

# South Coast Habitat Restoration Summer 2012 Newsletter

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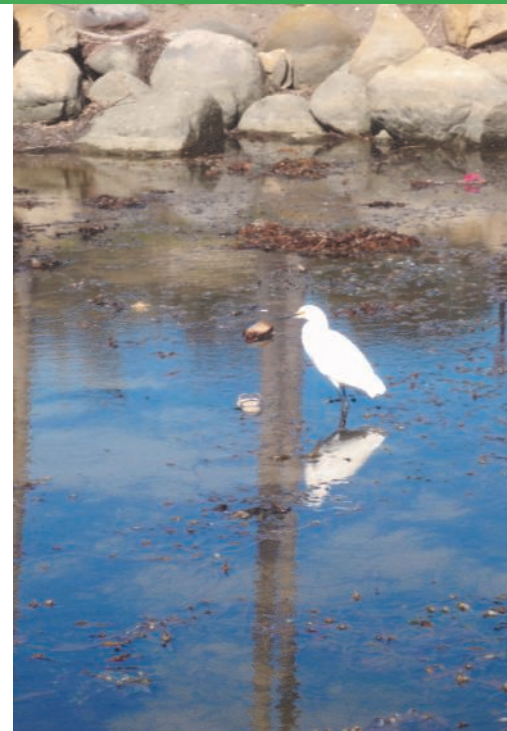
Summer 2012



BLUE TAILED SKINK



TOPANGA CREEK



SNOWY EGRET



Post Office Box 335,  
Carpinteria, Ca, 93104  
[www.schabitatrestoration.org](http://www.schabitatrestoration.org)

Place  
Stamp  
Here

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### Pinkham Project Update

South Coast Habitat Restoration is moving forward with a steelhead passage project in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. The Pinkham project is on schedule to go to construction this summer. SCHR received a grant from the California Department of Fish and Game's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program to complete the construction phase of project. The project will replace an undersized rail car bridge with a new wider and taller bridge. It will also remove 90 feet of concreted stream channel and banks. When the project is complete the newly regraded creek channel will allow steelhead trout access to an additional 0.5 miles of upstream habitat to the Lillingston Debris Basin which is in the process of modification and should be completed over the next few years. When both the Pinkham project and the County Debris Basin are complete in total 1.09 miles of habitat would be opened up.



THE CURRENT PINKHAM CROSSING IS A BARRIER TO STEELHEAD PASSAGE.

Questa Engineering has updated the initial designs and will be working to complete the final designs over the next couple months so that construction at the Pinkham site can begin this Fall, 2012. SCHR is working to secure all the required from the Department of Fish and the County of Santa Barbara. In addition SCHR will be working to finalize the restoration plan and planting list for the project site.

### Final Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan



THE ADULT STEELHEAD FROM 2008 IN CARPINTERIA CREEK

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released the [Final Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan](#), this January. Southern California Steelhead, were federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1997. The Recovery Plan, outlines strategies to reduce threats and restore southern steelhead throughout its range in order to recover the species and eventually lead to de-listing. The plan identifies Core 1 watersheds, as priorities for steelhead recovery efforts including locally the Santa Ynez River, Mission Creek, Carpinteria Creek, Rincon Creek, and the Ventura River. Threats identified by the plan in our area include barriers to upstream migration, water diversion, as well as loss of estuary and riparian habitat. For a complete copy of the final plan please visit [http://www.swr.noaa.gov/recovery/SC\\_Steelhead/](http://www.swr.noaa.gov/recovery/SC_Steelhead/)

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](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

**Support SCHR**  
[Click here to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible](#)

**CREATURE FEATURE: STREAM ORCHID (*Epipactis gigantean*)**



The Stream Orchid is member of the Orchid family (Orchidaceae) also commonly known as the giant stream orchid. This large herbaceous orchid can be found in locations throughout California, including subalpine forests, foothill woodlands, in chaparral and valley grasslands as well as riparian and wetland areas. Reaching up to 2 feet in height, this orchid produces ovate or lance-shaped, heavily veined green leaves that can reach 8 inches in length, with as many as a dozen inch-long flowers. The three upper sepals are a greenish-yellow color, while the two upper petals are tipped in pink. The larger lower labellum is markedly veined a striking red, with the lowest part of the lip a contrasting gold or orange.



**Upcoming Events**

**World Ocean Day**

World Ocean Day is an annual event held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate and promote awareness about the worlds oceans. The Ty Warner Sea Center will be hosting an event to celebrate World Ocean Day on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00am- 3:00pm. This year's World Oceans Day theme is "Oceans of Inspiration." Learn all about fascinating sea creatures and the unique marine habitats that exist right off our coast. Channelkeeper and other Santa Barbara organizations committed to protecting our marine resources will be on hand to provide information and ways you can help safeguard our oceans for future generations.

