



Mill Valley StreamKeepers

With our community, we are committed to Preserving, Conserving & Restoring the ecologic integrity of the watershed for Mill Valley's future generations.

ISSUE 16 NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015

MVSK

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531
Mill Valley, CA 94942
(415) 388-4187, Joyce

www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org



GET INVOLVED!

Our organization likes to work with community members from the expert to the inexperienced and people of all ages.

Our meetings are typically at SASM, 450 Sycamore Ave., MV, on the second Saturday at 10:00 am.

Please call to confirm times and places c/o Joyce
415 388-4187



We are now on Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest, to expand our outreach, advertise education programs, share pictures and information.



ONLINE DONATIONS

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

Also donate by giving our number **(7085)** to the cashier at **Mill Valley Market**.

Or mail us a check!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

Along with this newsletter we would be happy to mail you the Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program "Fish Friendly Guide" for Marin County residents. It is also available online at www.MCSTOPPP.org. Other MCSTOPPP publications we can send you: "Creek Care: A Guide for Marin Residents"; "Go Native: Using Native Plants for your Yard, Patio, Creek"; and "Groundwork: a Handbook for Small-Scale Erosion Control in Coastal California". Also available: a Mill Valley Watershed map in our brochure and on our website.

2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LONG RANGE:

Reviewed and commented on the draft environmental impact report for Redwood Lodge on Corte Madera Avenue and the Initial Study for the Miller Avenue repaving work.

Studied change implications of climate and sea level to Mill Valley.

Initiated study of the Mill Valley General Plan, Natural Environment, study of a possible slope ordinance, disaster recovery planning.

Carried out monitoring of stream conditions at four sites and compared to data from the last thirteen years. Resolved to continue monitoring program in this time of climate change.

Welcomed two new board members to Mill Valley StreamKeepers: Matt Schallock and Zack Cohn.

HABITAT RESTORATION:

We worked with the STRAW (Students Restoring A Watershed) project weeding and replanting the streamside at Old Mill Creek near the bridge in Old Mill Park. A new sign was posted at the site.

Contracted a fish monitoring in selected locations in Mill Valley.

Our brochure on the removal of invasive hanging sedge was mailed to 258 Mill Valley residences. These properties are within fifty feet of the stream and likely have *Carex pendula* invading the stream banks. A letter accompanying the brochure requested the help of owners to clear the plant to allow reestablishment of native plants.

RESPONSES:

Responded to phone and email requests from citizens. This involved making field visits, studying records at the city and county and advising citizens.

COLLABORATIONS:

Represented MVSK at meetings including: Clean Mill Valley, North Bay Watershed Council and Association, Marin Conservation League's Water Committee, Watershed Alliance of Marin, Marin Invasive Plant Removal Committee and served as public representative on MCSTOPPP Citizen Advisory Committee, Southern Marin Watershed Technical Working Group.

Welcomed a Mill Valley Middle School student to board meetings & sponsored an environmental grant for a student work day.

Held a board meeting at Mill Valley Lumber and discussed ideas for future collaboration including work parties in the stream and involvement of gardener, and posting of educational signs.

We co-sponsored with the city of Mill Valley a grant proposal to the State Department of Water Resources for work on Lower Miller Avenue stream restoration and flood control. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant.

Worked with Mill Valley staff members, especially in the Department of Public Works.

The city helped us develop the mailing list for streamside residents.

We alerted the city to illegal fishing.

We conferred with the city about no fishing signs and habitat restoration.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

Created Mill Valley Library case display of watershed issues

Posted a "We Love Fish" Banner over E. Blithedale Ave, Valentine's week.

Manned a table at Mill Valley's April Volunteer Day, at Mill Valley Middle School Public Service Day, and at Tiburon Salmon Institute's Kiss the Fish Day in May.

Translation into Spanish of the *Carex pendula* removal brochure was initiated. Also a more diagrammatic version will be developed.

Developed a new website, Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest pages.

