



Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

Creek Talk

April 2010

If you can't see pictures in this newsletter click [here](#) to view online.

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Wildflower Hike

April 10th

An annual favorite event, Dr Hale leads a walk near Upper Marsh Creek in Morgan Territory. Dr Hale says that with this year's rainy season the wildflowers will be abundant! This hike is strenuous at times and is not recommended for those with mobility issues.

For Flyer, Map and Waver Click Here

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*"Spring has returned.
The Earth is like a child that knows poems."*

~Rainer Maria Rilke

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Wildflower Hikes Coming
April 10th and May 1st



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The newest arrival in one of the burrows Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed volunteers helped build!

Next Meeting:

April 1st

Topic:

Get Informed About the Brentwood Urban Limit Line Initiative

Presenters: Troy Bristol, Kathy Griffin, Jim Koch and Brian Swisher

FOMCW has invited proponents and opponents of the initiative to speak on behalf of their positions.

**Meeting will be held from
7 to 9 PM**

**Liberty Union High School District Offices
20 Oak Street, Brentwood
Click Here for directions**

RSVPS APPRECIATED

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Burrowing Owl Project: A Great Success!

On March 7th over 20 Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed Volunteers helped install 6 artificial Burrowing Owl burrows.

Within the last few weeks local volunteers were able to help a rehabilitated owl from the Lindsey Wildlife Museum move in to one of the burrows! Check out the story at:

<http://journowl.com/index.php/archives/1306>

We will be scheduling Dee Viera and Scott Artis to do a presentation about the Burrowing Owls in the near future!

BMI Monitoring

Join us IN the creek!

◆◆◆◆◆ Links to Check Out:

Pictures and Blog
about
Burrowing Owl
Volunteer Day

Contra Costa
Times Article

KQED's show
"This Week" report on
"California's Lost
Salmon"

Getting Ready to Plant?

Check out this
amazing gardening
resource provided by
the Contra Cost
Water District:
Water Wise
Gardening

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Did you know?
In just the past
three months
FOMCW has
created 2125
volunteer
hours!!!

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Every Spring FOMCW partners with Contra Costa County Watershed Monitoring Program to conduct benthic macro invertebrate sampling in Marsh Creek. This involves getting volunteers to go out to take bug larva samples from the creek bed. What larva they find helps us understand the health of the ecosystem in the creek. This is a fun and fairly easy project.

Training for BMI monitoring will take place on Sunday, April 18th. The morning (9-12) will be for new volunteers, for those who have participated in a limited capacity, or for those who would prefer to have a more thorough training. The afternoon (1-4) will be for "expert volunteers"; who are very comfortable with the protocol and could help lead the sample events. If individuals are unsure as to which training to choose, please contact the Watershed Monitoring Coordinator Michelle Luebke at 925.335.1315. All participants need to come to one of the trainings.

Registration forms are available online at:

<http://cocowaterweb.org/get-involved/monitoring/bioassessment>. Please be sure after you submit your training preference, contact information, and availability, that you click "continue" and then "confirm registration," otherwise the information will have not gone through. Emails will be sent out each Monday with a list of all the new confirmed registrations. If you do not receive a confirmation email from Michelle before 7 PM the following Monday, that means she does not have your registration form. All registrations need to be in by April 12th.

Marsh Creek monitoring dates have not been set at this time but will be set once volunteers indicate their availability.

THANK YOU DISNEY!!

FOMCW helps nearly 900 volunteers go to Disneyland!

FOMCW was able to start off 2010 with a huge volunteering **BANG!** After this coming Earth Day nearly 900 folks will have come out to help us in various community service projects this year, earning themselves a ticket to a Disney park through the Disney "Give A Day Get A Day" Program.

Disney made a commitment to give away 1,000,000 tickets. By early March one million volunteers had signed up for various volunteer opportunities across the country. A big Thank You to Disney for letting us participate!

If you are already signed up with Disney for one of the Earth Day events you will still be earning a ticket *but the program is now closed.*

Are you a member of FOMCW?