**Ventura River Community Picnic**

Friends of the Ventura River invites you to a free community picnic, on Saturday June 9th, from 11:00am—1:00pm, along the Ventura River. The picnic will be on the levee on the north side of the Main Street bridge. For more information visit [venturariver.org](http://venturariver.org)

**California Coastal Commission's Coastal Steward Program**

While supplies last, The California Coastal Commissions will send you free aquarium tickets when you send them a photo of your coastal stewardship! Free tickets to either Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach or Aquarium of the Bay in San Francisco. Just send them a photo of you taking action. For more information visit the [California Coastal Commission's webpage](http://California Coastal Commission's webpage), or contact them at [coast4u@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:coast4u@coastal.ca.gov) or (800) Coast - 4U

**Tri County FISH Team meeting**

The next Tri-County FISH Team meeting will be taking place on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, the location is still to be determined. The Tri-County Fish team is a partnership between local government agencies, and non-governmental organizations within San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties to develop a regional approach for salmonid restoration in the tri-county area. For more information [fishteam.org](http://fishteam.org).

**Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration**

South Coast Habitat Restoration (SCHR) is thrilled to announce that a grant submitted to the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project's Community Wetland Restoration Program was accepted for funding. The project will restore native vegetation to the mouth of Refugio Creek within the California State Park. SCHR has partnered with Sate Parks and [Channel Islands Restoration](#) to complete this project using field crews and community volunteers. SCHR will be working with project partners over the next few months to finalize the project design and native planting list for the site.

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 vegetation along the banks. The project area is roughly 2,000 square feet on either side of Refugio Creek. Non natives currently at the site include Fan Palms, Guadalupe Palms,

Myoporum, Arundo, Black Acacia, Pampas Grass, Fennel, Castro Bean, Brazilian Pepper trees, California Pepper trees, Eucalyptus, as well as annual grasses. Natives to be planted at the site include native 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 native birds. The project will begin with the non native removal this summer to prepare the site for native planting during the Fall and Winter rainy season. Volunteers from various groups and organizations will assist with the seed collection the installation of locally sourced native container plants. All native plants currently at the site will be preserved.

Stay tuned for updates about the project as well as opportunities to get involved with the project through volunteer events. For more information check out the project blog <http://refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com/>



LOOKING UPSTREAM FROM THE MOUTH OF REFUGIO CREEK SHOWING THE PROJECT AREA ON BOTH BANKS OF THE CREEK.



LOOKING DOWNSTREAM AT THE LEFT BANK SHOWS A LARGE STAND OF ARUNDO, CASTOR BEAN, AND PALMS THAT WILL BE REMOVED.

**Watershed Stewards Project Accepting Applications!**



South Coast Habitat Restoration has been chosen as a placement site for year 19 of the Watershed Stewards Project. The Watersheds Steward Project, based out of Fortuna California, places AmeriCorps members throughout the state of California working to conserve, restore, and enhance anadromous watersheds for future generations by linking education with high quality scientific practices. The program will be starting its 19<sup>th</sup> year this October, and SCHR is excited to announce that two members will be placed in Carpinteria in a partnership with California State Parks. We will mentor the members to help expose them to salmonid restoration efforts as well as provide connections for educational and community outreach opportunities.

Each Watershed Steward is placed with an organization which is committed to preserving and restoring California's watersheds and native salmon runs, whether it is a Federal, State or County agency, Tribal department, or a non-profit organization. Watershed Stewards members work under the guidance of a natural resource professional at their placement site to fulfill the WSP mission and provide support for their site. Each site varies in the duties, schedule, and scope of work, however, all sites provide some amount of watershed assessment, education and outreach opportunities, and training opportunities for the AmeriCorps members. WSP is currently accepting member applications, now through June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. If you are interested in applying to be a watershed steward or if you are interested in more information about the project please check out <http://www.ccc.ca.gov/go/wsp>.



WSP MEMBERS WORKING WITH THE CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS TO BUILD A WILLOW WATTLE FENCE



WSP MEMBER REACHING OUT TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE 2011 PATAGONIA SALMON RUN



WSP MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN VEGETATION MONITORING SURVEYS AT RESTORATION SITES.



A WSP MEMBER PLANTING NATIVE VEGETATION AT A RESTORATION SITE WITH COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

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**SALMONID RESTORATION FEDERATION CONFERENCE**



The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Salmonid Restoration Conference, was held in Davis, California, April 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The four day conference consisted of two days of workshops and field tours on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by two days of concurrent sessions on Friday and Saturday. Erin Brown, Project Manager for SCHR co-presented with Rachel Shea, Engineer with Michael Love and Associates about the Tajiguas Project during a workshop on Wednesday as part of the conference. In addition to the presentation on Wednesday SCHR had a poster describing our recent restoration efforts, at the Friday night poster session (pictured above). A poster was also created to show the extensive efforts that have occurred in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed over the last 10 years.

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. If you are interested in more information about SRF check out [www.calsalmon.org](http://www.calsalmon.org)

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](http://schabitatrestoration.org)

Support SCHR Visit [www.earthisland.org/schr/donate](http://www.earthisland.org/schr/donate) to support our ongoing efforts, your contribution is tax deductible

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