

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 17 NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2016

MVSK

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

www.MillValleyStreamKeepers.org



GET INVOLVED!

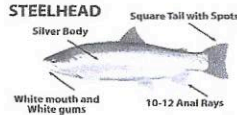
Our organization likes to work with community members from the expert to the inexperienced and people of all ages.

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

Secure Donations By
PayPal

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.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LONG RANGE:

Studied Mill Valley's General Plan, Natural Environment Section, to see how we can be of assistance in its implementation.

HABITAT RESTORATION:

Followed city progress with Measure A expenditure on rain gardens adjacent to the creek at the Boyle Park tennis court rehabilitation.

Reviewed riparian work by Students Restoring a Watershed (STRAW).

Supported objection to cutting down heritage Redwood tree at intersection of Marion and Monte Vista Avenues.

Removal of non native invasives: cheered the cutting down of non native invasive sedge *Carex pendula* at Old Mill Park.

RESPONSES:

Responded to citizen requests by visiting site, considering environmental issues, corresponding, and when needed, spoke at City Planning or Council meetings for such sites as:

- Site on Locust regarding streamside house remodeling;
- Site on Wainwright regarding massive tree cutting;
- Site on Rose Avenue involving site clearcutting on a steep slope;
- Site on Cascade Avenue involving closure of a streamside Lane.

Wrote an article for Scott Valley Homeowners Association newsletter

Provided pictures of *Carex pendula*, invasive non-native for a talk.

COLLABORATIONS:

Discussed planting in city parks with city staff.

Reviewed plans for Miller Avenue work; met with city engineer.

In progress working with Mill Valley Lumber Yard owners about educational signs to post at site.

Provided information to San Francisco Bay Joint Ventures (SFBJV) about projects on our creek for the Eco Atlas.

Participated in Clean Mill Valley, Marin Conservation League's Invasive Plant Subcommittee, Citizens Advisory Committee of Marin Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (MCSTOPPP), North Bay Watershed Association

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Translated and printed Spanish version of *Carex pendula* brochure

Led creek walk with city staff and officials.

Manned a table at MCSTOPPP workshop at Old Mill Park, and also presented material at the Mill Valley Middle School's Community Service Day where students consider projects for the year.

Met with Brownie troop to discuss our work and receive a donation from them.

Created and mounted display "Protect & Restore our Watershed" in the Mill Valley Library case.



MV 2040, adopted in 2013



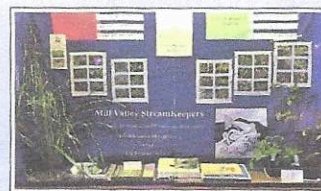
Invasive weed *Carex pendula*



A nicely marked, inviting Zig Zag Trail.



MVSK's We love fish banner!



Our library display case exhibit

DONORS

Anonymous (2)
 Dolby Match Program
 Google Match Program
 East Peak Graphics
 Mill Valley Market
 Outdoor Art Club
 Scott Valley Association
 Girl Scout Brownie Troop

Jane Annan Allen
 Ted Bayer
 Betsy & Dan Bikle
 Arie Bleicher
 Patti & Len Blumin
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 Donnie & Alan Klingen
 John A. Kryzanowski
 Barbara & Warren Levinson
 Carmen Liston
 Jonathan Livingston
 Marvin & Linda Lundwall
 Edward T. Marshall
 Jan & Matt Mathews
 Soo Hi & Alan Nayer
 John Palmer
 Sarah Perry
 Roger & Stephanie Moulton Peters
 Daniel Rosen
 Vicki & Martin Roberts-Russell
 Barbara & Jay Salzman
 Douglas & Michelle Sanders
 Catherine & Larry Shaw
 Carrie Sherriff
 Anne & Don Solem
 Joanne & Dick Spotswood
 Sue Steele
 Joan Murray & Jim Stephenson
 Nancy Stoltz & Craig Corbitt
 Susanne Tilp & Ethan Grossman
 Barbara Wilson
 Periann Wood & Doug Wilson
 Steven R. Cummings &
 Ingrid H. Woods
 Margaret Zegart
 Amy Zimpfer & Harold Ball



Thank You for your environmental efforts!

Want to boast a little? Or commend the city or a neighbor's action? Send us word or pix!

Views of Our Watershed:



Natural Beauty



Richardson Bay



Urban Wildlife Corridor

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land where all water that is under it, or drains off of it, collects into the same place.

A Local View: An Urbane Urban Wildlife Setting

Do you ever see deer, foxes, or herons in your neighborhood? Do you hear coyotes howling in the early hours? Have you spotted otters or fish in flowing streams? Mill Valley Stream-Keepers get reports of these evidences of wildlife all the time.

How about this: have you seen houses, driveways, exotic plants, roads, and cars? Yep, these evidences of human habitation are very evident as well.

The integration of the urban scene in the various natural wildlife habitats (wooded, riparian (influenced by streams), meadow, salt tide lands) is an evolving and dynamic process.

Houses and streets are flooded when streams overflow banks in storms. Parked cars are destroyed by tidal flooding exacerbated by sea level rise. Neighbors destroy habitat by clearing trees and native shrubs. The quick runoff of rainwater from hard surfaces such as roofs and streets lessens absorption and exacerbates the rapid rise of stream levels. The whole balance of life forms in habitat is thrown off by human side effects.

Sophisticated tools and procedures exist to offset human activities and enhance the chances for wildlife. With the help of city and county government guidelines, advice from state and federal wildlife agencies, overview of the Environmental Protection Agency, and energetic input from citizens and organization such as the Audubon Society, Marin Conservation League, and Plantright, Mill Valley can increasingly restore and protect our watershed. Wildlife corridors, rain gardens, reducing carbon emissions, maintaining low tree branches for the northern spotted owl, gardening in sync with the water regime, cleaning up pet excrement, planning for sea level rise, ... let's all keep alert to opportunities of adaptation and advancement of an urbane, urban wildlife setting.

Mill Valleyites of the Richardson Bay Watershed: Mill Valley StreamKeepers will help protect and restore both you AND the endangered animal species and habitat. Join us!

What to do if:

- you see work that is unpermitted and harms your environment, call or write an email in city (415) 384-4820, in county send email to marincounty.org/depts/cd/code-enforcement

- you see pollution in a stream, call the city (415) 388-4033 or county (415) 473-3202. After hours, call the fire department, (415) 389-4130 or 911. Take photos! Ask for followup! Communicate with others!

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:

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