

South Coast Habitat Restoration Fall 2011 Newsletter

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STREAM ORCHID



GOVERNADOR CREEK



CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG



Post Office Box 335,
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www.schabitatrestoration.org

Place
Stamp
Here



In This Issue

TAJIGUAS WATERSHED Page 1

Steelhead trout restoration project on the Gaviota Coast

SCHR SUMMER INTERNS Page 2

Meet SCHR's new summer interns

UP COMING EVENTS Page 2

Santa Barbara Creek Week is coming up, September 17th – 25th

GOVERNADOR CREEK Page 3

Steelhead trout restoration project along Gobernador Creek in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed

WATERSHED STEWARDS Page 3

The Santa Barbara Watershed Steward members have been selected.

SCHR breaks ground on the Rancho Tajiguas Project

SCHR is thrilled to announce that the Tajiguas Watershed Project on the Gaviota Coast broke ground a few weeks ago. Work began on the large project which will remove five low flow Arizona crossings when complete. The crossings that are being removed were constructed decades ago as part of the ranch agricultural operation and over time have created barriers to steelhead migration. The crossings will be removed using heavy equipment, the stream channel will be regraded to a more natural grade that allows for adult and juvenile steelhead passage, the sites will be re-vegetated with native species and stabilized with erosion control material. The removal of the barriers and replacement of the crossings with a single bridge structure will significantly improve conditions for steelhead on the property.

The project is being funded by the California Department of Fish and Game's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program as well as by the property owner. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) have helped to de-water the project sites and helped to salvage willow and

other tree stakes from the site that will be reused in the re-vegetation efforts. Shaw Contracting Inc has been working to remove the concrete crossing from the location where the new bridge will be installed. Shaw has also been working to excavate the area where the new bridge abutments will be built. The footing for the bridge abutment is being formed and the initial concrete pour should take place next week. Michael Love and Associates, the engineering firm behind the project has been on site overseeing the implementation. The construction phase of the project is scheduled to be complete by mid October.

Native plants for the project were grown by Santa Barbara Natives. SCHR will be working with the California Conservation Corps during the rainy season to re-vegetate the sites and install irrigation. 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.

For more information schabitatrestoration.org



CCC CORP MEMBERS WORKING TO SALVAGE WILLOW POLES FROM THE SITE PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION



SHAW CONTRACTING INC WORKING TO PLACE LARGE ROCK AROUND THE BRIDGE ABUTMENT FORMS

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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CREATURE FEATURE: RED TAILED HAWK (*Buteo jamaicensis*)



The Red-tailed Hawk is one of the most common hawks in North America. It breeds throughout most of North America, from western Alaska and northern Canada to as far south as Panama. Most Red-tailed Hawks are rich brown with a pale belly and underside of the wings and a dark bar between shoulder and wrist. The tail is usually pale below and cinnamon-red on top. The Red-tailed Hawk displays sexual dimorphism in size, with females averaging about 25% heavier than males. The Red-tailed Hawk occupies a wide range of habitats and altitudes, including deserts, grasslands, coniferous and deciduous forests, tropical rainforests, agricultural fields and urban areas. It lives throughout the North American continent, except in areas of unbroken forest or the high arctic. It is legally protected in Canada, Mexico and the United States by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Upcoming Events

APA California 2011 Conference

The California Chapter of the American Planning Association will be holding its annual conference in Santa Barbara, on September 11th-14th. The conference provides networking and educational opportunities for its members on a broad array of planning topics. SCHR will be presenting as part of the session titled "A New Dialogue for Beneficial Habitat Restoration" on Tuesday the 13th. Registration is still open. <http://www.calapa.org/>.

CCWC Presentation for the Carpinteria Chamber of Commerce

SCHR director Mauricio Gomez will be giving a presentation to the Carpinteria Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition. The presentation entitled "Carpinteria Creek Watershed and You" is part of the ongoing lunch and learn series and will take place on Friday September 16th at noon at the Curious Cup Bookstore in Carpinteria.

SB Creek Week!

Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks. The 12th Annual Creek Week will take place Saturday, September 17th through Sunday, September 25th, 2011. The event kicks off with a beach clean up on Coastal Clean Up Day! For a full list of events check out www.sbcreekweek.com

Patagonia's Salmon Run!

This years Salmon Run will be held Sunday November 13th, at 8:30 am. The 5K race begins and ends at Patagonia's Great Pacific Iron Works. Stay after the race to see awards and learn about local environmental non profits. SCHR will be there if you want to come see what we have been up to. For more information or to register visit patagonia.com.

SRF 2012 Conference

The 30th annual Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF) conference will be held April 4th-7th, 2012 in Davis, California. The call for abstracts is now open. If you are interested in attending or for more information check out www.calsalmon.org

New SCHR interns

SCHR has had the opportunity to hire two part time summer interns to assist with a variety of field work this summer.

