

Watershed Voice

Please join in our conservation efforts by becoming a member - application form on page 6...

President's Message Spring in the "Elfin Forest" - Time to take a hike!

Elfin Forest is the name that is used to describe the chaparral and coastal scrub vegetation that once covered most of Southern California. In the last 20 years, a coalition of public and private entities, including The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC), have worked together to protect thousands of acres of this critically endangered habitat. Today the Escondido Creek watershed has one of the largest protected tracks of virgin "Elfin Forest" in California and the US.

That's a great conservation story, but to really understand what a treasure we have in North County I urge you to get out and take a hike in Elfin Forest this spring. I recommend the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve with over 11 miles of trails - don't forget to stop by the



Interpretive Center before your hike and see what the creative docents have on display. The Interpretive Center at the Reserve on Harmony Grove road is a joint project of TECC and the Olivenhain Municipal Water District. There's always something new on exhibit at the Interpretive Center for the kids and families. There's no better way to celebrate Earth Day than a few hours of stewardship. Join us this Earth Day on April 14th from 9 a.m. at the Reserve for a morning of activities for the whole family. Also in April, "Bill the Bug Guy" will present "The Amazing Insect Kingdom - Up Close!" on Saturday, April 21st, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Interpretive Center.

So see you on the trail this spring, and once again thank you for your membership and support. It's your support that enables TECC to continue preserving and protecting our incredible "Elfin Forest"..

Steve Barker

Upcoming Events at the Interpretive Center for your Diary!

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Saturday, April 14th | Earth Day with animal ambassadors from San Diego Zoo - 9 a.m. until noon |
| Saturday, April 14th | Reception for artist Helen Shafer Garcia 4:30 to 6:30p.m. |
| Thursday, April 26th | Talk - Native American Basket Weaving 5:30 to 7 p.m. |
| Sunday, May 20th | Reception for artists James Hubbell and Sasha Jonestein - Time to be confirmed |
| Saturday, July 28th | Workshop - Build Your Own Solar Oven 10 until 2 p.m. |
| Saturday, August 25th | Talk and Workshop - Build an Owl Box To be confirmed |



News from the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center

by Jeff Swenerton, Chair Education Committee

“THAT WAS AWESOME” was the comment as the black fly larva transformed into an adult on the video microscope.



“I liked tearing apart owl pellets and figuring out what animal the owl had eaten. It was gross, but cool.” These are just some of the comments of Oak Hill Elementary students on their recent field trip to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. This winter over 300 elementary

school students are part of a watershed education program through a partnership with the San Diego Zoo and the Olivenhain Municipal Water District, which provides a hands-on experience in nature through a grant and TECC funds.

We appreciate the vital support over the past two years from The Charles H. Stout Foundation and The Erik Baumgartner Memorial Fund that has enabled TECC to provide science equipment, materials, and training for this program. These funds, by giving us potential matching money, have also enabled TECC to apply for larger grants. TECC recently submitted a grant to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation with the San Diego Zoo and Eco-Life to focus on continuing our school-based program.

WE APPRECIATE OUR DOCENTS!

With the increased number of visitors to the Interpretive Center and Reserve, it is our goal to provide quality experiences to everyone. Much credit goes to our dedicated docent staff under the capable leadership of Supervising Reserve Ranger Jeff Anderson. In each newsletter we would like to highlight some of their recent work.

- Docent Bill (the Bug Guy) Burkhart has been offering very popular children’s classes on bugs.
- Doug Nail, President of the Palomar Audubon Society, along with docent Tom Lyon, provided bird training to all our docents in January.

- Dennis Kibler developed lesson plans for our owl pellet activity.
- Debbie Walden is developing an online interactive Botanical Trail guide.
- Fred Hoyer maintains the Interpretive Center calendar.
- Donn Wilber has worked many hours on the installation of our photovoltaic system.
- Several docents have become active members of TECC Committees including Greg McBain, Tanya Invorgate and Bill Burkhart.

