



South Coast Habitat Restoration Newsletter

Winter 2013

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Carpinteria Creek Watershed Restoration Update

SCHR is finishing up a steelhead barrier removal project in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. The Pinkham project removed a major barrier to fish passage in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed. Construction began during the first week of October. The project involved the removal of nearly 100 feet of concreted channel and stream banks, disassembly and removal of an undersized bridge, the regrading of roughly 200 feet of channel to provide fish passage, and the installation of a 60 foot vehicular clear span bridge. The new bridge was installed during the first week of December. Native plants and erosion control materials will be installed over the next week with help from the California Conservation Corps. The project provides fish passage through the site and in combination with the recently completed Lillingston Debris Basin removal effort by the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, leaves one final major barrier on private property that still needs to be addressed.

SCHR is currently working with the landowner to address the final barrier that is just downstream

of the Pinkham Project. We are currently working to secure funding for the project and hope that by the end of 2014 the barrier removal project will be complete. There are still a few minor barriers in the watershed including the USGS gaging station which we hope to address over the next few years to complete our efforts to restore fish passage in the watershed.

For more information about the Pinkham Project check out the project blog at

<http://carpinteriacreekpinkham.blogspot.com/>



FROM UPSTREAM LOOKING BACK DOWNSTREAM SHOWS THE CRANE INSTALLING THE NEW BRIDGE ACROSS THE CREEK.



A BEFORE PHOTO OF THE PROJECT SHOWS THE LARGE AND STEEP SECTION OF CONCRETED CHANNEL AND THE UNDERSIZED BRIDGE THAT WERE REMOVED TO PROVIDE FISH PASSAGE THROUGH THE SITE.



FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END LOOKING UPSTREAM SHOWS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW STREAM CHANNEL.

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: WESTERN SYCAMORE



The Western Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) is a native tree to California and Baja California that grows in riparian areas, canyons and floodplains. It is a medium to tall tree standing 40-100 feet tall, spreading nearly as wide, and reaching up to 11 feet in diameter. The main trunk usually divides into two segments and then splits into many branches. It has a greenish-gray outer bark that sheds to expose chalky, light patches of inner bark. The leaves are 5-10 inches long and palm shaped with pointed tips that can be divided into 3-5 lobes. They are simple, alternate and deciduous. The young leaves are a bright translucent green and somewhat hairy. The seeds of the sycamore are contained in golf ball sized heads that hang on a long stalk which fracture at maturity and are dispersed by the wind. Carpinteria, is home of the Portola sycamore, a 250 year old tree which is the last remaining from an old grove that served as an outdoor workshop where the Chumash constructed their tomols.

Upcoming Events

CCWC Evening Presentation with UCSB Ecologist Scott Cooper

The next CCWC evening presentation will take place on Thursday December 12th, from 7pm - 8pm at the Veteran's Memorial Building at 941 Walnut Avenue in Carpinteria. The event is free and light refreshments will be served. For more information carpinteriacreek.org/.

Refugio Creek Mouth Volunteer Dates

SCHR and CIR will be hosting volunteer planting events at Refugio State Beach January 11th, 18th, and 25th. Please contact us for more information and to RSVP if you are interested in volunteering.

South Coast Fish Passage Design and Engineering Field School

The Salmonid Restoration Federation is hosting a training event that will demonstrate technical methodologies in salmon restoration. The training will be held January 14th - 16th, 2014 at the Pierpoint Inn, in Ventura Ca. To register and for more information please visit www.calsalmon.org/

Audubon Christmas Bird Count

The Santa Barbara Audubon Christmas Bird Count will be held on Saturday January 4th, 2014. If you are interested in participating check out their website and be sure to register for the event www.casbirdcount.org/

Salmonid Restoration Federation (SRF)

The 32nd annual, SRF Conference, will be held in Santa Barbara this year. The conference will be held March 19th-22nd 2014, at the Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building. To register and for more information please visit www.calsalmon.org/

SERCAL California Society for Ecological Restoration Conference

The 21st annual, California Society for Ecological Restoration or SERCAL Conference, will be held in Santa Rosa next year, May 13th-15th, 2013. For more information please visit www.sercal.org/

UCSB Coastal Fund Watershed Restoration Interns

SCHR is excited to present our new restoration interns! Jordan Chamberlain and Taylor Berryman, both students at UCSB. Thanks to a grant from the UCSB Associated Students Coastal Fund, SCHR has been able to work with Jordan and Taylor over the Fall academic quarter.

Taylor is a fourth year undergraduate attending UCSB. He will receive his Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology in the spring of 2014. Working alongside graduate students, Taylor has been active in the research of local streams. He is specifically intrigued with the physical and biological parameters that affect fish passage. Outside of SCHR, Taylor enjoys basketball, golf, hiking, gardening, and traveling.

