
The Friends of San Leandro Creek News

Volume 5 Issue 1

September 2001

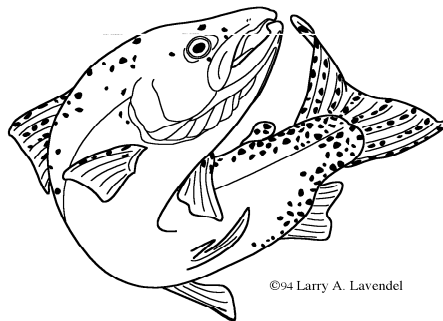
President's Message: Environmental Education Center Update

It has been quite awhile since our last newsletter and a lot of things have occurred.

One of the many exciting projects that I would like to update everyone on is our Environmental Education Center project. This center will be approximately 3,000 to 4,000 square feet and will house a main informational display area, computer classroom, kitchen, the Friends headquarters and much more.

Several key actions have taken place recently:

1. The Center has a new home as we have recently signed a long term lease for the property located at 777 Alvarado Street.
2. Senator Liz Figueroa has recommended our project to the State Department of Parks and Recreation for a \$1,500,000.00 grant to help with the construction costs.



***It's Up To All Of Us To Keep
Our Creek Healthy!***

3. The San Leandro Redevelopment Agency has agreed to provide us with \$10,000.00 to have a schematic re-design done of our center.

The members of the project's steering committee are working hard to finalize the projects requirements, amenities and budget.

We are hoping that we will be able to break ground on the project in May 2003.

For additional information about the project please see the Friends website at www.fslc.org or email me at rickrfslc@hotmail.com.

See you all at the creek!

T.W. "Rick" Richards, President

New FSLC Education Projects in the Works

The Friends have started two exciting new education projects for the San Leandro Creek Community as part of our Watershed Awareness Program. Over the next several months, we will be producing an interactive CD-ROM about the San Leandro Creek Watershed and a living history video of San Leandro Creek.

The CD-ROM will be an interactive educational tool for use in classrooms and in community meetings. It will include a visual creekside film tour of the upper and lower watersheds, aerial film footage of the entire San Leandro Creek Watershed, and lots information about water quality, and native riparian habitat. This will be a terrific complement to our class field trip program. The CD-ROM will allow students to see the stunning natural beauty of Upper San Leandro Creek Watershed after experiencing the creek in a more urban setting at the field trip sites in Root Park or Chabot Park. Students will then be able to imagine how San Leandro Creek (cont. page 2)

Education Projects, cont.

flowed naturally through downtown in the not too distant past!

The second new education project that we are working on is the San Leandro Creek Living History Video. This video will utilize San Leandro Creek as a medium for weaving together stories of the past and present members of the San Leandro Community.

Over the years, the Friends have heard many fascinating creek stories from our members and residents of San Leandro. We thought it would be fun to collect these stories on videotape and create a 30 minute film. These stories may include memories of fishing, swimming, wildlife sightings or just good old "childhood mischief memories". If you have any good first or second hand stories about San Leandro Creek, stay tuned- in the next few months we will begin asking you to share!

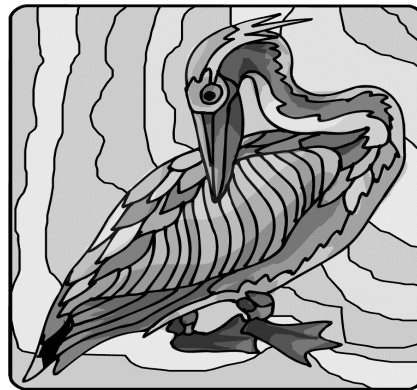
Both of these projects will be funded from various sources such as local agencies and private grant foundations. We are actively seeking funds and will begin production on both projects in the coming months. If you have any questions about these projects please call Signe Sterner at (510) 577-6069.

Water Quality Monitoring Update

Our volunteer water quality monitoring continues this

year, led by the committed team of Don Eliason and Catherine Ryan, with help from several other volunteers. These volunteers spend one Saturday morning each month out at the creek, testing for dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity and other parameters that give an indication of water quality in San Leandro Creek. This ongoing testing provides a historical baseline of data for us to use far into the future.

This volunteer data was recently requested by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and will be used in a regional East Bay Creek Study. Thank you to all of our Saturday volunteers for doing this important work!



Habitat Restoration Project at Root Park?

The Friends are hoping that this year's clean-up and tree replanting (see page 3) is the start of something big at Root Park.

We all know about the amazing mural painted by volunteers under

the bridge at Root Park, now we hope to restore the creek back to some of that natural beauty portrayed in the mural. The Friends are currently working with the City of San Leandro and Alameda County to develop a long term habitat restoration plan for the creek near Root Park.

We believe that this would be an ideal site for a large restoration project due to its proximity to a public park and it's visibility within the community. We hope it will serve as a model and source of inspiration for other landowners to undertake native planting projects along San Leandro Creek.

Friends Host Creek Field Trips for Local Schools

The Friends of San Leandro Creek had a great time this past academic year with our school field trip program. We implemented a great new education program, which included water quality testing, native plant identification and aquatic insect sampling. Many of the students also spent time learning about the San Leandro Creek Mural and just enjoying being near this special creek.

