

Up and Down the Creek *By Geoffrey D. Smith, Executive Director* A Friend Remembered

There are times in our lives when we stop to think about what really matters. Such a time came on Jan. 13, 2006, when Jerome Gradisher ("Jerry") was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. At age 44, Jerry wasn't ready to go. Husband of wife, Nancy Reed, and daughter Danielle, Jerry was a person who exuded a positive spirit and a fun-loving can-do attitude. I had the distinct pleasure of knowing Jerry for just six months before his passing.



I will remember Jerry as a great guy who had a gift, the gift of finding property in the watershed and showing TECC the way to ownership. As a realtor, Jerry played lead roles in the identification and purchase of three key parcels by TECC: the 76-acre Coler property in 2001, the 11-acre Quarry property in 2002 and the 345-acre Derbas property in 2002. Jerry and I were in regu-

lar contact with each other, talking about other land acquisition opportunities in the watershed. Jerry's strategic sense and energetic spirit were an inspiration to me. When we think of how our watershed matters to us, let's all remember the land legacy that Jerry has left and pledge to preserve and grow that legacy in the years to come.

Thank you, Jerry. Job well done. The family suggests donations to the Jerry Gradisher Memorial Fund at the San Diego County Credit Union, 501 N. El Camino Real, Encinitas, CA 92024.



Jerome Gradisher

Harmony Grove Resident Kevin Barnard Welcomed to Board

Kevin Barnard has joined the TECC Board of Directors. Kevin has been a resident of Harmony Grove since 1995. When not working for the San Diego Police Department as a detective, he can be found on



Kevin Barnard

a golf course, working on his house or herding his four dogs to the mailbox to pick up the newspaper every morning.

Kevin has been an active member of the Harmony Grove community, serving on the Harmony Grove Eden Valley Citizens group from 1999 to 2003.

In 2002, Kevin ran against Bill Horn for the 5th District County Supervisor's

seat. He missed taking the long time incumbent to a run-off by 2600 votes.

Kevin has continued to be vigilant in regard to issues surrounding development in the Harmony Grove valley, working with LAFCO staff to ensure appropriate mitigation for impacts any development may have on the community.

We welcome Kevin to the board!

The First Flush

The foam suds we see in the creek after a major rain event, such as those in the photo to the left, are the result of tens of thousands of non-point source pollution sources (landscaping, car washes, parking lots, roof tops, ...), all 'flushing' into the creek after the first big storm event of a season or cycle.

Cities are required to implement measures to control this 'storm water runoff' under the Clean Water Act – legislation that was initiated in 1972 under the Nixon Administration.

You can take steps to reduce these pollutants: park your car on grass when you wash it; use permeable hardscapes in your landscaping such as clay brick on sand or porous concrete; avoid using chemicals on your lawn and garden; and use phosphate-free detergents.

Photo: Foam suds in Escondido Creek by Patti Newton, Jan. 1, 2006



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 Madeline Goebel, age four-and-a-half, who is considering a career as an arborist. She is shown here watering her newly planted oak tree. The second photo is of the TECC trailer, which was given a facelift recently with new TECC logo signage. Our logo was originally created by Ted Hansen Design Associates in 1991, and just this year Ted donated his services once again to digitally rescan the original art work so we could create these decals, door magnets and banners. Thank you, Ted!



WATERSHED NEWS

Through your generous support, TECC works throughout the watershed to educate, protect and restore. Here are some recent examples ...

Harmony Grove Village. Due to strenuous community opposition, developer New Urban West in December withdrew its request for extension of sewer services to this 468 acre, 742-detached-unit development in the unincorporated county. LAFCO – the Local Agency Formation Commission – in February affirmed it's jurisdiction over the potential extension of sewer services.

Dorn/Foote High School Site. At a Feb. 7 workshop, the Escondido Union High School District board reviewed the results of a demographic study which they had commissioned, which showed declining enrollments in seven years, and a youth population concentration that would warrant a school site in areas other than the extreme southwest corner of the city, specifically the Dorn/Foote site adjacent to the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve. Thankfully, the school board now seems inclined to look at small school sites elsewhere in the city – but this could change. An impressive network of concerned community residents from throughout the City has formed to address this important siting issue.

Restoration. Take a drive down Harmony Grove Road nowadays, and you're likely to see a lot more native oak, sycamore and willow trees. That's due to a number of habitat restoration projects currently underway along the creek. Removal of exotic trees and plants (such as arundo donax, or 'giant reed') is occurring at TECC's 'Quarry' property at Country Club Drive, TECC's 'Coler' property just below the Reserve staging area and at various other locations along the creek. Two of these 'off-site' mitigation projects are funded by developers whose construction projects elsewhere took sensitive habitat. TECC has received funds for two endowments to manage these lands in their newly re-found natural state in perpetuity.

Cielo Azul. A 100-acre, 17-house development proposed for the top of the 'Way Up' trail at The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve has met resource protection ordinance requirements for steep slope protection by scaling down from an earlier proposed 30 units. TECC continues to monitor this contentious proposal that would seriously degrade the Reserve.

Photo: Cielo Azul property pictured on a recent TECC outing on the 'Way Up Trail.'



Visitors enjoying a hike on the Cielo Azul property.

THE ESCONDIDO CREEK CONSERVANCY

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | <i>Other</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 | <i>Protector</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 | <i>Benefactor</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 <i>Recommended</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <i>Patron</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 | |
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I am interested in donating regularly. Please send reminders ___ Monthly ___ Quarterly
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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.

