

# South Coast Habitat Restoration Summer 2014 Newsletter

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Summer 2014



GAVIOTA TARPLANT



GOBERNADOR CREEK



STEELHEAD SCULPTURE



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

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### In This Issue

#### NEW GRANT FUNDING Page 1

The National Forest Foundation supports SCHR

#### REFUGIO CREEK UPDATE Page 1

Successful restoration at the mouth of Refugio Creek

#### WATERSHED ASSISTANTS Page 2

Meet our most recent UCSB student restoration assistants

#### CREATURE FEATURE Page 2

Ring-tailed Cat (*Bassariscus astutus*)

#### DAMNATION SCREENING Page 3

The CCWC will host a screening of Damnation in Carpinteria

#### UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION Page 3

SCHR is scheduled to complete barrier removal projects this coming Fall in the Tajiguas and Maria Ygnacio watershed to improve fish passage for the endangered southern 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

### National Forest Foundation grant awarded to SCHR

SCHR receives grant from the National Forest Foundation's (NFF) Community Capacity and Land Stewardship grant program. The program aims to provide support to community groups that work to accomplish watershed and landscape scale restoration on National Forest properties throughout the Western United States. The funding will allow SCHR staff to attend permitting workshops and trainings to be better equipped to work within National Forest lands. In addition the funding will allow SCHR to work locally with the Los Padres National Forest staff to develop fish passage and watershed restoration projects on their lands. SCHR is excited about this new partnership and



WITH FUNDING FROM THE NFF SCHR PROJECT MANGER ERIN BROWN RECENTLY ATTENDED A CALIFORNIA RED LEGGED FROG SURVEYING AND HANDLING WORKSHOP.

looks forward to working to address fish passage barriers in the Los Padres National Forest. For more information about the National Forest Foundation check out their website at [nationalforests.org](http://nationalforests.org)

### Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration

The Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Project is looking great! Thanks to the help of hundreds of volunteers over 2,500 native container plants are now growing along the banks of Refugio Creek. South Coast Habitat Restoration partnered with Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) and California State Parks to restore native riparian habitat alongside the mouth of Refugio Creek. The native vegetation will provide shade for the creek and over



SHOWS THE PROJECT SITE AS THE NATIVE PLANTS WERE INSTALLED EARLIER THIS YEAR



A RECENT PHOTO OF THE PROJECT SITE SHOWING THE GROWTH THAT HAS OCCURRED ON OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS AND A NUMBER OF FLOWERING SPECIES.

hanging cover habitat for aquatic species as well as forage and nesting habitat for birds. Non native trees and shrubs were removed to make room for native shrubs and riparian trees. Natives at the site are currently flowering including bush lupine, coast golden bush, purple needle grass, buckwheat, quail bush, and coast sunflower.



CREATURE FEATURE: RING-TAILED CAT (*Bassariscus astutus*)



The Ring-tailed cat is a species in the raccoon family native to North America, ranging from California to Texas and south through Central America. Ring-tailed cats inhabit arid, rocky areas with a nearby water source. The ring-tailed cat is light brown to dark brown in color with alternating white and black rings along the tail and white fur encircling the eyes. Its body length can reach 12-17 inches with a tail that is just as long giving a total length of 24-34 inches. This small mammal typically weighs only a few pounds (1.5 – 3.5 lbs). Similar to the raccoon, the ring-tailed cat is solitary and nocturnal, but it is timid and therefore rarely seen by humans. Mating happens between February and May and two to four cubs are born in the late spring or early summer. After five to six weeks, the cubs are covered in fur and their eyes open. They are usually weaned by fall and ready to mate in the end of their second year of life. The Ring-tailed cat is an ecologically important mid-sized omnivore with a diet of insects, fruits, vegetation, small rodents, snakes, lizards and amphibians. They den in tree hollows, rock crevices, and even other animals' abandoned burrows. SCHR recently spotted a Ring-tailed cat carcass in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed.

Upcoming Events

CCWC Hosts DamNation in Carpinteria

The CCWC will be hosting a screening of DamNation on Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at the Plaza Playhouse Theater in Carpinteria, 4599 Linden Avenue. For more information check out [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org)

Santa Barbara Creek Week

Santa Barbara's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Week will take place September 20<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, 2014! 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 watersheds and natural treasures of Santa Barbara. For a full schedule of events and more information check out [sbcreekweek.com](http://sbcreekweek.com)

SRF Steelhead Summit

The Salmonid Restoration Federation will be hosting the first annual Steelhead Summit in Ventura California, at the Four Points Sheraton, October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014. The two day summit will focus on issues related to steelhead monitoring and restoration efforts. For more information check out [calsalmon.org](http://calsalmon.org)

Ventura Water Film Contest: Water Take 1

Ventura Water presents Water: Take 1, an exciting and important initiative that highlights our relationship with Water: How we look at it, how we use it and how we share it. The film competition presents the best water-themed short films, narrative, documentary, comedy, drama, animation, and live action film submissions to a distinguished jury made up of leaders in water and environmental issues and influential members of the community. Film submissions are being accepted now through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. For more info check out [watertake1.com](http://watertake1.com)

EDC's TGIF

The Environmental Defense Centers TGIF series is already under way. Dates for the rest of the summer are July 11<sup>th</sup>, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and October 10<sup>th</sup>. Check out [edcnet.org](http://edcnet.org) for more info Summer 2014

Watershed Restoration Assistants

SCHR is excited to present our newest restoration assistants. Jacqline Brewer and Tanner Boyle, are both students at UCSB. Thanks to a grant from the UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund, SCHR has been able to work with Jacqline and Tanner for the Spring academic quarter.