Presented and took part in a Stream Monitoring Workshop in Novato



Invasive Hanging Sedge at Old Mill Park

DONORS

Mill Valley Market
Outdoor Art Club
Google Match
Marin Fish & Wildlife Commission
East Peak Graphics
JUSTGIVE
Scott Valley Association

Anonymous (1)
Natalie Belloni
Betsy & Dan Bikle
Patti & Len Blumin
Liz & John Bolton
Lynn Breger
Joyce Britt
Sheila Brookes
Peter & Mimi Buckley
Deborah Buehler
Pam & David Canepa
Zack Cohn
Susan & Matt Connelly
Joyce Crews
Kathy Cuneo
Joan Dedo
Richard M. Dennes
Nona Dennis
Pat & Tom Dicker
Jon Elam
Ned Engle
Lars & Annabelle Eriksson
Phyllis Faber
Pam & Dennis Fisco
Barbara Ford
Dr Michael & Janet Fox
Ann Fricker & Skip Sandberg
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Victoria & Russell Lemle
Jacques & Leslie Leslie
Barbara & Warren Levinson
Jonathan Livingston
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Marvin & Linda Lundwall
Jan & Matt Mathews
Beverly & Earl Mayeri
A. Bernard McCarthy
Jane Miller
Mia Monroe
Geri & Jim Nardi
Soo Hi & Alan Nayer
John Palmer
Colette & Jim Parrinello
Sarah Peter
Philip Richardson
Catherine Rosekrans
Matt Schallock
Catherine & Larry Shaw
D.A. & G.L. Sloan
Anne & Don Solem
Joanne & Dick Spotswood
Joan Murray & Jim Stephenson
Nancy Stoltz & Craig Corbitt
Susanne Tilp & Ethan Grossman
Christina & Ken Waldeck
Periann Wood & Doug Wilson
Margaret Zegart
Amy Zimpfer & Harold Ball

Views of Our Watershed



The littlest park on ACMdP



All trees cleared on this slope



Alto Bowl trail expansion



Urbanized former wetlands



Native fern vs. invasive sedge



Richardson Bay

What is a watershed? An area of land where all water that is under it, or drains off of it, collects into the same place.

Action: Living in a Watershed

Watersheds, Streams, Property, Wildlife, Government -

Who will take the last fish from the Commons? This is a question from the nineteenth century: to what lengths will individuals go for their private advancement, while destroying the common good. And to what extent will civic policies ignore the common good. Once Mill Valley had a rich Coho salmon population just as did Redwood Creek which flows out of Muir Woods to the ocean at Muir Beach. Consider these comments of Joyce Britt about Redwood Creek Coho and efforts to save them. Their numbers were such that the Miwok built a fishing village to enjoy them. But for a century, predation in the form of human encroachment, forced Redwood Creek [all the creeks of Mill Valley] into a narrow channel. The wetlands were destroyed and in their place came road construction and displacement of habitat...Human impact, the effect of the drought years, and the failure of Marin County and the [city of Mill Valley] ... to take the steps necessary to save the Commons from losing its last coho salmon are behind this Commons Tragedy. [The last fish were removed for nurture last year despite] efforts such as the 15 million dollar restoration of Big Lagoon.

The water in our streams is public commons; the land underneath is either privately owned or publicly owned. *Who are our individuals? What are our policies?* Our individuals are residents, commercial owners of real estate, developers, kids who fish Our policies are zoning laws and ordinances, permits requiring best management procedures, General Plan statements to protect our environment, efforts to address climate change... Mill Valley StreamKeepers invite you to join in the effort to improve our stewardship of the Common Good - good neighbor actions, new ordinances, strong scientific management of the watershed.

If you see work in the city or county that is unpermitted and harms your environment, call or write an email to your public staff and/or elected official. Ask for followup and Inform your neighbors. - The fish will thank you!!
If you see toxic pollution in a stream, call the city or county (415) 388-4033 or (415) 499- 6528. After hours, call the Fire Department, (415) 389-4130 or 911.

Please Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers.

MVSK is a 100% volunteer, nonprofit organization working to protect & restore our watersheds. Your help would be welcome as a volunteer and/or donor.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Make checks out to **Mill Valley StreamKeepers**
in the amount of: \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ Other ___

visit us on the web at
www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org

I am interested in:

- Donating
- Volunteering
- Agendas of Board Meetings
- Agendas of Special Meetings
- Notes from Meetings
- Notice of MVSK Events
- .PDF of Newsletter
- List of Reports

Please return this form to:
Mill Valley StreamKeepers
P.O. Box 2531
Mill Valley, CA 94942

