. We will have an exhibit as part of the festival which will include educational kids activities as well as information about SCHR and our efforts. Each year the Community Environmental Council (CEC) hosts Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. This the festival will feature over 200 exhibitors. For more info go to www.SBEarthDay.org

SCHR Video Projects

SCHR has created a new Vimeo account and video page on our website to highlight a recently produced short video by UCSB Bren School student Jordan Chamberlain on SCHR and our efforts. The video was created as part of an Environmental Media class Ms. Chamberlain



was taking through the Blue Horizons program. Many thanks to Jordan and Michael Hanrahan for his assistance. In addition SCHR has created a few time-lapse videos that show the implementation of fish passage restoration projects in our local creeks and watersheds. Check them out to see all the work that goes into completing these projects.

Visit our [website](http://www.schr.org) under the video tab, or visit our vimeo page <http://vimeo.com/user17620709>

Refugio Creek Mouth continued

shrubs were removed from the site in October, 2013. A number of existing native riparian trees, willows and cottonwoods were maintained on site. Native flora to be planted at the site includes riparian trees and coastal scrub species. The native vegetation will provide shade for the creek and over hanging cover habitat for aquatic species as well as forage and nesting habitat for birds.

This project has been made possible with funding from The Earth Island Institute and support from the State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project and Southern California Edison. The first phase of planting is now complete. Stay tuned for upcoming weeding and site maintenance volunteer events. Thank you to all the volunteers that have supported this effort to date. For more information and photographs check out refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com



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A BEFORE PHOTO (TOP) SHOWS THE PROJECT SITE CHOKED WITH NON-NATIVE AND AFTER (BOTTOM) SHOWS RECENT NATIVE PLANTING EFFORTS.

CCWC Evening Community Presentation Series Continues



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition's next evening presentation will be on Tuesday April 15th from 7:00pm -8:00pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building, at 941 Walnut Avenue in Carpinteria. Carpinteria local and creek expert, Tim Robinson will give a presentation entitled "Steelhead Trout: Why Are They Important?" The event is free and open to the public, light refreshments will be served. Contact info@carpinteriacreek.org with questions.

SCHR receives funding from the CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program



The Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program announced its 2014 funding awards in early February. SCHR is excited to announce that three separate applications to the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program last year were successful and awarded funding. SCHR has received funding to support our organization for an additional two years. The funding supports SCHR's continued efforts to reach out to property owners across the south coast in an effort to implement voluntary steelhead trout restoration projects. It additionally funds our time to coordinate the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition and attend/organize outreach and educational events in our community. Additional funding was awarded for projects that will remove barriers along Maria Ygnacio Creek and Tajiguas Creek, both of which will improve steelhead trout migration opportunities. Thank you to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for their continued support of our efforts.

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

Support SCHR Visit www.earthisland.org/schr/donate to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

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