Jordan graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2009 with a BA in International Environment and Development and a minor in Evolutionary Biology. Since her graduation, Jordan has worked for non-profits like The Nature Conservancy of Colorado, The Access Fund, and The American Alpine Club to improve land management throughout the United States. For three summers she served as a Nature and Rock Climbing Specialist for the Girl Scouts of San Diego, teaching young women the value of interacting with and conserving our natural environments. She also helped establish and manage a small company that

produces climbing gear made in the United States. Jordan is currently attending the University of California at Santa Barbara, working on her Master of Environmental Science and Management through the Bren school.

Taylor and Jordan completed 80 hours of work this quarter and learned a lot about native plants. SCHR would like to thank Taylor and Jordan for their efforts this quarter and the Coastal Fund for funding the positions. SCHR will be hiring student interns again next quarter, contact us if you are interested in applying.



SCHR INTERNS TAYLOR BERRYMAN (LEFT) AND JORDAN CHAMBERLAIN(RIGHT).



JORDAN AND TAYLOR OUTREACHING AT THE PATAGONIA SLAMON RUN

32nd Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference comes to Santa Barbara, and the Fish Passage Field School to Ventura



The 32nd annual Salmonid Restoration Conference will be held in Santa Barbara, next year, March 19th-22nd, 2014. 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. The conference will be held at the Santa Barbara Veterans Memorial Building, located at 112 W Cabrillo Boulevard in downtown Santa Barbara. Registration for the conference is currently open, reduced rates for early registration ends in February. Space is limited so register early. The full agenda for the conference has been posted. SCHR will be leading a field tour on Wednesday entitled Southern Santa Barbara Coastal Streams Tour: Fish Passage on Agricultural and Urban Stream, and on Saturday a presentation on steelhead recovery efforts in Carpinteria Creek. Visit calsalmon.org for more information and to register.



A PHOTO FROM THE 2011 SRF CONFERENCE IN SAN LUIS OBISPO

In addition SRF will host a workshop and training event next month in Ventura. The training will demonstrate innovative, technical methodologies in salmonid restoration to professional fisheries biologist and watershed restoration professionals. The training will be held January 14th-16th, 2014 at the Pierpoint Inn, in Ventura. The hands on workshop will assist engineers, hydrologist, planners and biologist in the design and implementation of fish passage projects. The workshop will cover the design and implementation process, including biological considerations, site surveys and geomorphic



A FIELD TOUR OF THE MISSION CREEK FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

assessment, state and federal fish passage design guidance, stream simulation design, grade control techniques, retrofitting existing crossings, contracting and implementation, monitoring and adaptation.

SRF was formed in 1986 to 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. For more information and to register check out calsalmon.org

California Society for Ecological Restoration - 21st Annual SERCAL Conference

SERCAL 2014
Working Collaboratively for Successful Restoration
 13-15 May 2014 at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa

Call for Abstracts
www.sercal.org

ABSTRACT DEADLINE:
 1 Feb 2014

21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
 California Society for Ecological Restoration

Next year's SERCAL conference, "Working Collaboratively for Successful Restoration" will be held in Santa Rosa, CA from May 13 – 15. We couldn't agree more with the theme as our work wouldn't be possible without collaboration. The conference will consist of field tours, posters and technical presentations on riparian restoration, special-status species recovery and tidal restoration. Abstracts are being accepted through February 1, 2014.

SERCAL is currently looking for presenters to participate in the conference. Abstracts are being accepted through February 1, 2014. SERCAL is dedicated to the purpose of bringing about the recovery of damaged California ecosystems. SERCAL was founded in 1991, and was the first state chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, SERCAL has since reorganized as an independent nonprofit, the California Society for Ecological Restoration.

Please consider supporting SERCAL by becoming a member or sponsoring the conference. For more information on submitting an abstract or to register for the conference please visit www.sercal.org/

CCWC Annual Celebration Recap

The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition held its 12th anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 21st at Carpinteria's Linden Field as part of Santa Barbara Creek Week. The celebration included informational tables from different coalition members that have been involved in the Watershed. This included: The City of Carpinteria, Carpinteria's Creek Committee, South Coast Habitat Restoration, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park Docents. In total around 75 individuals from the community came out to learn about the watershed and celebrate this important milestone. The event was a great success. Thank you to all of the Coalition members that helped organize and support the celebration.

Additionally as part of Creek Week the CCWC hosted an informative presentation by UCSB Geologist Ed Keller on the geology of our local coastal streams. The presentation was very well attended with 22 participants. The next evening presentation will be given by Scott Cooper, on the Ecology of our local streams on Thursday, December 12th at the Veterans Memorial Hall in Carpinteria.



