



Watershed Voice

The **ESCONDIDO CREEK**
Conservancy

Please join in our conservation efforts by becoming a donor.

A Publication of The Escondido Creek Conservancy

LATE SPRING Edition 2006

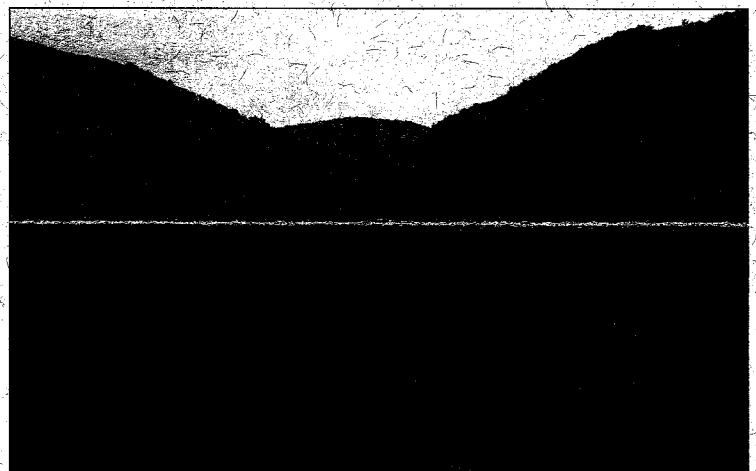
TECC Acquires Key 10-Acre Parcel in Harmony Grove

In May, TECC added a new property to the Escondido Creek Preserve by securing title to a 10-acre property in San Elijo Canyon known as the 'Lerliche' property.

Situated on the north-west side of Harmony Grove Road opposite of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve, this steep and rugged parcel has come under the protection of TECC – further preserving the sensitive watershed habitat in this area. The rich chaparral habitat is of high quality, with only a small amount of non-native invasive penetration. A small squatter's shack will need to be dismantled and removed – all in a day's work for TECC volunteers (contact the office to volunteer!).

The land is designated 'Natural Upland Habitat' and falls within the pre-approved mitigation area (PAMA) under the MHCP.

TECC donors will soon be contacted for an exclusive tour of this property, which commands lofty views of San Elijo Canyon, Harmony Grove and the Reserve. It is the financial support of our donors that makes TECC's program of acquisition, restoration and education possible. Please consider a gift today.



The recently acquired 10-acre property on Harmony Grove Road can be seen on the right in this photo. The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve's 'Way up Trail' can be seen to the left in the distance. Photo/Geoffrey Smith

Manure Management

By Kevin Barnard, TECC Board Member

The Escondido Creek Watershed is home to several rural neighborhoods where horses and other livestock are kept. Runoff from these properties is often caused by impervious ground surfaces inhibiting rainwater from infiltrating into the ground. Large animals can create impervious ground by compacting the soil, lowering infiltration and increasing runoff rates. This runoff drains into our creeks and streams, carrying with it pollutants like manure, nutrients, bacteria and sediment.

Manure carries bacteria and viruses and the nutrients in manure aid in the

growth of algae. This creates a cycle in which the dying algae is consumed by bacteria depleting the oxygen levels in our creeks and streams, oxygen that native aquatic life needs to survive.

Monitoring of Escondido Creek has revealed levels of these pollutants to be as high as 10 times acceptable levels. This has implications not only for the health of our creek but for all those downstream, including San Elijo Lagoon and the beaches in the city of Encinitas. Thus, the frequent public warnings about our ocean water quality immediately

Continued on Page 4

Did you know...

After your lifetime, remaining retirement assets will be heavily taxed if left to family, but will have full value if left to TECC?

We invite you to join others who are making a difference through TECC and Endow San Diego.

Call our Executive Director at 760.471.9354 for details about this important endowment program which can derive personal benefits for you NOW.



Up and Down the Creek *By Geoffrey D. Smith, Executive Director* Envisioning an Interpretive Facility: Will You Help?

Those of us who love the Escondido Creek watershed understand what a special place it is. Place names like 'Paradise Mountain,' 'Harmony Grove,' 'Eden Valley,' and 'Elfin Forest' are fittingly spiritual names for the landscape.



It's no wonder that visitors to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve (EFRR) in San Elijo Canyon on Harmony Grove Road are taken aback by the spectacular steep gorge and lush riparian habitat – just minutes from downtown

Escondido.

TECC has been given a wonderful opportunity to grace this beautiful place with an interpretive center for the EFRR, to be located in the staging area parking lot. Through a partnership with the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD), seed funds have been secured through a State of California Parks and Recreation grant to build the center.