Jacqline is a fourth year undergraduate student at UCSB. She will receive her BA in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Environmental Law and Politics in a few weeks. While living in Santa Barbara, Jacqline has worked with local non-profits on matters including the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, water quality monitoring, native plant restoration and community outreach. In her free time, Jacqline can be found outdoors hiking the beautiful and inspiring trails of Santa Barbara.

Tanner is a third year undergraduate student at UCSB. He has focused his course work on Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Geography. Tanner has worked with geological engineers where he participated in digging of exploration trenches and pits. He also assisted with soil sample testing, direct shear measurements, and description of the soils and rocks. Outside of studying and work, Tanner enjoys surfing, hiking, playing volleyball, and traveling.

Over Spring quarter Tanner and Jacqline have participated in restoration site maintenance and annual project monitoring. The monitoring efforts are part of our annual reporting requirements that track the project sites



TANNER AND JACQLINE CONDUCTING A LONG PROFILE SURVEY AT ONE OF OUR RECENTLY COMPLETED CREEK RESTORATION SITES.



JACQLINE EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF STEELHEAD TROUT THROUGH FISH PRINTS AT EARTH DAY

progression to meeting the stated performance criteria. We also conduct a long profile survey of each stream project site and cross section so that we can track any changes in channel grade and morphology that may occur over time. Jacqline and Tanner were also exposed to community outreach at the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival and volunteer coordination at the Refugio Creek Mouth Project. We thank Jacqline and Tanner for all their work this quarter and wish them the best of luck in their future environmental careers.

SCHR is currently looking for two UCSB student assistants to complete 80 hours of work with us over the summer sessions. Please contact us if you are interested. [info@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:info@schabitatrestoration.org).

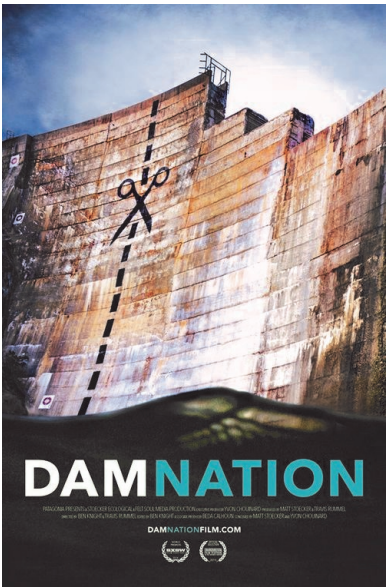
CCWC to host DamNation at the Carpinteria Theater



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host a free screening of DamNation at the Plaza Playhouse Theater in Carpinteria on Wednesday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

This powerful film explores the change in our national attitude about dams; from pride in the engineering wonders of large dams to the growing awareness of their harm on human life and the health of our rivers. Come learn about the efforts of the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition and support our efforts through seeing this great film.

The film screening will be in place of the quarterly evening community presentation. The next evening presentation will be on Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Check out the Coalition's website for more details [carpinteriacreek.org](http://carpinteriacreek.org).



Construction Projects for 2014



A RESIDENT TROUT RECENTLY OBSERVED IN THE MARIA YGNACIO CREEK WATERSHED.

SCHR is gearing up for a busy construction season. SCHR is moving forward with the necessary contracts and permitting in order for fish passage restoration projects to begin in the Tajiguas Creek Watershed and the Maria Ygnacio Creek Watershed. Both projects were awarded grant funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's, Fisheries Restoration Grant Program. In the Tajiguas watershed the final phase of barrier removal efforts will be completed. Four barriers to migration will be removed from the Tajiguas watershed this summer. In addition Caltrans will be modifying the culvert under the 101 freeway in order to improve fish migration opportunities from the ocean. This will complete efforts to open up the historic steelhead habitat in the watershed. In the Maria Ygnacio Watershed a single privately owned low flow crossing will be removed and replaced with a clear span bridge. SCHR will be working with the property owners to hire a contractor to implement the project during late summer when stream flows are at their lowest and nesting bird season is finished. 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 project updates.

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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](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

Contact us: SCHR Director: Mauricio Gomez [mgomez@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:mgomez@schabitatrestoration.org) 805-729-8787  
SCHR Project Manager: Erin Brown [erinbrown@schabitatrestoration.org](mailto:erinbrown@schabitatrestoration.org) 925-548-2659

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Save the Date!  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Barbara Creek Week is September 20<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>



Santa Barbara's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Creek Week will take place September 20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> 2014! 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 natural treasures of Santa Barbara. Creek Week will kick off on Coastal Clean up day with creek cleanup and beach cleanups scheduled throughout the county. Stay tuned for the full schedule of events check out [SBCreekWeek.com](http://SBCreekWeek.com) for more information.

First Annual Steelhead Summit



The Salmonid Restoration Federation will be hosting the first annual Steelhead Summit in Ventura California, October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014.

The summit will focus on issues related to steelhead monitoring and restoration efforts. The summit will consist of a day of in class workshops and presentations followed by a day of field tours. The event will bring together biologist, engineers and resource planners from across the state that work with these endangered fish. For more information or to register for the summit check out [calsalmon.org](http://calsalmon.org).