
The Friends of San Leandro Creek News

Volume 6 Issue 1

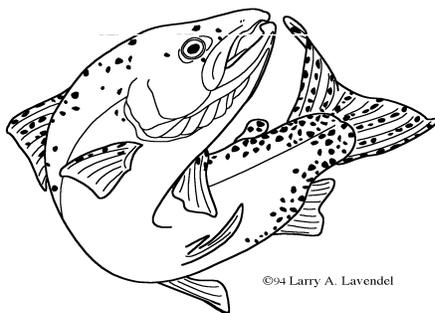
September 2002

DATE CHANGE! Oct. 5 Creek Cleanup and Native Tree Planting at Root Park!

We need your help at our Coastweeks Cleanup Day. This year we will be removing refuse from the creek and replanting the bank with native riparian trees. We will also be clearing undergrowth from the trees that were planted last September.

The work will begin at 9:00 AM and end at noon on Saturday, Oct. 5th. 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.

This important work helps to restore the creek to a more natural state. Please come out and help if you can!



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

FSLC Moves Forward with Education Projects

The Friends are in the final stages of producing our new interactive CD-ROM. We will be distributing copies of this exciting educational tool to San Leandro classrooms this fall. (See our article regarding local schools for more information.) We are now turning our focus to production of 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 could 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, we would love to have you share them with us! This project will be funded from various sources such as local agencies and private grant foundations. We are actively seeking funds and plan to begin production in the coming months. If you have any questions about this project please call Susan Criswell at 510.577.6069.

Water Quality Monitoring Update

Our faithful volunteer water quality monitoring team, led by Don Eliason and Catherine Ryan with assistance from several other volunteers, continues to collect data. 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 our use.

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board presented preliminary findings from their Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) at the Friends August meeting. The San Leandro Creek Watershed was one of six pilot watersheds chosen for study as a part of the initial monitoring effort of SWAMP. A highly sophisticated monitoring system was placed at eleven different monitoring sites on our watershed. It measured basic water quality parameters at 15-minute intervals during one 12 to 14 day period in each of three hydrologic seasons (winter wet season, spring runoff season and summer dry season). In addition to the water quality monitoring, an aquatic bioassessment was performed. Not surprisingly, the preliminary data analysis revealed that our upper watershed system is much healthier than the lower watershed. The Friends are cooperating with this study by providing baseline data from our own monitoring efforts to the Water Quality Control Board. The WQCB plans to release a complete data report of SWAMP findings at the end of 2002. We look forward to hosting a presentation of the final report at a membership meeting early next year. We would like to thank Matt Cover of the SFBRWQCB for bringing this information to our August meeting.

Friends Working to Raise Watershed Awareness in Local Schools

The Friends of San Leandro Creek are excited that we will be distributing our new CD-ROM to San Leandro classrooms this fall! The CD-ROM is an interactive educational tool for use in classrooms that includes a visual creekside film tour of the upper and lower watersheds, aerial film footage of the entire San Leandro Creek Watershed, and lots of 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 flowed naturally through downtown in the not too distant past!

Friends of San Leandro Creek had a great time hosting our school field trip program last spring. Students from several local schools participated in our program this year. A highlight of our field trip season was that Channel 4's *Bay Area Backroads* featured footage of Ms. Flint's fourth grade class from Washington Elementary

School visiting the creek. 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!

What's Going on in our Bay Area Watersheds?

Aquatic Outreach

Institute will begin their Annual Creeks, Wetlands and Watersheds Conference in October for educators and the general public. This series of Saturday workshops will feature institutes on creek assessment and restoration techniques, native plants, sustainable land use, and much more. Academic credit is available. Call 510.231.9566 for more info.

Palomares Creek

Watershed Festival will take place Saturday, September 21 at Palomares Elementary School in Castro Valley from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information phone 925.371.0154 ext. 115.

The City of Oakland

will be hosting their seventh annual *Creek to Bay Day* Saturday, September 21st, from 9 a.m. to Noon. This volunteer creek cleanup, restoration and planting event will be taking place at various locations in Oakland. For more information call

510.238.7611, or visit
www.oaklandpw.com/creeks.

The California Coastal

Commission sponsors an international COASTWEEKS celebration of our coastal and water resources. The celebration is kicked off by Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 21 and continues through Oct. 12 with fun events for both youth and adults. For a schedule of COASTWEEKS events, visit their web site at www.coastforyou.org or call 800.Coast-4U.

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.

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

Susan Criswell, Watershed Awareness

Coordinator/Newsletter Editor

Chris Richards, Webmaster

Friends of San Leandro Creek Meetings

Our meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the second Tuesday of every other month at the San Leandro Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue. You do not have to be a paid member to attend. New faces are always welcome. We hope you will like what you observe and join us in membership!

2002 Meeting Dates

October 8th December 13th*

2003 Meeting Dates

February 11th August 12th

April 8th October 14th

June 10th December 12th*

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.FSLC.ORG

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 our mailing address:

Friends of San Leandro Creek
P.O. Box 202

San Leandro, CA 94577

510.569.9405 or 510.577.6069

Email: susanc@fslc.org

SAVE THE DATE:

Our annual Environmental Forum will be held Saturday, February 22, 2003 from 10 AM to noon at the Marina Community Center. Please join us for an update on legislation that will impact the environment!