THE RANCHO SANTA FE WOMEN’S FUND PROJECT FEATURING THE WORK OF JAMES HUBBELL AND SASHA JONESTEIN

In late March, James Hubbell will be joining us to pour the column he has designed for the entry into the center. The middle portion of the column will feature a 150-pound bronze with the Kumeyaay creation story. An impressive bronze bird will be mounted on the top.

The ceramic monuments in the oak canopy downstream from the Interpretive Center are the work of artist Sasha Jonestein and feature some of the many animals that depend on the oak canopy environment. We have received many wonderful comments on this exhibit, and it is the centerpiece of our lessons with our school groups.

Both of our talented artists and the Rancho Santa Fe Women’s Fund will be honored at a reception on May 20th. You will be invited to join in the celebration.

THE SAN DIEGO ZOO IS COMING TO THE RESERVE FOR EARTH DAY, APRIL 14TH

Join the Olivenhain Municipal Water District and The Escondido Creek Conservancy in helping with our mission to restore and protect Escondido Creek at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

Bring the whole family! We’ll have something for everyone: creek cleanup, activities for kids, snacks, and refreshments. There will also be a presentation by The San Diego Zoo featuring three animal ambassadors, which will be educational and fun for all. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves and protective clothing. A volunteer and/or parental consent waiver must be completed before the event starts. *Please no pets at this event due to the Zoo’s Animal Ambassadors. Thank you!*

Please RSVP to: (760) 632-4212

HELEN SHAFER GARCIA WATERCOLORS TO BE FEATURED MARCH THROUGH JUNE 2012

The Interpretive Center, where something is always new, will be featuring the amazing talents of local watercolor artist Helen Shafer Garcia beginning in April and concluding on June 30th. Most of the paintings will feature locations at the Reserve. Everyone is invited to a reception for the artist following Earth Day activities on April 14th from 4:30 to 6:30 at the Center.



Land Preservation Success - Deer Park Ridge Now Protected from Development! by Ron Forster, Chair, Communications Committee

There is a tranquil chaparral valley in northeast Escondido where the birds are singing, the mountain lilacs are blooming, and a family of bobcats are roaming just as they have for thousands of years. It is the valley that the Deer Park Zen Buddhist Monastery shares with its neighbor to the west and is the valley adjacent (west) to Daley Ranch. Out of this valley flows a seasonal stream that connects with Reedy Creek and from there into Escondido Creek. The water from this valley will remain clear and the slopes of this valley will remain natural thanks to the love and support of the community.

Three years ago bulldozers began to grade housing sites at the top of the valley as the land owner prepared to sell the hillside for development. A group of volunteers began to look for a way to protect this land and save one of the few undeveloped valleys left in the region. TECC provided guidance and support which led to an agreement between the land owner and Deer Park Monastery to protect the land.

The 120 acre hillside was part of a total of 220 acre set of two parcels originally appraised at a total price of \$3.5 million. No land protection funding was available, and private funding could not be found to achieve the asking price. Through several years of negotiation and fund-raising, a solution was found to protect the hillside. The land owner agreed to grant a view-shed easement for the 120 acres that would preserve the natural habitat. Over 400 donors contributed to raise the \$450,000 in funds and loans needed to achieve this. TECC was a major contributor providing \$8300 in donations from a fund-raiser held for the project. On March 2nd the agreement was signed with the landowner.

Fundraising is continuing to pay back the remaining no-interest loans that were required to complete the project. Negotiation is also continuing to find a solution to protect more of the 220 acre property. Please contact TECC if you would like to support the effort.

If you would like to experience this beautiful valley, you are welcome to come out to the Deer Park Monastery on most Sunday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m. for an outdoor walking meditation as part of their public day of mindfulness. Stay for as much of the day as you like and enjoy walking on the trails and experiencing the tranquility of this natural setting.



Board Member Kevin Barnard presents TECC's check to Brother Phap Ho

The Escondido Creek Conservancy Donors 2011

We are grateful for the support of new and returning members of the Conservancy!

