

Mill Valley StreamKeepers Watershed News



Issue 22

Mill Valley StreamKeepers protecting and restoring our watershed

Winter 2023

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531

Mill Valley, CA 94942

415 388-4649

www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org

~ A 501C3 organization ~

MVSK is a partner with the
Trees Foundation

www.treesfoundation.org

Visit our website to make tax
deductible donations online.

www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org

Give our number (7085) at Mill
Valley Market! The Market will
generously give us a donation.

Or mail us a check!

Board Meetings: usually
5 pm open to the public
2nd Monday each month
450 Sycamore Ave.,
Mill Valley, CA
SASM Community Room
You are welcome!

Look for our Banner:
We Love Fish!
Valentine's Week, 2024



2023 ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE

>Supported Mill Valley's applying for a federal grant to remove/replace a bridge/culvert which creates a major barrier to Salmonid spawning in Old Mill Park. This request was refused, but there are plans to try again.

HABITAT RESTORATION

>Organized two work parties to remove weeds and non-native plants from 1) the creek banks in a stretch of Old Mill Creek in Old Mill Park 2) an area at the foot of Cascade Dam.

>Assisted with cleaning out owl boxes at the MV Golf Course

>Removed broom plant from the Warner Creek channel at the Golf Course.

>Continued effort to rid the streambanks of the invasive, non native sedge, *Carex pendula*.

>Conferred on Monarch Butterfly Garden beside creek running by Mill Valley Lumber Yard.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

>Flew the MVSK banner over Blithedale Avenue during the week of Valentine's Day.

>Upgraded and improved our Website with the generous financial and technical support of Mike Mooney, our newest board member.

>Promoted and provided gloves, plants and tools to a 3rd to 8th grade science project of North Bridge Academy to replace non-native with native plants on creek bank between the Outdoor Art Club and Mill Valley Market.

>Contributed money for scholarships for K - 2 children from low income families to attend a total of 8 camper weeks at Marin Green Play Camp. They learned a lot about nature, to enjoy being in it, how to respect and care for it.

CIVIC OUTREACH

>Had a table at Marin Earth Day, handing out information and discussing our work with the public.

>Helped with problems of residents, including: clearing of a creek, building within five feet of a creek, boys playing in stream.

The Good and the Bad!

Some good:

>An otter swimming around in the stream.

We reported it to the otter-spotter-community-based-science group at <https://riverottterecology.org> and received thanks. If you should see otters in Mill Valley's creeks, please let us know!

>School Children involved in stream education and work.

North Bridge Academy, located in downtown Mill Valley, has begun the early stages of stream renovations to a section of the Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio. 7th grade students have made several trips to the creek for general scouting, wildlife notes, camera trapping and the beginnings of invasive Carex removal. In 2024, this class and other grades from the school will visit the creek for continued non-native invasive removal, plantings of native riparian plants and surveys to restore the section of the creek as part of a unit on watersheds and in connection with raising rainbow trout in the classroom. With partnerships of the StreamKeepers, SPAWN and the Outdoor Art Club, North Bridge Academy looks forward to the progress of this exciting project in the new year!

Christian Naventi (*he / him*)
Natural Sciences Teacher
Certified California Naturalist
North Bridge Academy

>Opportunities for working together in the watershed coming up!

Some not good:

>Tires have a chemical which is death to salmon.

The chemical is shed from tires and washed into streams. The MV StreamKeepers hopes to get our streams tested next year. Hopefully we will have as small a level as was found in West Marin.

>Other pollutants get into the streams.

Here, is how you can help dealing with issues you spot.

From Dante Rovero, Mill Valley Engineering Technician, and contact for MCStoPPP, Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program:

If an illicit discharge is discovered after hours or appears to be hazardous material, please contact the Fire Department 415-388-8182 or 415-389-4130

If a discharge is discovered during the work hours of 8am-5pm and not hazardous (paint, concrete, muddy or soapy water, ETC), please call 415-384-4800 EXT 6 and myself at: 415-384-4820. Pictures can be emailed to my email and to Publicworks@Cityofmillvalley.org

From CDFW:

To Report a Poacher or Polluter

If you witness a poaching or polluting incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CALTIP number **1 888 334-CALTIP (888 334-2258)**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Or you may submit anonymous tips to CDFW using **tip411**. **tip411** an internet based tool from CitizenObserver.com that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to wildlife officers and lets the officers respond back creating an anonymous two-way conversation. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "**CALTIP**", followed by a space and the message, to **847411** (tip411).

Thank You!

Grants, Donations, and Time to
MVSK since December 1, 2022

The Estate of Phyllis Faber
Mill Valley Market

Anonymous
Matt, Karen & Jim Barkovich
Sheila Brooks
Matt & Susan Connelly
Betsy & Dan Bikle
Joyce Crews
Mary Finnican & Richard Rodolin
Pam Polite & Dennis Fisco
Ann and Skip Fricker
Barbara Ford
Trisha & Jim Garlock
Betty & Rudolph Goerke
Julie Hanft
Libby Jennings
Karen Kaye Jernstedt
Bill Kier
Hugh Kuhn
Victoria Beckner & Russell Lemle
Lulu Blue, llc
Jill Mantz
Ed Marshall
Jan and Matt Mathews
Mike and Elizabeth Mooney
Mark W. Moorberg
Soo Hi & Alan Nayer
John Palmer
Paul Matsuda & Sarah Perry
Anne Solem

We wish to thank Joyce Britt for her tremendous service to the Mill Valley StreamKeepers as steady, intelligent, inquiring, persistent and effective Vice President

Please Support

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

MVSK is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization working to protect and restore our watersheds. Your help is very welcome 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 _____