A GROUP OF LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE CELEBRATION AND LEARNING ABOUT THE EFFORTS OF THE CCWC



RILEY KRIEBEL, A VOLUNTEER SHOWS A CHILD HOW A WATERSHED WORKS



A PHOTO FROM THE EVENING PRESENTATION HOSTED BY THE CCWC IN MARCH

Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration



The Refugio Creek Mouth Restoration Project is now underway. Non-native vegetation along the banks of Refugio Creek including palm trees, eucalyptus, and myoporum, were removed during the first few weeks of October, following the end of nesting bird season. Non-native trees and shrubs that were removed were mulched on site and will be used around the native plants that get installed over the next few months. The site is now ready for volunteers to help install native container plants. Volunteer events are in the works for Saturday January 11th, Saturday

the 18th, and Saturday the 25th. Native plants to be installed include arroyo willows, elderberry, blackberry, giant rye grass, and a variety of other wetland, dune and coastal sage scrub species. If you are interested in volunteering any of these days please contact us for more information. Funding for the project is being provided by the Southern California Wetland Recovery Project and Southern California Edison. SCHR has partnered with California State Parks and Channel Islands Restoration to complete the project. If you would like additional

Information about the project please check out the project blog at: refugiocreekmouth.blogspot.com



A RECENT PHOTO OF THE REFUGIO CREEK MOUTH SHOWS THE MULCHED AREAS TO BE PLANTED AS PART OF THE PROJECT

Volunteers Needed

Please join us at Refugio State Beach for three planting events: Saturday January 11th, Saturday January 18th, and Saturday January 25th. We will meet at the State Beach at 9am each day. Contact us for more information or to RSVP info@schabitatrestoration.org

CCWC Evening Community Presentation Series



The Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition will host the final evening presentation for the year on Thursday December 12th, from 7:00-8:00pm at the Veterans' Memorial Building in Carpinteria, 941 Walnut Avenue. This month UCSB Ecologist, Scott Cooper will join us for an interesting presentation on the Ecology of our local streams. He will focus a portion of his talk on his research into the effects of wildfires on our stream ecology and specifically southern steelhead trout.

The presentation is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. We hope that you can join us for this fun and informative event. For more information visit carpinteriacreek.org



Letter From The Director Mauricio Gomez



As I reflect on the work South Coast Habitat Restoration has done in 2013, I think of partnerships. We have had another successful year of partnerships that has allowed our work to make an impact on habitat restoration in Santa Barbara and Ventura watersheds. As a result of our partnerships, we removed another major barrier to steelhead migration and installed another bridge over Carpinteria Creek. The removal of this barrier gets us one project closer to having the Carpinteria Creek Watershed completely restored for upstream steelhead migration! We are working closely with the landowner of the last barrier and hope to have the barrier removed within the next couple of years. Below I'd like to highlight some of the partnerships that make our work possible.

Private Landowners – Our work would not be possible without the support and trust that private landowners have in our work. Over the years we have built trusting partnerships with many landowners which has allowed for the restoration of creeks in our region. Landowner support is critical for our work and we thank each landowner for their partnership and look forward to forging new partnerships as we work in new watersheds.

Grant Funders – As the majority of our work is grant funded, we recognize that without our funding partners, we would not be able to accomplish our work. This year we had support from many funding partners including: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Conservancy, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Southern California Edison, Coastal Ranches Conservancy, UCSB Coastal Fund and private donations.

California State Parks – Our partnership with State Parks staff over the years has allowed us to complete work restoring the mouth of Carpinteria Creek and has allowed us to break ground on the restoration of the mouth of Refugio Creek.

Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition – The partnership that the Coalition is has allowed for the recovery of steelhead trout. The Coalition marked its 12th year of existence this year and in that time, the partnership has done an amazing job of watershed restoration working on invasive plant removal, fish passage barrier removal and water quality improvements.

Sustainable Conservation – We have begun partnering with Sustainable Conservation, by helping them with their visionary work of creating streamlined permitting programs. Our work requires many government permits and Sustainable Conservation is leading the path to creating processes for making the permitting path more efficient.

Interns – Our partnership with our interns is one that I am very proud of. We are able to provide an opportunity to share on the ground experiences for their future growth and development. We hope to continue our intern program into the future.

As I look toward 2014 and the ambitious work schedule before us, we are going to rely on our partnerships more than ever. Next year we will remove two additional fish barriers and install two bridges. In addition, if our grant funding is approved, we will remove an additional five barriers and install three bridges. As you can see from the above, we will require many partnerships in order to get the above accomplished.

Thank you for your continued support and your partnership. Please continue your support of our work by making a tax deductible donation so we can continue making partnerships and implementing habitat restoration projects.

Happy Holidays,

Mauricio Gomez

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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

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South Coast Habitat Restoration Winter 2013 Newsletter



PURPLE SAGE



GOBERNADOR CREEK



SLENDER SALAMANDER



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