*This list includes all new members, membership renewals, donations and sponsorships received last year.
If you feel that your name has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Ann Hough at
information@escondidocreek.org or phone (760) 471 9354.*

Guardians of the Creek (\$10,000 plus)

San Diego Foundation -
Myron Eichen Memorial
Fund
San Diego Foundation -
Anonymous

Defenders of the Creek (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

San Diego Foundation -
Erik Baumgartner
Memorial Fund
San Diego Foundation -
Anonymous
The Charles H. Stout
Foundation - grant
Stone Brewing Company
Elizabeth Keithley
Habitat West
Steve & Nona Barker

Advocates of the Creek (\$1000 to \$4,999)

Eagle Creek
Elfin Forest Community
Foundation - grant
Richard Murphy
Gregory McBain
Palomar Audubon Society
Leonard Wittwer & Martha
Blane
Susie Hayes
James & Linda McKim

Protectors of the Creek (\$500 to \$999)

Kevin Barnard
Tim & Claudia Costanzo
Jean Costanzo
Harry & Stacey Ehrlich
David & Edith Felker
James & Anne Hubbell
Gerald Varty
Ann Van Leer
R & F Products
San Diego Foundation -
Rokenbok Fund

Benefactors of the Creek (\$100 to \$499)

Brent Alspach
Joan Chitrea
Jennifer Coburn
Tony DeBellis & Melanie
Fallon
Douglas & Elizabeth Dill
Ron Forster & Laura Hunter
Robert & Pam Kephart
Kim MacConnel
Frank & Pat McCulloch
Tom & Cheryl Munnecke
Sam & Kathy Pickard
Michael & Nancy Sampson
Frank & Gail Twohy
Craig & Cait Griffin
David & Amita Bardwick
Howard Magoon
Elinor Foulke
DLM Engineering
Jeff & Shannon Anderson
Jayne Ellen Bernasconi
Georgie Birch
Jon Dummer & Debra
O'Neil
Millicent D Froehlich
Thomas & Donna Golich
Danny & Nancy Goodrich
Charlotte Gumbrell
Stacy Halboth
Jerry Harmon
Carla Hayes
Michael & Judy Holmes
David & Joy Jackson
Chris & Linda Khoury
Lucille Khoury
Jack & Constance Lee
William & Susann Leininger
Andy & Kathy Mauro
Robert & Janet McGurk
John Mead
Laura Mitchell
Gloria Murphy
Judy Nakatomi & Ricky
Schlesinger
Olivenhain Municipal Water
District
Linda Ragland
Nancy Reed

George Sardina
Stu Shaffer
Dr M & Minoo Sohaey
Pamela Stahl
Jeff & Carolyn Swenerton
Sally Thomas
Kimberley-Anne Thorner
Denis Trafecanty
Aristides Yayanos
Bruce & Linda Hamilton
Roy & Mary Garrett
Alan & Barbara Foucar
Jack & Jill Campbell
Timothy & Gudrun Ulman
Margaret McCown Liles
San Diego Equine Group
Bill & Pat Hotz
Tanya Ingorvate
Leo & Wilma Wittwer
David & Denise Stillinger
Bill Schnetz Landscaping
Frank & Susan Oddo
Byron Macfarlane
Charles Webber
Richard Paul
The Reiki Group
Andrew Palmer
Donald & Anne Hanley
Bion D Howard
Michael & Joni Calhoun

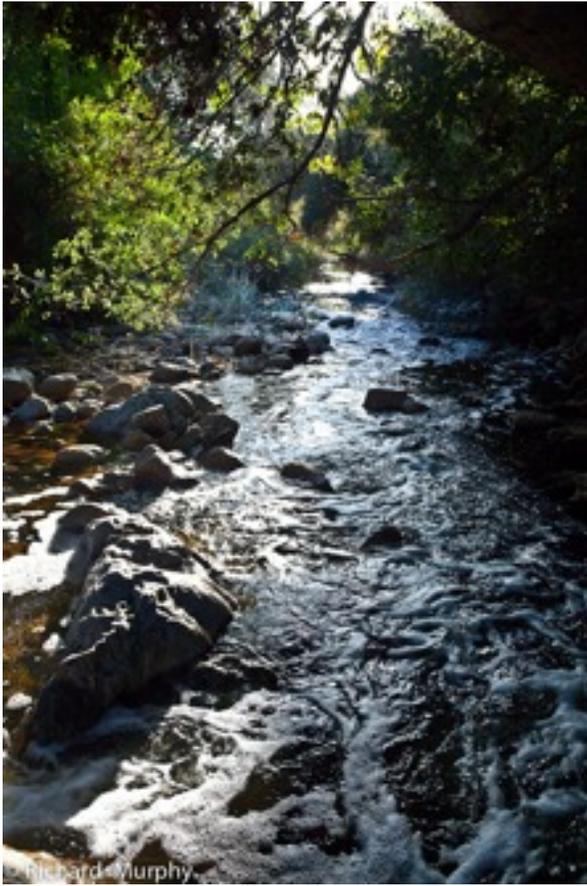
Friends of the Creek (Up to \$50)

Ronald Miller
Eloise Swenerton
Loretta & Deborah Brown
Bill Osborn & Michelle
Roberts
Lucy Berk
Janet Hauser
Jason Zilka
Jack Pomeroy
The Philanthropic
Educational Organization
John Franklin Hesselbee
Patricia Benson
Carolee Ferguson
Julie Graboi
Marty Reed
Rob & Rachel Barnes

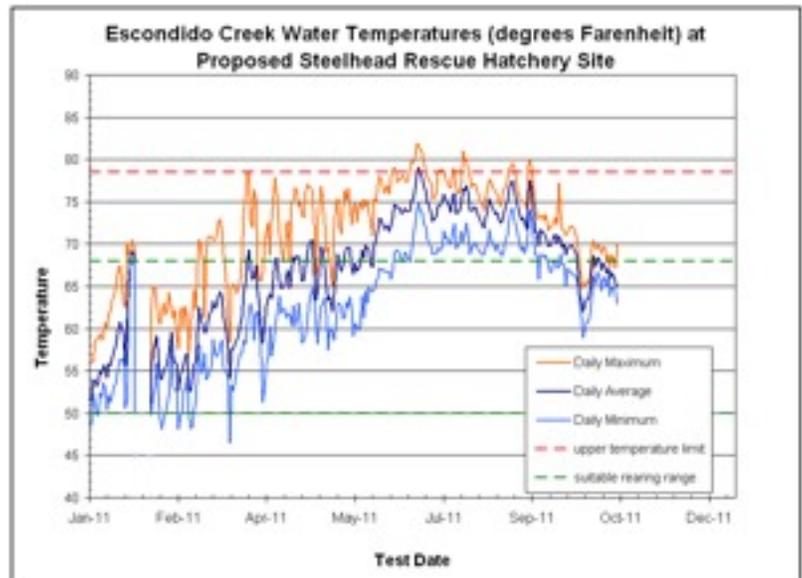
Lita Bowles
Reverend Blake Isaac &
Phyllis Isaac
David & Joan Herskowitz
Becky Howell
Dorothy Kline
Thomas & Margaret Knothe
Carolyn Kurtz
Tom Leech
Helen Simmons
Peggy Watson
Richard Yoder
Stephen & Judith Slane
Philip Stone
Heidi Marc-Aurele
Catherine Halmay
Melinda Nevins Benson
Ann & Alden Hough
Terry & Lynn Badger
Paul Bergford
Daryl & Anne Carlson
Alice Corteau
James Determan
Martin Staubus & Elaine
Dodge
Newton & Jerre Stafford
Bruce & Janet Dammann
Dave & Anne Fege
Elizabeth Gilpin
Ed & Janice Hall
John & Joanne Hubbard
Drew Hubbell
Mark & Davi Huffman
Bob & Sandy Irwin
Larry & Michele Jansen
Albert & Alta Kisselburgh
Phyllis Laderman
Ginger Lamp
Richard Mercurio
Bob & Cindy Moore
Joan Perron
Deanna Pierson
Peter & Winona Rowat
Bill Tippetts
Dave & Dawn Voss
Kirby Wolfe & Stacy Smoot
Daniel Silver
William & Lorraine Boyce
Ann Heck

