



South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Spring 2011

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Widdoes Project

South Coast Habitat Restoration receives landowner approval for the last barrier on Gobernador Creek, within the Carpinteria Creek Watershed.

SCHR is working towards finalizing the designs and securing permits for the removal of the final steelhead barrier along Gobernador Creek in the Carpinteria Creek watershed. The project will allow for over 1.5 miles of habitat to be available to steelhead through the removal a low flow concrete crossing, creation of step pools and installation of a clear span bridge. The construction phase of the project is scheduled to begin this summer.

The barrier is located downstream of the County debris basin, which was modified to improve steelhead migration in 2008. The Widdoes crossing represent the last barrier inhibiting steelhead passage to the headwaters of the creek. Upstream of the debris basin the creek runs in an unconstrained or altered channel. The project has already been awarded funding from the California Department of Fish and Game and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. This project is an essential component of the efforts to restore steelhead runs to the Carpinteria Watershed and has been a goal of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition for many years. SCHR looks forward to removing the final barrier to migration and allowing steelhead the opportunity to return to their historic spawning grounds.



PHOTO OF THE WIDDOES CROSSING, SHOWS THE COMPLETE BARRIER TO STEELHEAD PASSAGE THAT WILL BE REMOVED



PHOTO OF HABITAT JUST UPSTREAM OF THE COUNTY DEBRIS BASIN WHERE JUVENILE STEELHEAD ARE REGULARLY SEEN

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

Support SCHR

[Click here to support our ongoing efforts.](#)
your contribution is tax deductible

CREATURE FEATURE: STEELHEAD TROUT



NOAA

Steelhead are anadromous fish, meaning they spend some portion of their life in the ocean and then return to freshwater to spawn. Steelhead typically rear in coastal streams for a year or more before migrating out to the ocean where they grow and mature before returning to freshwater to spawn. Unlike other Pacific salmonids, steelhead are capable of making the journey into freshwater to spawn more than once and often return to the ocean after spawning rather than protecting their redds (or nests) till they die. Rainbow trout and steelhead are the same species, the difference being that steelhead migrate to the ocean for part of their lives, whereas rainbow trout spend their entire life residing in freshwater. The Southern California Steelhead was listed as an Endangered Species in 1997, because the species was in danger of going extinct. Efforts to re-establish suitable migration pathways and stream habitat are key to bringing back the declining southern steelhead population.

Upcoming Events

Creek Mouth Restoration

March 19th, from 9am –2pm come join us at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek for our next volunteer work day. Please wear appropriate attire and remember to pack sunscreen and water. For more info carpinteriacreekmouth.blogspot.com.

Voice Your Choice!

Come to our local Patagonia store in Ventura to vote for SCHR! Each year Patagonia stores across the country choose 3 local non profits to benefit from the Voice Your Choice program and invite the community to come out and learn about the non profits and vote for their favorite one. At the end of voting first place gets \$2,500, second place gets \$1,500 and third place gets \$1,000. SCHR is excited to be selected for this year's competition at the Ventura store. Voting begins March 10th and runs through March 31st. For more info visit patagonia.com

SRF

The 29th annual SRF conference will be held March 23rd-26th in San Luis Obispo. For more info calsalmon.org

AFS

The 45th annual California/Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Conference will be held March 30th-April 2nd, in Folsom, Ca. For more info afs-calneva.org.

Earth Day

Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival will be held April 16th and 17th at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara., from 11am—7pm. SCHR will have an informational booth at the event. For more info SBearthDay.org.

CCWC 10yr Celebration

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will be hosting a 10 year anniversary celebration on May 14th at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek within the State Park. For more info carpinteriacreek.org.

Carpinteria Creek Clean up

The City of Carpinteria and the CCWC will be hosting a creek clean up in Franklin, Santa Monica, and Carpinteria creeks on April 23rd. Please come out and help clean up our creeks. For more info carpinteriacreek.org.

Tajiguas Watershed

South Coast Habitat Restoration receives funding from the Department of Fish and Game for a steelhead passage project on the Gaviota Coast.

SCHR is thrilled to announce that a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program has been awarded to SCHR for a steelhead passage restoration project in the Tajiguas watershed on the Gaviota Coast.

