

South Coast Habitat Restoration Summer 2015 Newsletter



BIG LEAF MAPLE



GOBERNADOR CREEK



COAST RANGE NEWT AND EGG MASS



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South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Summer 2015

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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

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Carpinteria Creek Fish Passage Restoration Project

SCHR is gearing up for a large construction project this coming fall in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. 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. SCHR is currently finalizing environmental permitting requirements and hopes to begin construction in August. Construction will be complete in October and re-vegetation efforts will begin with the onset of winter rains.



A PHOTO OF THE FISH PASSAGE BARRIER ALONG CARPINTERIA CREEK THAT WILL BE REMOVED

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 pallida*)



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 easily accessible basking sites, including ponds, streams, marshes, and lakes. Its range extends from southern San Francisco to northern Baja. They are opportunistic omnivores and eat just about everything they can, from plants to macro-invertebrates. The Southwestern Pond Turtle is seasonally active and can hibernate from late October to early April, however, some individuals have been spotted in the Santa Barbara area during these hibernation months. The Southwestern Pond Turtle and the Northwestern Pond turtle were thought to be the same species until a recent examination of the animal's genetic makeup divided them into two distinct species. They reproduce around age 8 or 9, and can lay anywhere between 1 to 13 eggs. These eggs hatch in early spring, and emerge from the nest. The young turtles are extremely vulnerable to predation from large fish, snakes, frogs, and raccoons. The Southwestern pond turtle is not officially recorded on either the state or federal endangered species list, but it is listed as 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 11th. Location and time TBD. The meeting will focus on upcoming Proposition 1 funding opportunities. For more info fishteam.org

SB Steelhead Recovery Meeting

A local steelhead group that SCHR is helping to coordinate will meet again on Tuesday August 18th at 10:00am.

Santa Barbara Creek Week

The 16th annual, Santa Barbara Creek Week will take place September 19th-27th, 2015! 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 details to come check out sb creekweek.com.

CCWC Summer Presentations

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

EDC's TGIF

The Environmental Defense Centers TGIF series is already under way. Dates for the rest of the summer are July 10th, September 11th, and October 9th. Check out edcnet.org for more information.

Refugio State Beach Update

In May the Gaviota Coast was hit with a terrible tragedy when an oil pipe line 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 coastline 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.refugioresponse.com/.



TOP RIGHT: OIL AT TAJIGUAS BEACH ON MAY 20TH, 2015.
ABOVE: CONTAINMENT BOOMS 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 (EII) Director Summit last May. The Director Summit is an opportunity for the Director's of EII'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 EII, 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 EII. 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 EII's network of global projects. For more information on EII and the projects it sponsors please visit www.eii.org.

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. She just completed her senior thesis on the environmental implications of hydraulic fracturing proppants. She hopes to pursue a career working with animals and their habitats in order to help preserve wilderness areas for the future. In addition Alex Ehrens joined us this quarter. He is currently in his third year at UCSB perusing a BS Hydrology with a Physical and Chemical emphasis. He looks forward to learning his native and non-native plants while working with us. Alex is originally from outside Chicago, Illinois. In his free time he enjoys being outdoors hiking and exploring our local mountains.

Over Spring quarter Alex and Lia have participated in restoration site maintenance

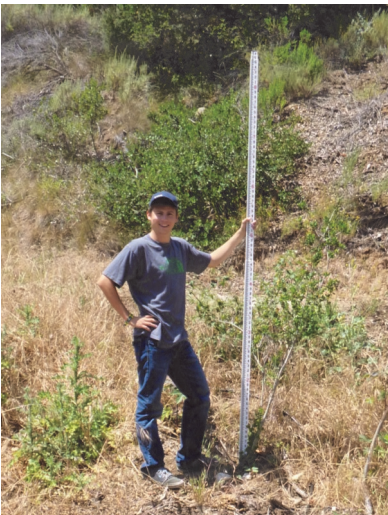


ALEX AND LIA HELPING TO REMOVE NON-NATIVES PLANTS FROM A PROJECT SITE IN THE TAJIGUAS WATERSHED.

efforts that are part of our annual reporting requirements that track a project's progress towards meeting stated performance criteria. Alex and Lia were also exposed to community outreach at the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival where they talked to children about steelhead trout and helped make steelhead fish prints. We thank Alex and Lia 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.



LIA OUTREACHING TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S SANTA BARBARA EARTH DAY FESTIVAL.



ALEX HELPING TO MEASURE AN OAK TREE AS PART OF OUR ANNUAL MONITORING EFFORT

1% For The Planet Supporter: The Refill Shoppe



The Ventura Refill Shoppe has sponsored SCHR as a recipient of their 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 carry you can do your part to reduce waste. They carry shampoo, conditioner, lotion, bath gel, bubble bath, dish soap, laundry detergent, window cleaner, castile soap, essential oils, and more. For more information about The Refill Shoppe check out their website at <http://www.therefillshoppe.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 commitment and support us through your purchases at The Refill Shoppe!



CCWC Summer Steelhead Evening Presentations

This summer South Coast Habitat Restoration will be giving a series of presentations at the Carpinteria State Beach on southern steelhead trout and Carpinteria 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. The following CCWC community 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 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

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