The Escondido Creek Conservancy Monitors Creek Water Quality

By Betsy Keithley, TECC Board Member



Escondido Creek runs from the upper headwaters in Bear Valley above Lake Wohlford, more than 26 miles to meet the ocean. In the City of Escondido the creek has been channelized to prevent flooding of city neighborhoods, but through the canyon shared by Harmony Grove Road, where it runs through the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, it is unfettered, running through coastal sage scrub with sycamore and oak trees. It continues south through the canyon east of Paint Mountain to the ocean at the San Elijo Lagoon in Cardiff. Much of the water volume that we see in the summer is from irrigation and other runoff that enters the storm drain system. When it rains the creek carries direct runoff from the rainfall. In order to maintain a healthy ecosystem, the water needs to have minimal contaminants. TECC, therefore, has established a water quality team including both TECC members and other community volunteers, to monitor the water quality in the creek over time and establish a baseline of data.



The program oversees implementation of watershed management planning, educational initiatives, and legislative efforts benefiting the San Diego regional watersheds. The TECC Water Quality Committee with the help of Paul Curtis, a fish biologist and committee member Greg McBain, a docent at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve Interpretive Center, has installed equipment to measure daily water temperature. Monthly samples are also being collected for pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, and other water quality parameters important to ecosystem health. The graph shows temperature data collected during 2011 up near the creek crossing at Country Club Road.

More volunteers would help TECC further enhance its monitoring program. If you are interested in helping out or would like more information, please contact Greg McBain (gregory.mcbain@mac.com) or Ann Hough (information@escondidocreek.org).

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation, enhancement, and protection of the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed. We support educational programs and compatible outdoor recreation within the watershed for the benefit of all residents of the area.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy Board of Directors

Steve Barker	President	Tim Costanzo	Director
Jeff Swenerton	Vice President	Jerry Harmon	Director
Brent Alspach	Secretary	Laura Mitchell Ph.D.	Director
Jon Dummer	Treasurer	Jack Olmstead	Director
Kevin Barnard	Director	Leonard Wittwer	Director
Betsy Keithley	Director	Ron Forster	Director

Staff Member - Managing Director: Ann Hough

Become a Member!

Please join our conservation efforts by becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2012

Not a member of The Escondido Creek Conservancy yet? Join today and add your voice to the hundreds of local people who already look to the Conservancy to protect and preserve the natural open space within the Escondido Creek watershed!

Complete and detach the form below and mail to TECC, P.O.Box 460791, Escondido, CA 92046 or donate online at www.escondidocreek.org

Cut here...

Cut here...

Yes! I support TECC's mission of watershed protection. Here's my gift...
Please make checks payable to: The Escondido Creek Conservancy



Annual Membership levels:

- Student - \$10
- Limited Income - \$25
- Individual - \$35
- Joint/Family - \$50
- Benefactors of the Creek - \$100
- Protectors of the Creek - \$500
- Advocates of the Creek - \$1,000
- Defenders of the Creek - \$5,000
- Guardians of the Creek - \$10,000
- Other amount - _____

Name _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ St _____ ZIP _____
 Phone (____) _____
 Email _____
 My Company will match my gift: _____
 _____ I would like to volunteer. Please send information.
 _____ I have included TECC in my Estate Plans.
 Please charge my credit card: __ One time __ Monthly
 __ Visa __ MasterCard __ Amex
 Credit Card No. _____

Please designate my gift to the capital campaign for land acquisition _____
 Exp Date _____ Sec Code on Back of Card _____
 Authorized Signature _____
 Name as it appears on card _____

All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Mail to: TECC
 Securities area also acceptable-Please contact TECC at PO BOX 460791
 (760) 471 9354 Escondido, CA. 92046

Once you have finished reading this newsletter, please pass it to someone else you think may be interested.... Thanks!