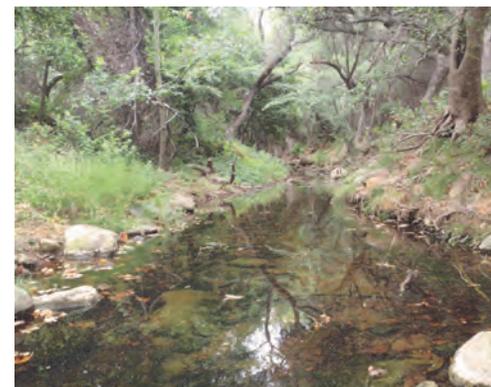
The project will involve the removal of five low flow Arizona crossings and the installation of one new clear span bridge. The crossings slated for removal were constructed decades ago as part of the ranch agricultural operation and over time have created barriers to steelhead migration. Removal of the barriers and replacement of the crossings with a single bridge structure will significantly improve conditions for steelhead on the property. SCHR submitted a grant to the California Department of Fish and Game's

Fisheries Restoration Grant Program last Spring for this watershed restoration project.

The 2011 grant recipients were announced in early February. A full list of the funded projects can be viewed online at dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Grants/FRGP/ The project is scheduled to go to construction this summer. SCHR will be working with the property owner over the next couple months to secure the required permits for the project. In addition SCHR will be hiring a contractor to implement the project and finalizing the engineering designs. We are excited that our work with the property owner on this voluntary habitat restoration project is moving forward and will make considerable improvements for steelhead trout. Stay tuned for updates on this project.



ONE OF FIVE CROSSINGS THAT WILL BE REMOVED THIS SUMMER FROM THE TAJIGUAS WATERSHED ON THE GAVIOTA COAST



THE TAJIGUAS WATERSHED HAS A DENSE RIPARIAN CANOPY THAT PROVIDES HABITAT AND SHADING FOR STEELHEAD TROUT



toad the wet sprocket | south coast habitat restoration



Based in Carpinteria, California, the South Coast Habitat Restoration is a non-profit group dedicated to environmental stewardship and habitat enhancement. It emphasizes steelhead trout recovery through a variety of watershed restoration projects throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

Toad The Wet Sprocket / Walk on the Ocean (Acoustic) / Written by Dean V. Dinning, Randal S. Guss, Todd B. Nichols and Glen Richard Phillips. Performed by Toad The Wet Sprocket. Publishers/Administrators: Wet Sprocket Songs, C/O Ruminating Music, C/O Wixen Music Pub, Inc. 24625 Park Sonoma, Suite # 130, Calabasas, Ca, 91302. Tel: (818) 591-7255. Email: ptuomi@wixenmusic.com Used by permission.

Buy a song, and benefit SCHR through Patagonia Music

Patagonia has come together with some of music's most talented artists to form the Patagonia Music Collective in an effort to fund environmental activism. The collective brings together musicians, fans and grassroots environmental groups. Artists, such as Toad the Wet Sprocket, have donated unreleased tracks that will be sold for \$.99 with net proceeds going directly to the artist's favorite environmental group. Toad the Wet Sprocket and Patagonia have joined together to benefit South Coast Habitat Restoration. When a fan, activist or customer purchases "Walk on the Ocean (Acoustic)" for \$.99 via the Patagonia Music Collective, net proceeds will directly go to South Coast Habitat Restoration in the artist's name.

Tracks available at www.patagonia.com/music through a dedicated iPhone® app and a web

widget player on participating artist's websites. Fulfillment will be handled by iTunes®.

Patagonia views the "collective" as a new model for green giving, as well as a way to engage a non-Patagonia demographic in environmental activism. The Patagonia Music Collective will launch with 24 tracks with additional tracks released each subsequent week from established acts and emerging artists. Exclusive compilation records and more will be available at varying intervals at Patagonia stores worldwide.

Other musicians on board thus far include Jack Johnson, Pearl Jam, Bonnie Raitt and Jon Cleary, Maroon 5, Philip Glass, Zac Brown Band, moe., The Bad Plus, Blitzen Trapper, Mason Jennings, Brett Dennen, Umphrey's McGee, Ben Solee, Taj Mahal, Drive By Truck-

ers, String Cheese Incident, O.A.R., Ziggy Marley, Los Lobos, Dawes, Abigail Washburn, Big Head Todd & the Monsters, Brandi Carlile and many more.

