



This issue is dedicated in memory of Sue Markusfeld, Founding member of the Mill Valley StreamKeepers.

MVSK Meetings

10am on 2nd Saturdays, Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. All welcome, bring your concerns.

Recent Grants

- Marin Municipal Water District
- SF Estuary Project
- County of Marin
- Marin Co. Wildlife & Fisheries Advisory

StreamKeeper Progress

MVSK has supported stream bank vegetation restoration work in Old Mill Park and Boyle Park by the STRAW (Student and Teachers Restoring All Watersheds) program of the Bay Institute and the Bloomathon restoration of the Elizabeth Terwilliger Marsh banks. In addition in cooperation with local community agencies the following studies have been produced. They will be available at the Mill Valley Library October 25, 6-9 Creekside Room.

- *Feasibility Study to Rehabilitate the Fishery Resources of the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio Watershed*
- *Mill Valley Watershed Volunteer Stream Survey Manual*
- *Bio-assessment of Four Marin County Watersheds*
- *Mt. Tamalpais Road and Trail Assessment and Management Plan*
- *Marin County Stream Crossing Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation*
- *Establishment of on line data, reports, and analyses, www.krisweb.com*
- *MVSK 2003 Arroyo Corte Madera salmonid habitat survey, including erosion site assessment posted on www.krisweb.com*
- *Preliminary fish barrier culvert modifications and flood assessment, Arroyo Corte Madera and Old Mill Creek*
- *Currently being studied: Macroinvertebrate sampling and identification; V* sediment study, Arroyo Corte Madera and Old Mill Creek*

MVSK's work is far from done. We continue to actively seek grants, and donations, and to pursue other avenues to protect and restore our creeks and their watershed. Salmonid habitat restoration will continue to guide MVSK work – the steelhead that are in our creeks now, the coho that will be there one day in the future.

Endangered Spotted Owls Observed in Mill Valley

Come, learn about our unique community

**Tuesday 6-9 pm, October 25
Mill Valley Library, Creekside Room**

Site Supervisor and Naturalist, Mia Monroe, Muir Woods National Park will share her years of observation of the Spotted Owl in Mill Valley and Muir Woods. Bring your questions about native plantings and stream bank restoration that encourage native wildlife.

Sponsored by StreamKeepers & The City of Mill Valley.

A Creek Depends on A Lot

Mill Valley's Municipal Code currently provides only minimum creek protection. The 30 foot setback is set forth in the Floodplain only. This does not protect the majority of our creeks, cascades, and intermittent streams. The Planning Dept. has scheduled a public hearing on a new basic creek protection ordinance **Nov. 14: Planning Commission & Nov. 21: City Council.**

The proposed ordinance continues the 30-foot setback from the top bank of the creek. A setback helps prevent bank erosion by providing an area where rainwater run-off and sediment can percolate into the soil before entering the creek. This cleaning and slowing effect can protect the quality of water in our creeks, having a positive impact on fish and other wildlife populations. In addition, the setback provides a buffer corridor for riparian wildlife, stormwater and native plants.

The proposed ordinance prohibits the construction, alteration, expansion, of any structure or impervious surface as well as placing fill, grading or paving materials within the 30-foot protection zone. Removal, destruction or replacement of indigenous vegetation within this zone including the lateral branches of trees is also prohibited. The Coho Salmon are especially sensitive to warm water. Natural diversity is essential to stream health.

We urge the City and our readers to consider carefully this ordinance and to participate in the process of giving much needed attention and protection to our streams and our watershed. They are integral to the beauty of our town and to the integrity of our environment.

StreamKeeper Updates

Open Space

Success! The fundraising to complete purchase of the key open space property at the entrance to the Tenderfoot Trail in Mill Valley has been accomplished. MVSK urges you to contribute to the ongoing effort to save these fragile lands. Contact John Leonard, 415 388-6241 to help.

MVSK New Board Members

Periann Wood PhD, Mill Valley resident and EPA scientist and Peter Richmond, Tamalpais Park Neighborhood Assoc, Past President, Board member and local realtor have recently joined the MVSK Board of Directors. If you wish to serve on the board please come to our meetings.

Sign Dedication and Creek Walk

Dennis Fisco, then Mayor of Mill Valley, helped us dedicate a new "Life in Our Water Shed" sign at the beginning of the old Railroad Grade, Blithedale Canyon, Earth Day 2005. StreamKeepers led the group on an informative walk along Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio stream.

Current Stream Study

Coho Salmon food and stream quality are being studied, thanks to a grant from the San Francisco Estuary Project. Creek naturalist, Gary Reedy is overseeing the project. Entomologist, Morgan Hannaford PhD and volunteers collected and sorted samples from Old Mill and Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio streams.

Creek Care* A Guide for Marin Residents Hint:

Limit pet access to the creek and keep pets on a leash. Pets scare off fish and wildlife and muddy the creek. Pick up after your pets. Animal waste increases bacterial levels and contributes excess nutrients to the creek. Excess nutrients cause algal blooms which consume the oxygen in the water. *Booklet available from MCSTOPPP (415) 499-6528*



Earth Day 2005



"Do you know what this is? Do you know where it is? Learn what this device can tell us about the health of our watershed -- and the health of your property -- in the next issue of our newsletter.

Please Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers, MVSK is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization working to protect and restore our watersheds. Your help is urgently needed as a volunteer and/or donor. Please return this form so that we might contact you. www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

I want to support MVSK's by volunteering:

- Stream Sampling/Testing
- Habitat Restoration
- Legislative Watchdog
- Committee/Board Member
- Fundraiser/Grant Writer
- Other _____

I want to support MVSK by contributing:

\$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**Send your check to MVSK
P.O. Box 2531, Mill Valley, CA 94942**

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED