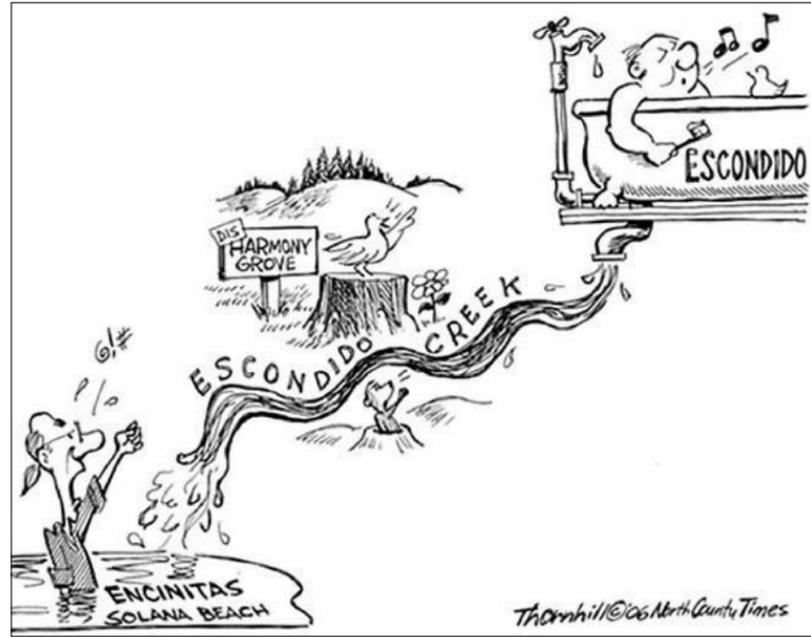


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All photos in this issue taken by Geoffrey Smith unless otherwise noted.



# Watershed Voice

The **ESCONDIDO CREEK** Conservancy

Please join in our conservation efforts by becoming a donor.

A Publication of The Escondido Creek Conservancy

LATE WINTER Edition 2006

## 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		
Steve Barker.....	Director		
Kevin Barnard.....	Director	TECC Office.....	760-471-9354
Everett DeLano III.....	Director	Email.....	information@escondidocreek.org
Jerry Harmon.....	Director	Website.....	www.escondidocreek.org
Jack Olmstead.....	Director	Geoffrey D. Smith, MA.....	Executive Director

## 200 Volunteers Plant 100+ Oak Trees at Elfin Forest Reserve

More than 100 Coast Live Oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) got a jump start on their long lives on Jan. 28, when more than 200 volunteers descended on the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve to plant the boxed trees into the ground. These 'encinitas', or little oaks, will someday grow to majestic proportions, thanks to the generosity of Pardee Nursery and the dedication of these budding arborists!



### Dear Escondido Creek Conservancy,

Thanks to all those who participated in the Saturday, Jan. 28, tree planting at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve.

Approximately 200 people participated in the event, making it one of the largest and most successful events ever hosted at the EFRR. The District and the EFRR Rangers would like to thank the Encinitas REI staff for their part in making this event possible. It was through their successful volunteer program coordination that we were able to successfully plant more than 100 Coast Live Oaks trees.

A big thanks is also in order to Pardee Nursery for their generosity in donating the trees, and to Geoffrey Smith, Jeff Swenerton and The Escondido Creek Conservancy volunteers whose enthusiastic participation made this community experience such an enjoyable one.

Last but not least we would like to congratulate all the young children and all the "little" pairs of hands seen digging, planting and watering trees. It made the occasion all the more enriching and affirmed our commitment to enhancing the beauty and quality of our environment, our communities, and our future.



TECC Board Member Leonard Wittwer and OMWD Ranger Joey Randall present plaque to Bill Widas, vice president and sales manager for Pardee Tree Nursery.

Ranger Dave Sanchez  
Olivenhain Municipal Water District



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## What's in your attic? *by Claudia Costanzo*

TECC has teamed up with the two more antique stores to raise money for the Conservancy: Fourth Street Antiques in Temecula and J.B. Victoria's in Leucadia.

The Santa Ysabel General Store is the first store, which began partnering with TECC in early 2005. Vintage and collectible items are donated to TECC and consigned with the antique dealers.

The stores stock vintage items in all categories dating from the early 1800s through the 1970s including vintage clothing, kitchen and household items, western and Old California collectibles, garden/farm implements, books and magazines, furniture, costume and fine jewelry, glass and porcelain, paintings and prints and many other areas of vintage collectibles.

The Santa Ysabel General Store is located in Santa Ysabel (near Julian) in

the original General Store built in 1884.

Fourth Street Antiques is a quaint antique mall on Fourth Street in Old Towne Temecula. TECC items are located in Space 49.

J.B. Victoria's is on Hwy. 101 in Leucadia just north of the old Encinitas train station building.

Please contact Claudia Costanzo, fund-raising coordinator for TECC, to obtain more information regarding donations or for information regarding participating antique dealers. TECC will provide a tax



The Santa Ysabel General Store.

receipt for your donation. Claudia can be contacted directly at 760-744-0952 or 744-1377.

## 26-Mile Marathon Pledge to Benefit TECC

What do the Escondido Creek Watershed and a marathon have in common?

They are both about 26 miles long, and your Executive Director is going to run the distance!

You can support TECC with your donation by sponsoring Geoffrey in this noble (and possibly foolish) endeavor, as he takes on the Rock and Roll Marathon on Sunday, June 4,

in San Diego.

If he makes it, your pledge of \$1 per mile will net TECC a hefty \$26.22.

