

South Coast Habitat Restoration Summer 2013 Newsletter

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Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition's Quarterly Evening Presentation Series



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host the second in a series of evening community presentations on Thursday June 20th at Carpinteria

steelhead in our area, and non-native invasive plant removal efforts in the watershed. The first presentation by Mauricio Gomez, gave an overview of the restoration efforts that coalition members have initiated in the watershed over the last several years. For more information carpinteriacreek.org

City Hall from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. There will be two presentations focused on Water Quality, one by Erin Maker from the City of Carpinteria, and the other by Ben Pitterle from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. Ben will present on Channelkeeper's water quality monitoring efforts in the watershed and Erin will present on the City's efforts as well as what you can do to improve water quality in the watershed.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS LISTEN TO SCHR DIRECTOR MAURICIO GOMEZ TALK ABOUT THE CCWC'S RESTORATION EFFORTS IN THE WATERSHED AT THE MARCH PRESENTATION

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration to begin this Fall

SCHR is working towards implementing a native re-vegetation project at the Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration site. Following delays in obtaining the necessary permits, the project is back on track and is scheduled to begin this fall following nesting bird season. The project will involve the removal of non native trees and shrubs to prepare the site for native planting during the Fall and 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 trees and vegetation along the banks. Native seed has been collected from the site and plants are being grown for the project. The native vegetation will provide shade for the creek and over hanging cover for aquatic

species, as well as forage and nesting habitat for native birds. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer planting events. For more information and to stay informed about upcoming volunteer events check out our project blog at <http://refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com/>



A CURRENT PHOTO OF THE PROJECT SITE SHOWS THE NON-NATIVES TO BE REMOVED AND AREA TO BE RESTORED WITH NATIVES

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Steelhead trout restoration project on the Gaviota Coast

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.

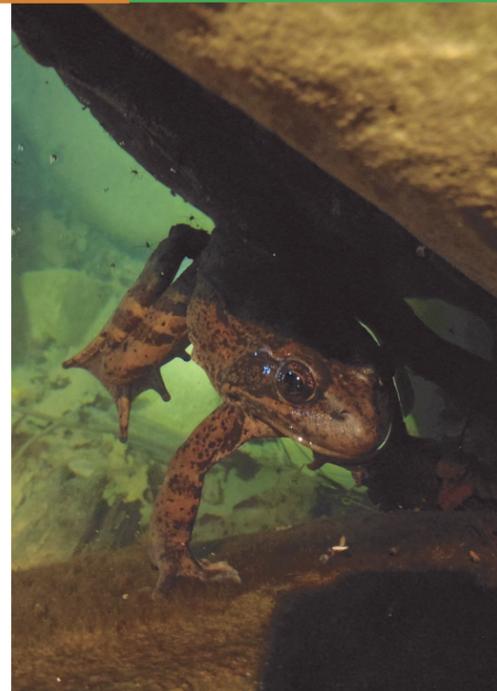
For more information please visit us at: schabitatrestoration.org

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GOBERNADOR CANYON



CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG



HUMMINGBIRD SAGE



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CREATURE FEATURE: CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG (*Rana draytonii*)



The California Red-Legged Frog is the largest species of frog native to the Western North America. It is endemic to both perennial and ephemeral riparian corridors of California and Northern Baja California. The frog can be up to 6 inches in length and is brown, grey, olive or reddish in color with irregular black splotches. Its namesake is derived from the red color found on its abdomen and underneath its hind legs. A distinguishing characteristic of the frog is its dorsolateral folds, which extends from behind the eye to the hip on both sides of the body. A similar sized non native species, the American Bullfrogs which is native to eastern North America does not have dorsolateral folds. The Red-Legged Frog's breeding season is between November and March. Metamorphosis of tadpoles into frogs varies between seven to thirteen months. The frog has disappeared from nearly seventy percent of its historical habitat range, due mainly to habitat loss and the introduction of predatory species. The California Red-Legged Frog has been listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act since 1996.

Upcoming Events

VHC's Picnic on the River

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy will host its second annual Picnic on the River, on Saturday June 8th, from 11:00am-1:00pm, along the Ventura River. In addition to a community picnic the event will include a walking tour of the property. The event is open to all and will be held adjacent to the Ventura River, just south of the Main Street Bridge. For more information venturahillside.org

CCWC Quarterly Presentation Series

The CCWC will be hosting the next evening presentations about Water Quality monitoring and issues in the Watershed on Friday June 20th from 6:00pm-7:00pm at Carpinteria's City Hall. Erin Maker from the City of Carpinteria, and Ben Pitterle from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper will be our presenters this month. Additional quarterly evening presentations will be held on Thursday September 26th and December 19th. For more information check out carpinteriacreek.org

Santa Barbara Creek Week

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

CCWC Annual Celebration

The CCWC will host its annual celebration of the watershed during Creek Week on Saturday September 21st, 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

Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival



SCHR had a great time at this year's Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival. Thank You to the Community Environmental Council (CEC) for hosting such a successful event, with over 35,000 people in attendance this year. SCHR was featured as a stop on the Family Passport Program which helped us to teach over 700 children about steelhead trout and the importance of restoring their habitat through the making of fish prints. The event was held Saturday, and Sunday, April



EARTH DAY PARTICIPANTS LEARNING ABOUT STEELHEAD TROUT WHILE MAKING COLORFUL FISH PRINTS AT SCHR'S BOOTH



SCHR'S BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S EARTH DAY FESTIVAL INCLUDED A STEELHEAD SCULPTURE, POSTERS, AN INTERACTIVE BEAN BAG TOSS, AND STEELHEAD FISH PRINTS.

20th-21st, at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. SCHR participated in the festival both days, tabling with information about our organization as well as the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition. In addition to the steelhead fish prints we also had a bean bag toss that we used to illustrate in an interactive way the attributes of a healthy watershed. It was a fun and informative weekend. Thank you to everyone that came out and participated in this year's event.

For more info go to www.SBEarthDay.org

SERCAL Conference



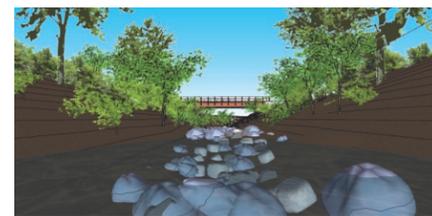
The 20th annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, was held in Santa Barbara, at UCSB last month. SCHR Director Mauricio Gomez chaired a two day session on Habitat Restoration in Santa Barbara County. SCHR Project Manager Erin Brown gave a presentation on our steelhead restoration efforts across Santa Barbara County as part of the conference. The three day conference consisted of concurrent technical sessions and local field tours of project sites. Next year's SERCAL conference is scheduled to be in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information check out SERCAL.org

Pinkham Project Update

SCHR is gearing up for a busy and productive construction season. In Carpinteria, the Pinkham project is set to begin sometime this August. Funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife, as well as the California State Coastal Conservancy is currently in place to construct the project. SCHR will work over the next several months to finalize all the necessary regulatory permits and hire a contractor to implement the project. We are excited that our work with the property owner on this voluntary habitat



THE CURRENT PINKHAM CROSSING IS A COMPLETE BARRIER TO STEELHEAD PASSAGE. restoration project is moving forward to make considerable improvements for steelhead trout. Once the Pinkham Project is complete one final major barrier will remain in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. We are working with the property owners to address this last barrier and hope to have it removed in the next few years. Stay tuned for updates on this project.



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

Tajiguas Project - Phase 2 Update

The Rancho Tajiguas Barrier Removal Project, Phase Two is moving forward and is planned to start construction in the next few months. 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. SCHR is planning for construction to start this August, when stream flows are lowest and construction activities will be less impactful to native wildlife. The installation of erosion control measures, and planting of native plants will occur in conjunction with winter rains. 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.



ONE OF THE TWO BARRIERS THAT WILL BE REMOVED TO IMPROVE STEELHEAD PASSAGE IN THE TAJIGUAS WATERSHED.

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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

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

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Salmonid Restoration Federation Fish Passage Design and Engineering Field School

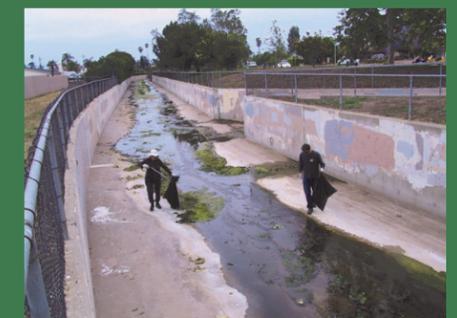


The Salmonid Restoration Federation will once again be hosting the Fish Passage Design and Engineering Field School in Ventura, January 14th-16, 2014. The training will be held at the

Pierpoint Inn, in Ventura and will consist of two days of in class training and a day of field tours to local project sites. The training is for engineers, biologist, and planners that are involved in fish passage projects. It will demonstrate innovative and technical methodologies used in salmon restoration to professionals in the field. Registration is now open, for more information check out calsalmon.org

Creek Clean Up and Weeding Event a Success

Our Watershed Steward member Diana LaRiva hosted a successful volunteer event last month, working to clean up of Franklin and Santa Monica Creeks and do some weeding just downstream in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Volunteers collected 57 pounds of assorted trash from Franklin and Santa Monica Creek. Thank you to the City of Carpinteria for helping to coordinate this effort.



VOLUNTEERS WORKING TO REMOVE TRASH FROM FRANKLIN CREEK

Thank you to all of the participants that came out to volunteer their time.