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SCHR’s Director attends the Earth Island Institute’s Director Summit

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Carpinteria Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project
The project will remove the last major barrier from the watershed and improve upstream migration opportunities for southern steelhead trout. The project will remove an undersized bridge and 98 foot section of concreted stream channel and banks in order to restore the stream channel and provide fish passage through the site. The stream channel will be restored to a natural slope with streambed material (large boulders, cobbles, and fine materials). In addition the vertical stream banks will be laid back to a stable slope and re-vegetated with native plants. Removal of this barrier has been a goal of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition for a number of years. SCHR looks forward to completing this important milestone in the restoration of Carpinteria Creek. The project has funding from the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, as well as the Santa Barbara County Coastal Resource Enhancement Fund (CREF), US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Fish Passage Forum, State Coastal Conservancy, and the property owners.

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Recent oil spill impacts on the Refugio creek mouth restoration project

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A grant from the Coastal Fund allows UCSB students to continue working with SCHR

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The Ventura Refill Shoppe supports SCHR through their 1% For The Planet investment.

Santa Barbara Steelhead Recovery Group
SCHR is working to coordinate quarterly meetings of the Santa Barbara Steelhead Recovery Group. A small group of local government, non-profit and agency representatives working to plan and coordinate fisheries restoration actions in Santa Barbara County. The group had their first meeting of 2015 last month in Santa Barbara and had a lengthy discussion about the drought and its impacts to local streams and steelhead populations. In addition updates were given about upcoming restoration projects and future restoration needs. The Recovery Group’s next meeting will be Tuesday, August 18th at 10:00am. If you are interested in participating in these meetings or learning more about the group, please contact us at info@schabitatrestoration.org.
CREATURE FEATURE: SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE (Actinemys marmorata palida)

The Southwestern pond turtle is a small turtle that’s shell can grow to 8 inches in length. It enjoys slow moving wetland habitats with shallow waters such as ponds, marshes, swamps, lakes, and rivers. Its range extends from southern San Francisco to northern Baja. They are opportunistic omnivores and eat just about everything they can, from plants to insects and small crustaceans. The Southwestern Pond Turtle is a species of Special Concern by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Habitat loss and encroachment from agriculture, grazing, and development threaten this species. SCHR is working to conserve and restore riparian habitats used by the Southwestern pond turtle.

Upcoming Events

Tri-County Fish Team Meeting
The next Tri-County Fish Team Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 18th at 7:00pm.

Santa Barbara Creek Week
The 16th annual, Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place September 19th - 23rd. Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and the ocean with many local groups sponsoring events to help build awareness and stewardship of the watershed and natural treasures of Santa Barbara. For a full schedule of events and more details to come check out sbcreekweek.com

CCWC Summer Presentations
South Coast Habitat Restoration will be giving a series of presentations at Carpenteria State Beach on southern steelhead trout and Carpenteria Creek. Presentations will take place at the outdoor amphitheater within the State Park on Wednesday June 17th - 15th, and August 12th at 8:00pm. For more info ccwcoce.org

EDC’s TGF
The Environmental Defense Centers TGF series is already under way with Events for the rest of the summer are July 10th, September 11th, and October 9th. Check out sdwater.org for more information.

UCSB Coastal Fund Student Assistants
The UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund has once again chosen SCHR to be a recipient of funding that allows us to work with and mentor UCSB students while completing on the ground restoration efforts. We would like to thank Lia Nelson for all of her hard work with SCHR over the last three quarters. Lia is graduating from UCSB this month with a B.S. in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in habitat restoration and wildlife conservation.

Upcoming Events

Refugio State Beach Update
In May the Gaviota Coast was hit with a terrible tragedy when an oil pipeline ruptured and spilled roughly 100,000 gallons of crude oil. Over 20,000 gallons eventually reached the ocean and washed up on Refugio State Beach, spreading from there further west and east. Our location and local wildlife have been greatly impacted by this tragedy. Numerous birds and mammals have been sickened and killed from oil exposure. SCHR was at Refugio Beach and nearby Tajiguas Beach on Wednesday, May 20th, the morning after the spill first occurred. Our extensive restoration efforts at the mouth of Refugio Creek were not harmed by the spill. Native vegetation at the site was beyond the reach of high tides and no oil reached the mouth of Refugio Creek. As cleanup efforts continue Refugio State Beach will remain closed. Camping reservations have been canceled through June 25th. For more information about the spill, clean up efforts, volunteer opportunities and photographs check out www.refugiocleanup.org

KRITTER'S GREAT TAJIGUAS BEACH ON MAY 29TH, 2015
ABOVE: CONTAMINANT ROOMS DEPLOYED ACROSS THE MOUTH OF REFUGIO CREEK.
BOTTOM LEFT: REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH RESTORATION SITE

SCHR Attends the Earth Island Institute’s Director Summit
SCHR Director, Mauricio Gomez, attended the Earth Island Institute’s (Eli) Director Summit last May. The Directors Summit is an opportunity for Eli’s network of 65 projects to come together and share information, experiences as well as receive training in various areas such as fundraising, social media strategizing and storytelling. The Summit was held over three days in the Marin Headlands at NatureBridge. The Summit is a great opportunity to hear what other Project Directors are working on around the world. The work of the other Projects address environmental issues focused on education advocacy, climate change, and restoration. This diverse group of Directors, under the umbrella of Eli, is a great opportunity for us to network and learn from each other and feel a sense of accomplishment. One of the highlights of the Summit was having an opportunity to hear an interview of John Knox and Dave Phillips, Co-Directors of Eli. Their work in the environmental field has paved the way for a tremendous movement which goes back to the founding of Earth Island Institute and its founder David Brower. We appreciate the opportunity attend the Summit and to be part of Eli’s network of global projects. For more information on Eli and the projects it sponsors please visit www.eli.org

Kritter's Great Tajiguas Beach on May 29th, 2015

Alex and Lia helping to measure non-natives plants from a project site in the Tajiguas Watershed

CCWC Summer Steelhead Evening Presentations
This summer South Coast Habitat Restoration will be giving a series of presentations at the Carpenteria State Beach on southern steelhead trout and Carpenteria Creek. Presentations will take place at the outdoor amphitheater near the visitor’s center within the State Park on Wednesday June 17th, July 15th and August 12th at 8:00pm. Each of these quarterly evening presentation will focus on local stream bio-assessment monitoring and will be hosted in September as a part of Santa Barbara Creek Week. For more information carpinteriacreek.org

The Ventura Refill Shoppe has sponsored SCHR as a recipient of the 1% for the Planet investment! The Refill Shoppe is an eco-conscious store challenging the standards of consumerism by offering quality bath, body, home and cleaning liquids in bulk. By allowing you to refill your own bottle or one of the many they can do your part to reduce waste. They carry shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bath gel, bubble bath, dish soap, laundry detergent, window cleaner, candle soaps, and much more. For more information about The Refill Shoppe check out their website at http://www.therefillshops.com/ or visit their store located at 363 E Main Street in downtown Ventura. In addition check out all the great organizations they are supporting through their 1% for the planet community and support us through your purchases at The Refill Shoppe!