Andrea Blue is a recent graduate of the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB, where her Masters degree specialized in Conservation Planning. Andrea is a California native originally from southern California. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Redlands in Environmental Science. Andrea has participated in a variety of biological field work and natural resource monitoring efforts including: vegetation monitoring in chaparral ecosystems, habitat restoration in coastal ecosystems, and mapping of forest resources for the Los Padres Wilderness Campaign. In her free time Andrea enjoys hiking, knitting, reading, and photographing wildflowers.

Dillon Brook is a recent graduate of UCSB, where he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. He grew up in the rural town of Lotus which is nestled on the South Fork of the American River in the foothills

outside of Sacramento. Both academics and athletics brought him to UCSB where he ran cross-country and track for the Gauchos. During his education Dillon spent time in the Big Sur area doing field research and wildlife monitoring, notably participating in Steelhead counts and stream surveys. Locally, he has worked for a native plant nursery as well as being an intern who aided in restoration efforts of native California grasslands. With his free time Dillon enjoys backpacking, surfing, skiing and white-water rafting.

Dillon and Andrea have been exposed to the process of planning and implementing habitat restoration projects. They have helped with the maintenance of project sites including the removal of non native vegetation and checking of irrigation lines. They have also participated in annual vegetation monitoring at restoration sites. Both interns have been a great help. Both are enthusiastic about the work we are doing and have expressed a genuine interest in learning as much as possible from the experience. Thank you, to Dillon and Andrea for all the hard work!



ANDREA AND DILLON HELPING CHECK IRRIGATION LINES AND WEED NON NATIVES FROM THE LION CREEK PROJECT SITE.



ANDREA HELPING OUT WITH VEGETATION MONITORING SURVEYS AT THE CARPINTERIA CREEK MOUTH PROJECT.

PATAGONIA SALMON RUN!

Join SCHR on Sunday November 6th for the 18th Annual Patagonia Salmon Run. This years event will benefit the Los Padres Forest Watch. Registration is now open and limited to 400 participants. The event includes a 5K race along the Ventura River, a raffle, refreshments and information provided by tabling local organizations and non profits. SCHR will be tabling at the event so come out and see what we have been up to. The race starts at 8:30am, leaving from 259 W. Santa Clara St, Ventura, the upper Patagonia parking lot.

For more information and to register: <http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=15737>



Gobernador Project Update

SCHR is working towards finalizing the designs and securing permits for 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 project is scheduled to begin this summer as it has been awarded funding from the CDFG and NOAA. This project is an essential component of the efforts to restore steelhead runs to the Carpinteria Creek Watershed and has been a goal of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition for many years. SCHR looks forward to the potential for the migration of steelhead into the Gobernador headwaters this next winter.

For more information, check out our website schabitatrestoration.org

Santa Barbara Watershed Stewards Selected

SCHR is excited to present the South Coast's new Watershed Stewards! It was a very competitive application process this year. In collaboration between the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the California Conservation Corps (CCC) we interviewed 13 qualified individuals for 2 positions with the Santa Barbara DFG. We are excited to announce that Allison Krist and Andrea Blue have been chosen and accepted the positions. The watershed stewards will primarily work with the DFG in Santa Barbara working to monitor our local steelhead populations. SCHR as well as, Chris Lima with the CCC, will be co-mentoring these members to help expose them to salmonid restoration efforts as well as provide connections for educational and community outreach opportunities. In addition to the two members located here in Santa Barbara, there will be two members in Ventura placed in a partnership between Caltrout and the Ventura Coastkeeper.

The AmeriCorps Watersheds Steward Project, based out of Fortuna California, is a program that 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. 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 plenty of training opportunities for the AmeriCorps members. The program will be starting its 18th year this October, and SCHR is excited to have the opportunity to mentor and work with the two members here in Santa Barbara.

For more information about the project please check out watershedstewards.com



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

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Purchase your SB Axxess card from South Coast Habitat Restoration and \$10 of your purchase will go directly to SCHR! The Axxess card is a community savings guide that features discounts for over 300 local restaurants and merchants. The cards go on sale Friday September 23rd. The cost is \$30, with \$10 of every sale going to SCHR. For a full list of participating businesses check out sbaxxess.com.

Santa Barbara Creek Week

Santa Barbara's 12th annual Creek Week will be kicking off on Coastal Clean-up Day, Saturday September 17th. This year's Creek Week events include guided hikes of Arroyo Hondo and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, restoration events and Coal Oil Point, Higgins Springs and UCSB, an Ocean Friendly Garden workshop and a reading of "All the way to the Ocean" by Joel Harper. The week of events will finish with a closing celebration at the Watershed Resource Center on Sunday September 25th, from 11:00am—3:00pm

For more information and the full schedule of events please visit the Creek Week website at sbcreekweek.com