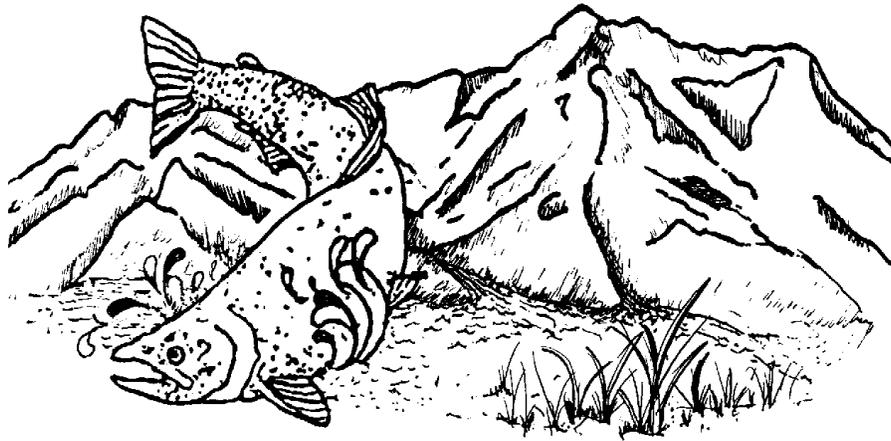


Mill Valley StreamKeepers Watershed News



Issue 21

Mill Valley StreamKeepers protecting and restoring our watershed

Winter 2022

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531
Mill Valley, CA 94942
415 388-4649
www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

Board Meetings: usually
5 pm
2nd Monday each month
450 Sycamore Ave.,
Mill Valley, CA
SASM Community Room



2020-2022 ACTIVITIES

Look for our Banner:
We Love Fish!
Valentine's Week, 2023

April 23, 2023 Earth Day Weekend

Our MVSK Work Party:
On Sunday April 23 at noon at
the Old Mill Park just upstream
from the Cascade Avenue
bridge, we will lead a work
party for those of you who like
to care for the earth. Bring your
lunch, clippers and digging
tools and be a part of Mill
Valley's Earth Day
Beautification.

Come join us!

MVSK - Mill Valley
StreamKeepers is a
501C3 organization.

Visit our website to make tax
deductible donations online.
www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org

Give our name at Mill Valley
Market.

Or mail us a check!

LONG RANGE

- >Took part in Sea Level Rise Zoom Meetings held by our County Supervisor, Stephanie Moulton Peters, for southern Marin. Considered Climate Change effects on our watershed.
- >Resumed effort to remove barriers to salmon migration during times of low creek flow.

HABITAT RESTORATION

- >Continued campaign to rid the streambanks of the invasive, non native sedge, *Carex pendula*.
- >Paid for plants for Eagle Scout Project pulling *Carex pendula* and planting natives at Eggers Plaza.
- >Met on Butterfly Garden Project at MV LumberYard & habitat restoration at Golf Course.
- >Some hours of individual weeding by volunteers.

RESPONSES

- >Is Algae killing fish? A concerned resident was referred to MCSTOPPP.
- >Crows! Work by city on trash can covers in parks was supported.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- >All hail the MVSK banner flying over Blithedale Avenue around Valentine's Day.
- >Scholarship provided for city field worker to take Rescape training on native plant guidelines in parks.
- >Published article [Eucalyptus Trees in the Urban Forest of Mill Valley, California](#) in Forest River News, Spring 2021
- >Oxygen, temperature, clarity were among parameters of stream monitoring.
- >Provided scholarships to environmental camps.

COLLABORATIONS

- >MVSK was a supporter of an effort spearheaded by Richard McMurtry of Santa Clara to have legislation passed to fund watershed habitat restoration in the San Francisco Bay region.
- >Joint work with the MV Library program BorrowedTime had to be abandoned due to Covid.
- >Work with Old Mill School kids had to be abandoned due to Covid.
- >Followed work of Resilience by Design and Shore Up Marin City regarding sea level rise.
- >Participated in Marin Creeks Symposium with creek groups & county in day long program of successes and setbacks in stream projects. Gave talk: Invasive *Carex pendula* Removal.

CIVIC OUTREACH

- >Contact with the city about pending report on repair needs of bridges and culverts led to the inclusion of noting the 5 areas which are barriers to fish migration during low streamflow.

Mill Valley StreamKeepers Watershed News

FISH STORY

“Yikes! Look at that fish!” Down in a stream in Mill Valley is a gigantic fish – at least 16 inches long. This is a unique yet timeless experience special to Mill Valley. The ancient process of salmon – Coho and Steelhead, swimming up to spawn, eggs nestled in “redds”, alefins hatching and hanging out in the gravel nests, young fish growing and finally juveniles swimming bravely out to the big salt water habitat in the ocean. They return a couple of years later, big grown ups to continue the cycle.

Kids saw them first in the winter of 2021. But the large fish were not Coho or Steelhead, but rather were Chinook Salmon which have not previously been reported in Mill Valley’s streams. Apparently these fish preferred our streams to their birth place, a hatchery further on up the San Francisco Bay. Circling around under the footbridge at Old Mill Park, the fish were unable to get upstream to good spawning locations because a lip of the culvert under the bridge, combined with not enough flow in the stream, stopped their progress. If they had made it over that, then an apron of cement just upstream from the bridge would be a barrier. Thwarted by a “temporal” barrier to migration!

“Temporal – time of drought and low flows in the streams. Climate change – a time of massive downpours such as in late October, 2021. Some fish did make it up Old Mill Creek past several barriers. We hope they spawned! We humans here have been part of the cause of climate change, part of the cause of “temporal” barriers. How can we help mitigate, correct, adapt?

We are part of a supportive network of city staff, the police and fire departments, SASM - the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin, MCSTOPPP – Marin County STOrmwater Pollution Prevention Program, county agencies, State Fish and Wildlife, State Water Board, Federal Fish and Wildlife, Corps of Engineers ... egads! And a network of nonprofit, 501 c3 stream organizations all around us. BUT most importantly, we are residents, owners of streamsidings, renters who like to walk along the streams, land owners all through the watershed, right up to the ridges.

We can do lots of little things and also big expensive things! We can ensure that water from rains sinks into the land, replenishing the ground water which right from the top feeds the streams after the rain stops. Rain gardens! We can keep fertilizers and dog poop out of the stream. We can pull out non-native invasive plants which crowd out the natives and contribute nothing to the intricate web of life. And we can support major infrastructure changes such as removing the concrete barriers to fish migration

For our own pleasure and for nature: Let’s get to it!

Thank you! To our supporters both in time and finances.



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 or donate online www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

Please include your address label if you have one.

I am enclosing a check made out to Mill Valley StreamKeepers in the amount of

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

_____ I want to Volunteer with MVSK

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____