Through TECC matching funds and \$100,000 private donations secured to date, we are nearly half-way to our goal of raising \$600,000 by July 31 to build a facility that honors the special place that is Elfin Forest.

A holistic and low-impact design that embraces the oak woodland, riparian and steep granite gorge environment is planned, and the firm of Hubbell and Hubbell Architects has participated in early discussions.

This building treasure will soon serve as an important place of learning and collaboration, ultimately increasing TECC's capacity to secure additional open space protection in the watershed.

Will you help? Any gift would be appreciated and will be memorialized on a donor wall at the completed facility.

Contact the office for more information, or make your gift today via the web or the enclosed envelope.

Golden State Flycasters Conducts Water Quality Monitoring

Expanding on TECC's previous work in water quality testing, a working partnership with Golden State Flycasters has been established.

This active group of North County sports fishers is actively engaged in conservation of waterways, because what is good for the creeks is good for the fish! Their mission: "...the conservation and restoration of fisheries, and education in the sport and art of fly fishing." (www.goldenstateflycasters.org)

A team of half a dozen volunteers who are trained in the sampling protocols have identified a number of sites in Escondido Creek for regular and on-going monitoring.

The purpose of the monitoring is to collect baseline data on benthic macroinver-

tebrates – microorganisms whose existence in the creek is an index of the health of

Spending a few hours wading in the creek with wader boots under the shade of a tree canopy with a great group of people ...

the stream. In addition to identifying the 'little bugs,' as we call them, the water is also tested for chemical composition. Once the Flycasters team collects the samples using very strict protocols for data accuracy, the water is sent to a laboratory in jars for analysis. While the Flycasters volunteers are offering their services at no

cost, there is a charge for the laboratory analysis.

How you can help:

By participating in the sampling work, you will quickly learn the protocols yourself and greatly assist the team of trained samplers by working as a data recorder or extra pair of hands.

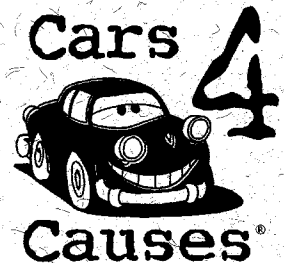
Your generous financial support would help with the laboratory testing costs. Spending a few hours wading in the creek with wader boots under the shade of a tree canopy with a great group of people – it doesn't get much better than this! Contact the office soon to find out more.

Don't Dump It in the Creek

**DONATE
YOUR OLD CAR
TO TECC!**

When it's finally time to get rid of the old jalopy – or when a changing family or business situation necessitates the disposal of a vehicle, trailer or boat, contact **Cars 4 Causes**.

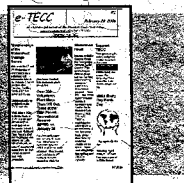
They will show you how simple it is to donate your vehicle and take the charitable contribution deduction based on its value. They'll even tow it if it won't run!



Remember to specify 'The Escondido Creek Conservancy' as your beneficiary.

Call 1-800-766-CARE or www.cars4causes.net.

Visit the TECC website to subscribe to the free 'e-TECC' electronic newsletter for up-to-the-minute news and activities. Issued monthly.



PAGE 1 PHOTOS: The left photo, top of the page, is of horses owned by Board Member Jeff Swenerton. The second photo is of composting piles at Jeff Swenerton's horse ranch. Manure from his horses is being processed properly. Photos/Geoffrey Smith

THE ESCONDIDO CREEK CONSERVANCY

YES! I support TECC's efforts. Please send the *Watershed Voice* newsletter. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation:

Protectors of the Creek

- ☐ \$ _____ Other
☐ \$5,000 Protector
☐ \$2,500 Benefactor
☐ \$1,000 Patron
☐ \$ 500 Sponsor

Friends of the Creek

- ☐ \$ 250
☐ \$ 100
☐ \$ 50 Recommended
☐ \$ 25

I am interested in donating regularly. Please send reminders ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly
 Please make your check payable to 'The Escondido Creek Conservancy' or

Please charge my credit card: ☐ One Time ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit Card No. _____

Exp. Date: _____ Security Code on back of card: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Name on Card: _____

(Note: For your protection, your credit card number information in our files is destroyed after being processed.)

☐ I wish my name and contribution amount to remain anonymous.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Company that will match my gift: _____

☐ BE A VOLUNTEER.

Yes, I would like to volunteer to work with TECC.
 Please contact me with opportunities to serve.

Your Contributions are tax deductible.

