

# 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 15 Newsletter

WINTER 2014

## Online Donations

Visit our website to make tax-deductible donations online at:

[www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org](http://www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org)

This donation site is handled by the Trees Foundation. Please use US mail if this is not up and running.

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



## 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. We also network with other regional and watershed groups. Please call to confirm times and places.  
c/o Joyce 415 388-4187

[www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org](http://www.millvalleystreamkeepers.org)

## We Are Trying out Social Networking

We are in the exciting process of setting up Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest accessible from a revised website to expand our outreach, and education programs including sharing pictures and information.



MVSK

Mill Valley StreamKeepers

P.O. Box 2531

Mill Valley, CA 94942

415 388-4187, Joyce

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

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](http://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.

## 2014 Accomplishments

### LONG RANGE:

Researched city and county land use and environmental codes.

Researched city use of 2012 Measure A funds re habitat restoration and invasive plant removal. Funds available to city through 2022.

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

### HABITAT RESTORATION:

Distributed \$23,400 in grant money for salmon habitat restoration to STRAW (Students and Teachers Restoring All Watersheds) for planning of work by nine classrooms in 2015 at Old Mill Park.

Supported City of Mill Valley's Denise Andrews' project of keeping dogs out of the habitat by the stream below the dog park by paying \$2000 for the materials for a split rail fence installed by the city.

Made \$1,000 available for native plants for educator Julie Hanft's MVSK/Greenwood School Native Plant Nursery.

Mill Valley Beautification Day and Earth Day: dug up invasive *Carex pendula*, hanging sedge; replanted with native *Carex barbarae*.

Monitored the 2013 Eagle and Boy Scout project of *Carex pendula* removal and native plant revegetation of 400 feet of streambank.

Completed a brochure on the removal of invasive hanging sedge. Brochure will be distributed in Mill Valley in 2015.

### RESPONSES:

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

Wrote articles for Trees Foundation publications.

Worked with Clean Mill Valley Committee chaired by Joan Murray, Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Commission member, to work toward keeping bay waters clean and clear of invasive plants.

Represented MVSK at meetings including 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.

Had discussions with city and county watershed planners and engineers, the Tam Valley Service District, and the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin, SASM.

Received requests for working with students on projects.

### EDUCATION AND GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT:

Held a program featuring Gary Yost's video "The Invisible Peak" about restoration of Mt. Tam. Gary also displayed wildlife pictures contributed by the audience. The band, Chasing Hazel, generously played for us.

Created MV Library case display of watershed issues February 16-23.

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

Published annual Newsletter for website and 500 USPS mailing using a grant from the Marin Fisheries and Wildlife Commission.

At Tiburon Salmon Institute's Kiss the Fish Day, May 17, "manned" a table about Mill Valley watershed and streams including Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio and fish such as Threatened Steelhead.



ACMdP at high flow, next to Marin Theater Co. December. Note creek gage in upper left. On right, loss of riparian zone. Photo by Burton Miller

# Action: Living in a Watershed

In the coming year Mill Valley StreamKeepers will endeavor to work with citizens, public agencies, and associated groups to attend to the needs of our watershed and all its inhabitants.

Issues? Runoff control, Threatened Fish, Land Use, Climate Change, Ordinances, General Plan Policies, Restoration...

## Donors

*We wish to thank for their generosity, donors as they make the efforts of Mill Valley StreamKeepers possible.*

Mill Valley Market  
Outdoor Art Club  
Cereus Fund, Trees Foundation  
Marin Fish and Wildlife Commission  
The Dennis and Carol Ann Rocky Fund  
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Ethan Grossman & Susanne Tilp  
Christina & Ken Waldeck  
Steven Cummings & Ingrid Woods  
Margaret Zegart  
Amy Zimpfer & Harold Ball

The Watershed in Mill Valley feeds into: Richardson Bay

The Main Stream in Mill Valley: Arroyo Corte Madera del Presidio, ACMdP

Tributaries of ACMdP:

Reed Creek from Homestead Valley,

Warner Creek via golf course, Boyle Park,

Old Mill Creek, OM, in Cascade Canyon

Tributary of OM: Cascade Creek

Other MVStreams feeding into Richardson Bay:

Ryan Creek and Alto & Sutton Manor Creek

Coyote Creek & North Branch Tam Valley

Tributary of Coyote Creek: Oakwood Valley

*This past year* the city came to grips with its failure to enforce the conditions and restrictions of development and unpermitted work, as well as a long-overdue revision to fees and fines for violations.

This year we addressed the County's oversight of development in the Mill Valley watershed area of Homestead Valley. Reed Creek is habitat for a number of wildlife species, including endangered Spotted Owls and threatened Steelhead trout. MVSK and the Watershed Alliance of Marin have observed over 20 projects in violation of Marin County's Code.

Citizens notified us about unpermitted work, i.e., the demolition of an existing house and ground breaking for a new house on a slope angling down at more than 45 degrees to Reed Creek. The absence of design review, exhibited permits, or best management practices in excavating resulted in siltation into the creek. We contacted both the County Community Development Agency and the Department of Public Works. Neighbors could have assisted in evaluating the kind of construction which would minimize adverse consequences to the environment; this was a missed opportunity for the county, the developer and the neighborhood that would have resulted in a far better project.

One other example was on Reed Street. The neighbors notified us of fencing being constructed on either side of the creek and across it. The county does not have a stream conservation ordinance. However we met with the District's Supervisor's Aide, as well as staff of CDA and DPW and some improvement took place...

...If you see work in the county that is unpermitted and harms your environment, write an email to your District Supervisor and cc to the Board of Supervisors. If you phone, follow up with an email. Inform your neighbors. Be a good steward of your community assets. They belong to you.

By Joyce Britt. Extended letter in website.

**Email communication –**  
Please let us know!

I would like to receive:

agendas of board meetings  
 agendas of special meetings  
 notes from meetings  
 notice of MVSK events  
 pdf of newsletter  
 list of reports  
my name: \_\_\_\_\_  
email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Support Mill Valley StreamKeepers.** MVSK is a 100% volunteer, nonprofit organization working to protect and restore our watersheds. Your help would be welcome as a volunteer and/or donor.

Please return this form to:

P.O. Box 2531

Mill Valley, CA 94942

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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