Check out www.patagonia.com/music for more info and to purchase tracks in support of SCHR and other non-profits! Our track is on Volume 2, track 3, listed on page 3.

South Coast Habitat Restoration would like to thank Toad the Wet Sprocket and Patagonia for their support of our efforts!



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER DATES

Please Join us out at the Carpinteria Creek Mouth for a volunteer planting day on **March 19th, from 9am—2pm**. We currently have over three thousands native plants to attend to through weeding, watering and mulching efforts. We will meet at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek, with in the State Beach. Please contact us for more information or to RSVP to this event. erinbrown@schabitatrestoration.org



Carpinteria Creek Mouth Restoration Project

The Carpinteria Creek Mouth restoration project is located at the mouth of the creek within the Carpinteria State Beach, on State Parks property. The goal of the project is to increase the habitat and ecological value of the mouth of Carpinteria Creek by removing non native ice plant and myoporum and the planting of native flora along the banks.

South Coast Habitat Restoration has been working with Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) and numerous volunteers over the last several months on a habitat restoration project at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek. The project has been in collaboration with the California State Parks and Coastal Restoration Consultants.

This project involves the removal of non native ice plant and myoporum from the creek banks and restoring the native biodiversity of the area through the planting of native species. We used a technique known as solarization to remove the ice plant. This involves laying out large sheets of black plastic over the non-native ice plant, securing the plastic with sandbags and stakes to hold it in place until the ice plant is starved of enough light and dried out from the heat that it will not resprout when the plastic is removed.

The black plastic was removed in early December and over the last three months SCHR and CIR have been working with hundreds of volunteers to revegetate the site with native species, in total over 3,000 plants have been planted at the site.

The project has been generously funded by a grant to SCHR via the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) through funding from the Earth Island Institute. The project will greatly increase the habitat value of the Carpinteria Creek estuary. As the native species we have planted mature over time they will provide nesting and foraging habitat for native birds as well as shade for the creek which will improve water temperatures and instream habitat for fish.

A volunteer work day has been scheduled for March 19th at the mouth of Carpinteria Creek. If you are interested in joining us to help with weeding, mulching, and watering of the plants, we will meet from 9am to 2pm at the creek mouth. Please wear appropriate attire and remember to pack sunscreen and water. Please contact us with any questions and to RSVP if you are interested in attending. Volunteers under the age of 18 will need a parent or guardian to sign a wavier.

For more info on the creek mouth project check out our blog at carpinteriacreekmouth.blogspot.com



THE CREEK MOUTH PRIOR TO THE PROJECT WAS MOSTLY ICEPLANT



BLACK PLASTIC INSTALLATION



DEAD ICE PLANT UNDER THE BLACK PLASTIC



VOLUNTEERS PLANTING NATIVES

Patagonia's Voice Your Choice

SCHR chosen to be part of Patagonia's local environmental giving program!

South Coast Habitat Restoration has been chosen to participate in Patagonia's Voice Your Choice Program. Voice Your Choice was conceived by Patagonia to encourage store customers to become better informed and more involved with environmental work in their communities. Through it, Patagonia invites store customers to help determine how their 25 Patagonia-owned, U.S.-based stores spend part of their environmental grants budgets. Once a year, each store receives \$5,000 through Voice Your Choice to be divided among three pre-selected environmental groups. The \$125,000 that's allocated to Voice Your Choice represents only part of what our stores distribute annually in their communities, and a fraction of Patagonia's overall environmental giving (\$3.8 million in grants and in-kind services in fiscal year 2009).



SCHR is thrilled to have been selected for the program this year at Patagonia's Ventura store location. Store customers will vote for the group whose work resonates most with them. The top vote-getter in each store receives \$2,500, the second highest \$1,500, and the third \$1,000. Please come out and support SCHR at the Ventura Patagonia Store with your vote! SCHR is excited to have the opportunity to visit the store to talk to customers about our efforts. We will be tabling at the Ventura store on Saturday March 12th, from 10am-3pm with information about our organization and the work that we do. Come buy and get a free SCHR sticker as well as cast your vote for Voice Your Choice! Voting begins March 10th and runs through March 31st. Store hours are Monday-Saturday: 10am – 6pm, Sunday: 11am – 5 pm. The Ventura Patagonia store is located at the Great Pacific Iron Works, 235 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, Ca.