Gifts of any dollar denomination per mile are gratefully accepted.

Email your pledge today to [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org), subject: 'Marathon Fundraiser.'

Watch for Geoffrey training on a trail near you. On, on!

## 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 Vons, Major Market, Pep Boys, Claim Jumper and oth-

ers) 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](http://www.escrip.com).

Thanks ahead!

TECC is seeking no-cost or low-rent office space in the Escondido Creek watershed. Please call or write the office to discuss if you have information on spare office space, room, outbuilding or lofts. Thank you.

## NOTES...

### TECC Needs you!

Volunteers are at the core of TECC's work. Contact the office to learn more about these opportunities at 760-471-9354, go to [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org) or visit [www.escondidocreek.org](http://www.escondidocreek.org).

**Adopt an Oak** – More than 100 four-foot tall oak trees were planted on Jan. 28 in Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. We are in the midst of a dry spell, and those little ones need water!

Please contact the TECC office to learn how you can adopt one or a few oak trees for regular watering.

As a tree adopter, you'll be responsible for watering the majestic little trees every two weeks with water from a hose or, in some cases, hauled by bucket or backpack.

Call soon! 760-471-9354 or [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org).

### Escondido Street Faire Tabling

Join with other TECC volunteers to help out at our information booth at the May 21 street fair on Grand Avenue.

It's a fun way to meet people like you who care about the watershed. We're looking for volunteers to help for any length of time between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### Earth Day Event Outreach Tabling

TECC will be participating in many local community Earth Day events during the month of April (Earth Day is April 22 every year.)

Earth Day was established in 1970 as a nationwide day of celebration and action dedicated to protecting our earth environment.

We'll be setting up our information table at schools, businesses and community events throughout the region.

## Join Us as We Learn About the Escondido Creek Watershed

*"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."* by John Muir, 1901

### Outing sign-up procedure:

Contact the outing leader at 760-471-9354 or [information@escondidocreek.org](mailto:information@escondidocreek.org) to learn more about each week's trip and to sign up.

Registration is required in case there is a change of plans, and to manage trip size. All outings are led by our Executive Director, Geoffrey Smith, who is well-versed in the local land-use and resource management issues in the watershed. Meet 15 minutes prior to start time. Please, no dogs. Children are welcome on some trips when accompanied by parent or legal guardian.

### Wednesdays in the Watershed Series -

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9 am – 12 pm.

**Wed, Mar 1:** Hike to Bottle Peak, at 2195' it is the most prominent peak north and east of Escondido. Situated near Lake Wohlford Dam, this is a short but challenging hike. Meet at the Lake Wohlford Café, on Lake Wohlford Road across from the park. Outing on private land with permission.

**Wed, Mar 15:** Questhaven Retreat is privately owned by Christward Ministries in Elfin Forest, covering more than 600 acres. We'll quietly explore this beautiful open space, traversing the trails and a 'labyrinth.' Take San Elijo Road through San Elijo Hills 'Town Center,' past the school, past Hope Street, to Questhaven Road. Go south on Questhaven Road 2.5 miles to the gated entrance. Outing on private land with permission.

**Wed, Mar 22:** This special day-long joint Sierra Club outing will include lunch at Lake Hodges Overlook, and a ranger-guided Olivenhain Reservoir dam and filtration plant tour. Meet at the staging area parking lot of the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on Harmony Grove Road (Thomas Brothers map 1149 B1). Geoffrey Smith from The Escondido Creek Conservancy will talk about the preserve system.

**Wed, April 5:** Where does our water go? Why, San Elijo Lagoon of course! We'll see how this nearly 1,000 acre coastal wetland manages the water it receives from Escondido Creek. Meet at the Rios Ave trailhead: I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe exit; Drive west on Lomas Santa Fe Drive; Turn right on Rios Avenue; Drive to end of Rios Ave and park along the curb

**Wed, April 19:** Tour of TECC's 'Quarry' and 'Coler' properties on Harmony Grove road. We'll observe several restoration projects currently in progress, and learn from the experts what

makes a restoration successful. Meet at the intersection of Harmony Grove Road and Country Club Drive. Optional participation in a Land Trust Alliance restoration workshop on-site from noon – 5 pm.

**Wed, May 3:** Explore the recently-acquired 345-acre Derbas property at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. TECC purchased this property in 2002, then 'flipped' it to the County of San Diego which manages it as open space in perpetuity. Meet at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on Harmony Grove Road. Outing to closed area by permission.

**Wed, May 17:** The TECC-owned 'Coler' property is immediately south of the Elfin Forest Recreation Reserve. On this outing we'll visit this special place, and see first-hand the threat presented by the neighboring 17-unit 'Cielo Azul' proposed development. Meet at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve on Harmony Grove Road.

### Weekend Events:

**Saturday, April 22:** Earth Day Service Project at Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Contact the TECC office or visit our website for details.

**Sunday, May 21:** The Escondido Street Fair. Volunteer at the TECC information booth to spread the word about our watershed! Call the office for details and to sign up for an hour or two of outreach! 'Tabling' is a fun way to help.

Visit the TECC web site for additional outings not listed on this page! [www.escondidocreek.org](http://www.escondidocreek.org).

### Be Prepared! Here's a short checklist of gear to bring and wear on TECC outings:

#### Clothing:

Light weight shirt (nylon is best), light weight pants (nylon is best), hat, sturdy boots, windbreaker, jacket

#### Food:

2 quarts water, nuts, fruit, crackers, cheese

#### Other:

cash, identification, day pack, extra clothes, extra food, first aid kit, whistle, sun screen, sun glasses, hiking staff