You can support TECC with the click of a mouse! Click the 'DONATE NOW' symbol on the www.escondidocreek.org website for secure and efficient donations by credit card.

DONATE NOW

SECURE DONATIONS
BY GROUNDSPRING.ORG

TECC Joins eScrip

eScrip is a hassle-free way for you to support TECC through everyday purchases made at eScrip merchants.

How does it work?

eScrip and dozens of merchant partners (including Major Market, Pep Boys, Claim Jumper and others) have created a system that

rewards customer loyalty by contributing a percentage of purchases to TECC.



It's simple and convenient, all you need to do is register your grocery club card or debit / credit card(s) at

www.escrip.com

Thanks, ahead!

Escondido Creek Watershed Adventures

Contact the TECC office for more information on these upcoming events:

- July 2, Sunday: 4th of July Parade in Elfin Forest, TECC Information Booth
- Sept. 16, Saturday: Coastal Cleanup Day on Escondido Creek
- Sept. 16, Saturday: TECC Summer Concert in Elfin Forest

All outings are 9 a.m. to noon. Contact the office for details and to sign up:

- June 21, Wed: Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve - Elfin Forest Overlook
- July 5, Wed: Daley Ranch
- July 19, Wed: San Elijo Lagoon, South Shore
- Aug. 2, Wed: Bottle Peak
- Aug. 16, Wed: Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve - Lake Hodges Overlook
- July 15, Sat: Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve - Elfin Forest Overlook and Coler Property

See www.escondidocreek.org for complete event details.

Manure Continued from Page 1

following rain.

In 2001, the state increased stormwater regulations which include gutters, culverts, pipelines, and creeks. A significant part of these regulations prohibit discharge of non-stormwater and pollutants into the city or county drainage system and a 50-foot buffer from riparian (creek) areas. Any vegetation growth sustained by the creek is the start of the measuring point for this buffer zone.

Several acceptable manure management practices are available to horse and livestock owners, the most effective of which is composting.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy is considering sponsoring a community-based composting program where manure and green/yard waste can be matched at a micro-community level. This would hopefully create a community-based solution to stormwater runoff problems and result in a community benefit, good compost for landscape and gardens turned back to the community.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact us at information@escondidocreek.org or 760.471.9354.

In the interim, please use Best Management Practices:

1. Store manure and bedding materials a minimum of 50 feet from the edge of any riparian (creek) area, using the creek sustained vegetation as the measuring point. Cover the pile and contain it to prevent runoff into the creek.
2. Keep horses and livestock 50 feet away from creeks and streams.
3. Clean up and dispose of or compost manure and bedding material often, especially 48 hours prior to a storm.

For more information, contact Project Clean Water (888) 846-0800 or www.projectcleanwater.org or www.sdcdeh.org.

The Escondido Creek Conservancy

P.O. Box 460791 Escondido California 92046

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Mission Statement

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) is a non-profit public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation 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 Officers

June Rady.....	President	Jeff Swenerton.....	Director
Brent Alspach.....	Secretary	Leonard Wittwer.....	Director
Tim Costanzo.....	Treasurer	TECC Office.....	760-471-9354
Steve Barker.....	Director	Email.....	information@escondidocreek.org
Kevin Barnard.....	Director	Website.....	www.escondidocreek.org
Everett DeLano III.....	Director	Geoffrey D. Smith, MA.....	Executive Director
Jerry Harmon.....	Director	Mary Beth Francis.....	Watershed Voice Editor
Jack Olmstead.....	Director	Vickie Kleen.....	Bookkeeper

Donate Your 'Olde' Things to TECC!

Did you know that your old magazine collection can fetch big bucks? A recent donation of Popular Mechanics and Popular Science magazines from the 1950s brought \$4-to-\$15 each when sold at one of our four antique store locations. Steamer trunks, old toy collections, furniture – it's all good! Our team of volunteer experts headed up by Claudia Costanzo will help you cleanout and sort items - some stuff for the trash, some for Amvets or Salvation Army, some for TECC and some things that stay in the family. The garage is a good place to start, and there can be many forgotten treasures taking up valuable space. Cleaning out feels good and so does helping toward conservation -- it's a double-dose of feeling good. Get the picture? If it's old --we'll take it! Contact the office to arrange for trailer pickup or consultation.

A good old fashioned 'Thank You!' to our supporting antique stores:

- The Santa Ysabel General Store
- Fourth Street Antiques in Old Towne Temecula
- J.B. Victoria's in Leucadia on Hwy. 101, just north of the train station



Claudia and Tim Costanzo and donor Betty Cavender.