We had students from Roosevelt, McKinley, Monroe, Washington, and Wilson Elementary Schools, as well as Broadmoor Co-op Preschool and the Principled Academy all participate in our program this year. We hope to spend even more time at the creek with San Leandro students this coming year!

Thanks to Jan Woycheshin, our board Secretary, for all of the assistance on the field trips!

DON'T FORGET!

Sept 15th Creek Clean-Up and Native Tree Replanting at Root Park!

We need your help at the Annual Coastal Clean-Up Day. This year we will be cleaning the creek, clearing burned debris from a creek bank that was burned in last spring's arson fires and replanting the bank with native trees. The native riparian trees we are planning to plant include California Buckeye, Coast Live Oak, Big Leaf Maple, and California Bay Laurel.

The week before the replanting we might even have some live goats on the site, munching down all of the non-native Himalayan Blackberry vines! This is a popular way to clear out these aggressive vines before planting native plants along the creek bank. Clearing out non-native plants creates a better habitat for wildlife such as native birds.

The work will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at noon on Saturday, Sept. 15th. We will meet at Root Park (Hays & East 14th St.) Students, families, and any interested individuals are welcome! Please wear sturdy shoes, long pants and bring your work gloves. We will have plenty of snacks and drinks for all of our hard-working volunteers.

We have ambitious goals for this year's clean-up, so please come out and help if you can!

What's Going on in our Bay Area Watersheds?

News from other organizations:

Aquatic Outreach Institute will begin their Annual Creeks, Wetlands and Watersheds Conference in November for educators and the general public. This series of Saturday workshops will feature institutes on hands-on creek restoration techniques, wildlife habitat gardening, marsh restoration, and much more. Call (510) 231-5778 for more info.

Save the Bay sponsors a community restoration project at Arrowhead Marsh in the MLK Shoreline (this is where San Leandro Creek empties into San Francisco Bay). They meet the 2nd Saturday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and work on restoring native marsh habitat. Upcoming dates include Nov. 10th & Dec. 8th. Visit their website at www.savesfbay.org for more info.

Alameda Creek Alliance recently worked together with several local agencies to remove small dams in the Sunol area. The removal of these dams and others, with the addition of fish ladders is hoped to aid in the upstream migration of native salmon species in Alameda Creek. Visit www.alamedacreek.com for more

information on their current projects.

THANK YOU! Thanks to all of our volunteers who have helped staff events this year, including:

Bob Condap

Don Eliason

Steve Hunte

Sandy Kyle

Patricia Millar

Dave Owen

Chris Richards

Mike Rogala

Jan Woycheshin

Paul Woycheshin

And a huge thanks to all of you who have volunteered at the clean-ups and supported us through your membership!



Important Phone Numbers

Listed below are a few phone numbers that will come in handy in helping to keep our creek and city maintained:

San Leandro

Clean Water Program	577-3439
Street Sewers	577-3449
Street Repairs	577-3449
Refuse Services	577-3452
Street Cleaning	577-3483
Graffiti Abatement Hotline	577-6096
Weeds and Debris	577-3457
Tree Maintenance (City)	577-3444
Park Maintenance	577-3444
Adopt-A-Park	577-3463
Abandoned/Inoperative Vehicles	577-3208
Illegal Dumping Reporting	577-3201
Friends of San Leandro Creek	569-9405 or 577-6069

Alameda County

Clean Water Program	670-5543
Rotline (Home composting program)	635-7275
Household Hazardous Waste	(800) 606-6606

Miscellaneous

Davis Street SMaRT (Soil Products and Recycling Information)	638-2303
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Friends of San Leandro Creek Meetings

Our meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every other month in the San Leandro Hospital Education Center at 13855 East 14th Street. You do not have to be a paid member to attend. New faces are always welcome. However,

hopefully you will like what you see and hear and want to join.

2001 Meeting Dates

October 9th December 7th*

2002 Meeting Dates

February 12th August 13th
April 9th October 8th
June 11th December 13th*

* Meeting is the Annual Potluck Night and is on a Friday

PLEASE NOTE THE POTLUCK DATE CHANGE ABOVE!

The Friends and Their Mission

The Friends of San Leandro Creek is a group of citizens, businesses and students dedicated to improving citizen understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

The mission of the Friends of San Leandro Creek is to restore and enhance San Leandro Creek, to increase its potential as a visual and recreational amenity, to preserve its cultural and natural history and to make San Leandro Creek an economically attractive resource, and a healthy environment for its native flora and fauna.

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.FSLC.ORG

Officers and Board of Directors:

T.W. "Rick" Richards, President
Dave Owen, Vice President
Jan Woycheshin, Secretary
Paul Woycheshin, Treasurer
Claudia Taurean, Membership Coordinator

Other Representatives:

Don Eliason, Water Quality Monitoring Specialist/Trainer
Steve Hunte, Creek Cleanup Coordinator
Signe Sterner, Watershed Program Coordinator/Newsletter Editor
Chris Richards, Webmaster

FSLC Membership

There are five types of annual memberships:

Student	\$ 1.00
Individual	\$ 5.00
Family	\$ 15.00
Non-Profit Corp.	\$ 25.00
Business	\$ 100.00

Please renew or become a member by submitting your name, address & dues to the address below:

Mailing Address:

Friends of San Leandro Creek
P.O. Box 202
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 569-9405 or (510) 577-6069
email: sterner.fslc@prodigy.net