



Mill Valley StreamKeepers
 P.O. Box 2531
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www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

Join us at our monthly meetings: 10am on 2nd Saturdays, Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin. Bring your concerns.

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- **Carp**
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MVSK 2006 Grants
 Marin County \$1,000, Rain Gauge, Thanks to Supervisor Charles McGlashan

Marin County \$1,500, Fish barriers relief, Thanks to Supervisor Charles McGlashan

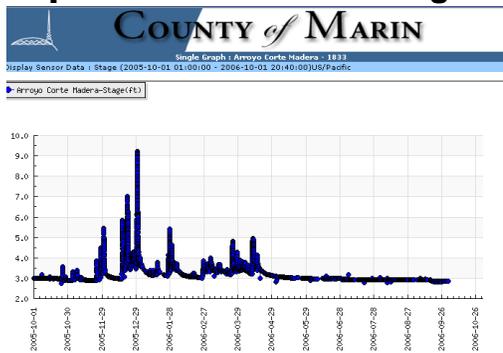
San Francisco Estuary Project \$3,000, Bacteria monitoring

Marin Municipal Water District \$15,000, Fish migration barrier relief and fish surveying

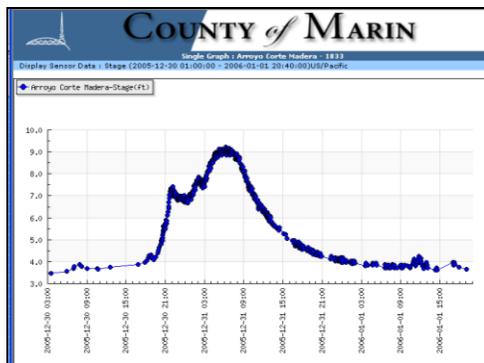
Marin Wildlife & Fisheries Advisory Committee \$930, Educational literature

USFWS pending

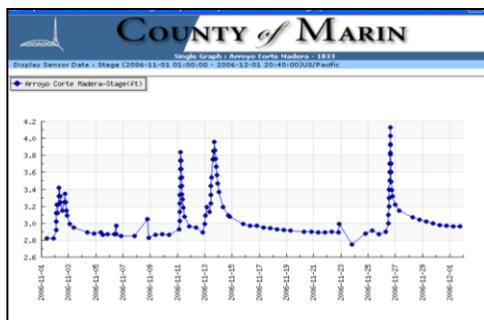
Science – Reports from the Rain Gauge



October 2005 – October 2006



New Year's 2006 Flood Event



November 2006

Engaging the Gauge

Little did we know when we asked the question in our last newsletter, "can you identify this?" that we would in, less than 2 months, experience one of Mill Valley's worst floods. The photo in our letter was that of a County-operated stream gauge, which is located on the creek bank at the Marin Theater Company. As a result of the extensive flooding in the city during the 2006 winter storms, the Department of Public Works and the County have worked together on a variety of projects to alert residents in flood plain areas, as well as to find ways to alleviate flooding.

The gauge of the Arroyo Corte Madera was installed in the 1960's by USGS, and its flow records have been maintained by the County ever since. StreamKeepers' consultant Bill Kier recommended to the City Council at a post-flood public meeting in January that the gauge be updated to show flow in cfs (cubic feet per second) as well as the high marks, and to put the current data online for residents to check during winter storms.

An added advantage to year-round proper flow monitoring of the creek is to evaluate the capacity of the creek for wildlife. Specifically, the goal of the StreamKeepers is restoring salmon to our own Mill Valley Watershed. We will explore this topic in our next issue.

In the meantime, check out the website <http://marin.onerain.com>. Click on Map Sites, and then click on the Mill Valley green dot. There you will find the current report from the gauge.

Harpin' on the Carp

Since mid May and even as late as September, we received inquiries about the carp in our creeks. The heavy rains and runoff from the Sierras brought down the fat, vibrant fish, first sighted under the Richardson Bay bridge, and mistaken for pink salmon! But no, they were not the noble fish, but unfortunately, an exotic (invasive) intruder, imported from Europe in the 19th century. As the creeks subsided, the carp became trapped in the creek near the Marin Theater. Because they were literally "fish in a barrel", the Department of Fish and Game posted a "no fishing" sign. The advice of the County was simple: leave them alone and let nature take its course. We hope that Mill Valley's raccoon population took care of some of the problem. We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions in case of a future return of the carp.

Volunteer Opportunity: Spawning Surveys Set to Begin in January

Mill Valley StreamKeepers seeks volunteers to monitor Mill Valley streams for steelhead migration and spawning. The purpose of the survey is to determine the presence of steelhead trout migrating into the Arroyo Corte Madera watershed during the winter spawning season, observe their spawning behaviors, and monitor steelhead interactions with culverts thought to impede migration.

Steelhead, the anadromous (sea-going) form of rainbow trout, are surprisingly adaptable to the urban environment and have been found in a number of Bay Area streams. In Mill Valley's Arroyo Corte Madera, steelhead have been reported as high up in the watershed as Old Mill Park. Steelhead are born in the upper reaches streams, rear in freshwater 1-3 years, migrate to the ocean where they mature to adulthood, and return to natal waters to spawn. In Marin, spawning generally occurs between January and March.

Fisheries biologist Gary Reedy will train volunteers in monitoring protocols. No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be able to walk uneven surfaces and commit to at least two half-day survey sessions between January and March (to be scheduled).

This study is funded by the Marin Municipal Water District's Willis Evans Watershed Habitat Improvement Grant Program.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Junko Bryant at 415-389-5902 or junko@urbancreeks.org. Volunteer training is scheduled for **Saturday, January 20th, 10 AM-1 PM.**

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. Please include your address label.

I am enclosing a check made out to
Mill Valley StreamKeepers
in the amount of \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ ___

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