For more information on **Voice Your Choice** visit Patagonia.com

SCHR would like to thank Patagonia for their continued support of our efforts.

SCHR's new Facebook page

South Coast Habitat Restoration has a new way for you to stay informed about our work. SCHR created a Facebook page. Please visit our page to stay informed about our projects and events as well as see photos of our projects.

If you like what you see then please say so by clicking "Like" near the top of the page. This way updates and posts from SCHR will automatically appear in your Facebook news feed. We hope to reach a new audience as well as provide an additional outlet for our supporters and project partners to connect with us.

In order to attract new fans SCHR will be giving away a canvas bag with our logo on it to our 100th fan! Please visit our Facebook page and click "Like" and encourage your friends to do the same.



Visit our facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/schabitatrestoration



Santa Barbara Earth Day!

Each year the Community Environmental Council (CEC) hosts Santa Barbara's Earth Day festival at Alameda Park in downtown Santa Barbara. This year the event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 16th and 17th from 11am—7pm. The theme is "Powered by the People," and emphasizes the importance of our everyday choices contributing to a more sustainable lifestyle and planet. This year's event will include a green car show, a life size home that will allow visitors to experience energy saving measures, as well an Eco marketplace. The Festival will feature around 250 exhibitors as well as the 3rd annual Green Shorts Film Festival.

South Coast Habitat Restoration will be at the event tabling with information. Please stop by and see us Saturday, April 16th and Sunday, April 17th, at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara to celebrate Earth Day. For more info go to www.SBEarthDay.org



SCHR Documentary

The South Coast Habitat Restoration documentary is nearing completion. Val Franco from Patagonia/LifeChronicles is busy editing the footage from the last several months for the final cut of the documentary, which we hope to have finished sometime in April. The documentary opportunity is the result of Patagonia's Leave Work for Good internship program which offers to pay its employees to work directly with non-profits for up to three months every two years to "leave work to do good" for the environment. Val received her internship opportunity and chose to partner with LifeChronicles, as they have served Patagonia employees on numerous occasions, and SCHR for this exciting opportunity.

SCHR will use the video to educate community members and landowners about the valuable work that SCHR provides in habitat restoration as well as to provide a video archive of SCHR projects. LifeChronicles is a Santa Barbara non profit that produces videos for people who are terminally ill or are in various life crises. With the help of volunteers, LifeChronicles preserves the memory and essence of an individual through videotaping. For more info visit www.lifechronicles.org

Please support this effort by making a donation to SCHR. This video will be an important and valuable resource to our program.

SCHR Honored with River Warrior Award



Resource Renewal Institute
25 Years. Innovations for a Sustainable Future.

Mauricio Gomez Director of South Coast Habitat Restoration was honored as a recipient of 2010 River Warrior Award. South Coast Habitat Restoration recognized for their dedication to improving river ecosystems as a recipient of the 2010 River Warrior Award, by the Resource Renewal Institute in December. Former CA Secretary of Resources Huey D. Johnson founded the River Warrior awards in 2008, to recognize special individuals and groups who devote themselves to protecting and improving water quality, fish, wildlife, and river ecosystems.

Johnson started the program to "encourage the rare individuals whose lives are defined by passion for rivers and fish." To date the River Warrior awards have rewarded 90 groups and individuals with \$100,000. According to RRI vice president Elizabeth Baker, "River Warriors see that clean water is the key to future peace and prosperity. But they let coho salmon, white water rafting and waterfront parks tell the story,"

South Cast Habitat Restoration is honored to be recognized as a River Warrior and grateful to the Resource Renewal Institute for this award. "RRI's recognition and support of our efforts is a tremendous honor." said Mauricio Gomez, Director of SCHR upon hearing the news of his selection for the award. "We will continue our efforts to restore steelhead trout to Santa Barbara and Ventura watersheds". Locally, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper was also a recipient of the 2010 River Warrior Award. Channelkeeper is a local non profit that works to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work, and enforcement.

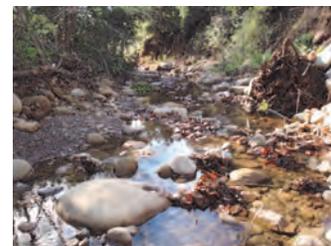
For a complete list of 2010 River Warrior award recipients or for more information on the Resource Renewable Institute [visit rri.org](http://visit.rri.org)

Cate Bank Stabilization Project Update



CATE BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT LOOKING DOWNSTREAM AT THE LOWER SECTION OF THE PROJECT. SHOWS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF GROWTH IN THE WILLOWS ALONG THE TOE OF THE SLOPE AS WELL AS FROM THE CONTAINER PLANTS PANTED THROUGHOUT THE SLOPE.

The Cate School Bank Stabilization Project is complete and newly planted vegetation is establishing well. Willows that were planted just a few months ago at the end of the project have as much as three feet of growth on them. Cuttings taken from Sycamores, Elderberry, Arroyo Willow, and Sandbar Willow have all sprouted at the site. Numerous oak seedlings have sprouted from acorns planted by the CCC and SCHR staff. The project site handled the large December rain events well, with high flows completely submerging three of the four root wads. Scour around the root-wads has created a few nice pools in the middle reach and deposition of spawning gravels with in the project site has also been observed. SCHR is thrilled with how the project has turned out and would like to thank all of the project partners and funders that have been involved along the way, especially the Cate school for their continued support of our projects.



THE FIRST ROOT-WAD, LOOKING DOWNSTREAM



NEWLY SPROUTED OAK SEEDLINGS

Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition celebrates 10 year anniversary



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC) will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary this May. Please join us Saturday, May 14th from 12 –3pm, at the Mouth of Carpinteria Creek, within the Carpinteria State Beach to celebrate this impressive milestone. Join local CCWC members, representatives from the City of Carpinteria, and other non profit and agency representatives to learn about the importance of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed, and hear about the steelhead trout restoration and non native vegetation removal efforts that have occurred in the watershed.

We will be hosting a celebration on the grassy lawn adjacent to Carpinteria Creek within the Carpinteria State beach. Please contact us with any questions and to RSVP if you are interested in attending.

The CCWC was founded by local residents, landowners, and resource groups back in 2001. Inspired by a shared sense of community responsibility for the health of the Carpinteria Watershed. Today the coalition continues to be an important forum for communication on issues critical to the watershed as well as an opportunity for public outreach on local restoration and stream improvement efforts. The coalition has grown to be represented by a diverse group of organizations and involved local residents. The CCWC holds monthly meetings, on the 3rd Thursday of every month at Carpinteria's City Hall from 10am to noon.

For more information on the CCWC check out their website at carpinteriacreek.org



CCWC AT A PAST ANNUAL CELEBRATION

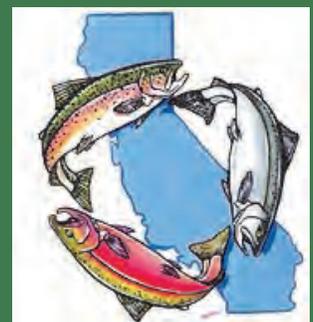


CCWC MEMBERS ON A TOUR OF THE 8TH STREET BRIDGE DURING A MONTHLY MEETING.

29th Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference comes to San Luis Obispo, March 23rd-26th

The 29th annual, 2011 Salmonid Restoration Conference, will be held in San Luis Obispo this year. The conference is entitled "Restoring Salmonids - Holding the line on species decline" and will be held at the Veterans' Memorial Hall, March 23rd—26th. The four day conference consists of two days of workshops and field tours on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by two days of concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday. Mauricio Gomez, director of SCHR will be presenting during a workshop on Thursday as part of the upcoming conference. In addition to the presentation on Wednesday SCHR will have a poster describing the recent Cate School Bank Stabilization project, at the Friday night poster session.

The Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) was formed in 1986 to help stream restoration practitioners' advance the art and science of restoration. SRF promotes restoration, stewardship, and recovery of California native salmon, steelhead, and trout populations through education, collaboration, and advocacy. This will be the 29th annual SRF conference, registration is now open. If you are interested in attending or for more information about SRF check out www.calsalmon.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. 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

Contact us: SCHR Director: Mauricio Gomez
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