FOMCW now collects dues for membership. Regular membership dues are \$30, Family Memberships are \$45 and Students are \$15.

To renew your membership or to become a new member fill out a membership card at a meeting or mail your dues and card to

2063 Main St, #311,
Oakley, CA 94561

For more information go to:
http://www.fomcw.org/files/fomcw_membership_signup.pdf



The Mission of Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is to protect, conserve, and restore Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and to inspire appreciation and conservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed.



Fish Kill Conditions Monitoring

Join us in May!

A few years ago there were 3 fish kills over two years. FOMCW is working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board to monitor Marsh Creek at different times of year to try to figure out what caused the kills. In addition FOMCW volunteers are trained and able to do emergency water sampling and carcass collection should another fish kill occur. Join us as we train volunteers to help us monitor during the month of May! Email Volunteer@fomcw.org for more info.

Creek Cleanup

Help Keep Marsh Creek Clean!

Recent changes in storm water discharge permitting for the county and cities require trash assessment monitoring. FOMCW will be working with Contra Costa County and the cities of Oakley and Brentwood in conducting the trash assessments and clean up of identified areas along Marsh Creek. Look for upcoming announcements of dates and times within the next month.

If you think a specific area of Marsh Creek needs cleanup please contact FOMCW. We need to know where the hot spots are. It helps to have pictures so that we can forward them to the right agencies.

Creek Cleanup will be held on September 25th this year. We will have our first Creek Cleanup Committee meeting on May 8th location to be announced soon. If you would like to help out with organization of the event call Diane at 925.325.2908

Share Your Expertise

What is your specialty?

The Outreach & Education Committee and Fundraising Committee are seeking folks that have special skills! If you have a special skill to share let us know!

The Outreach and Education Folks seek volunteers that like to talk with people and help promote watershed education and clean water practices. FOMCW participates in community events, farmers markets, festivals, school science fairs and various other activities. If you like to talk with people and have an interest email volunteer@fomcw.org!

The Fundraising Committee is currently developing a Fundraising Strategy. If you are interested in helping FOMCW raise money through membership drives, fundraising events, helping get donation and/or grant writing email volunteer@fomcw.org.

Next Month:

May 1st
SWAMP
Monitoring
10AM to 2PM

May 1st
Wildflower Hike
with Dr Hale
8:30 AM to 2:30
PM

Dr Hale will lead a second hike for those unable to join him at the April 10th hike.

Flyer and Waver can be found by clicking here.

May 6th
FOMCW Meeting

Heidi Perryman of "Give A Dam" will talk about the efforts in Martinez to preserve and protect the beaver habitat. Join us!

May 8th
Delta Informal
Gardeners (DIG)
Plant Sale

For more information [click here](#)

Contact Us
Friends of
Marsh Creek
Watershed

2063 Main St., #311
Oakley, CA 94561
fomcw.org
info@fomcw.org
925.325.2908

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Things to Do in April

For more information on any of these projects call Diane at 925.325.2908

April 10th
Wildflower Hike with Dr Hale 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM
For Flyer, Map and Waver [Click Here](#)

April 18th
BMI Training
See article on previous page for more information.

April 18th
DOW Wetlands Event
For Event Flyer [Click Here](#)

Did you know most women and children in the world have to walk 6 kilometers to get water? On April 18th hundreds of thousands of people around the world will be running and walking for running water. Come walk the DOW Wetlands and see the FOMCW table!

April 24th
Earth Day Events throughout Oakley and Brentwood
FOMCW has organized with the cities of Oakley and Brentwood several opportunities to celebrate Earth Day by planting trees, plants and bushes, spreading mulch or cleaning up near the creek. If you are looking for an opportunity to join us email info@fomcw.org.

May 1st
SWAMP Monitoring for Fish Kill Conditions 10AM to 2PM
Join us through the month of May as we monitor conditions in Marsh Creek. See article on top of page 3.



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The statements and conclusions of this newsletter are those of FOMCW and not necessarily those of the Department of Conservation, or its employees. The Department makes no warranties, express or implied, and assumes no liability for the information contained in the text of this newsletter.