

Watershed Voice

SPRING / SUMMER 00

A Publication of The Escondido Creek Conservancy

TECC Joins The World Wide Web

The Escondido Creek Conservancy has a web page! Visit us at www.escondidocreek.org. Development of the page was funded by a grant from the Charles H. Stout Foundation. Ted Whirlledge, a local web developer and TECC member, donated time and talent. Our page is hosted on a server at Eagle Creek Travel Gear.

The TECC web site provides the latest information on TECC events and activities. Schedules for our quarterly trash clean-ups and results of these activities are featured on the Trash page. Detailed information about TECC, our TECC Board of Directors and TECC committees is listed in the "About

TECC" page. News of the Escondido Creek watershed and copies of our newsletters are featured in the "News" page. The Membership page has an application to become a member of TECC and information about our levels of membership. The Links page features Internet links to the web pages of local and national environmental organizations.

We believe our web site will make it easier and faster for us to communicate our message and coordinate TECC activities with our members. We urge you to use the TECC web page to learn more about the Escondido Creek watershed and TECC's work to preserve this

valuable natural resource. If you have ideas for content or news for our web site, please contact our webmaster or TECC via e-mail. We look forward to hearing from our members.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

We need your help! If you would like to receive your copy of our newsletter via e-mail in Adobe PDF format, please send us an e-mail with your e-mail address. You will receive the newsletter about two weeks earlier and you will help us reduce our printing and mailing costs in addition to saving energy and natural resources. E-mail TECC at tecsters@msn.com and ask to be put on the newsletter e-mail list.

QUOTE

The people living on this planet have to give up their narrow concept of "freedom of the individual." They have to start by looking at freedom as a right of all of nature. Thus they must free everything which makes life possible: the air, the waters, the trees, everything the holy web of life depends on. Appeal of the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse - an Iroquois Confederacy) to the Western World from "Native American Mandalas" by Klaus Holitzka



LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES:



Leonard Wittwer

Historically, TECC has relied on development agreements and off-site mitigation to preserve open space land in the Escondido Creek watershed. Recently, several exciting new tools have been added to TECC's land acquisition and preservation programs.

For the past few months, TECC has partnered with the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department (SD-CPRD) in writing a Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA) grant for land purchases along Escondido Creek and the associated uplands. Our \$2 million proposal was funded. This month the County Board of Supervisors approved the \$260,000 matching contribution, and in the enthusiastic words of Netta Elizaga, county staff person leading the program, "We have a project!"

TECC has identified parcels of particular biological and scenic value and the county will soon assess them for possible purchase. This will be a multi-year effort for TECC and SD-CPRD; at this point, no land owners have been contacted. It is important to note the county will NOT use condemnation procedures to acquire open space lands with these grant monies -- all purchases must come from willing sellers. The acquired parcels will be county-owned and managed as open space preserves, probably as part of regional habitat conservation plans. If you know of any undisturbed lands that could be part of this program, please contact TECC by calling us at (760) 471-9354 or e-mail us at teccsters@msn.com.

The San Diego Foundation awarded a substantial grant to TECC. It will be used for land acquisition in the Escondido Creek watershed. This grant allowed TECC to successfully bid on a good quality coastal sage scrub parcel (that would be owned and managed by TECC) in the Elfin Forest area. Unfortunately, acquisition of this parcel has become complicated and may not close for another year. As a result, TECC will consider other parcels that will close more quickly, and then re-evaluate the current candidate after outstanding issues are resolved.

A third new initiative focuses on restoring Escondido Creek. Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD) has obtained conservation easements over approximately 190 acres of flood plain along Escondido Creek and plans to convey them to TECC. This will give TECC the right to engage in creek renovation projects like exotic plant removal and native habitat restoration. Several entities seeking sites for wetland enhancement have contacted TECC. Members of TECC are working with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to create a mechanism to meet the needs of local developments and to coordinate efforts to direct them to Escondido Creek. Pam Slater, San Diego County Third-District Supervisor, recently awarded TECC a grant for \$20,000 that will be used to partially cover the cost of managing the 190 acres of OMWD easement.

These are a few of the newest land acquisition and preservation projects TECC has initiated. These steps will guide us on our journey to protect the Escondido Creek watershed for future generations.

TECC NEEDS YOUR DONATIONS

Your financial support is critical to replenish TECC's reserves and to ensure we can continue to achieve our goals. TECC's volunteer board and part-time staff are playing an important role in protecting Escondido Creek and its watershed. This is done on a shoestring budget; we rely heavily on your annual membership dues, individual contributions, and grants. It is essential that TECC stays actively involved for continued protection of the creek. Show TECC your support. Use the enclosed return envelope to make your generous tax-deductible donation today. TECC also accepts gifts of stock—a great way to make a generous gift, receive a tax deduction, and avoid capital gains taxes. Give us a call at (760) 471-9354 or visit our web page at www.escondidocreek.org for more information.



TECC ADDS THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS, ELECTS OFFICERS

The Escondido Creek Conservancy elected three new members to the Board of Directors, bringing the total number of directors to nine. Tim Costanzo was elected in late 1999 while Patricia Newton and Jack Olmstead were elected in March, 2000. Sue Pelley, after completing one three-year term, and Steve Ahles, after serving two three-year terms, rotated off the board.

Tim Costanzo, a contractor, has dozens of kitchen and bath remodels in North County to his credit. Tim is a volunteer fire fighter for the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Dept. and Fire Fighter of the Year. His interests range from active participation in TECC projects to various and seemingly unending home improvement projects. Tim was born and raised in North County and has been a resident of Elfin Forest for over five years.

Patricia (Patti) Newton and her husband own and operate a small business, Newcourse Company, LLC, which manufactures hunter and jumper course components. A San Diego County resident for over 16 years, Patti has been variously involved in environmental, political, and animal-related issues. Her journalism background and experience in business will be of great assistance in communicating TECC's goals and accomplishments to the public and its members.

Jack Olmstead is President of Plant-Tek, Inc. and a licensed California Agricultural Pest Control Adviser. Previously he worked as an entomologist for federal, state, and county governments. Jack rides trails on horseback and mountain bike. He is currently working with local agencies and private interests to establish permanent dedicated trails to connect communities before developments sever the existing, non-dedicated trail routes between them. Jack has lived in the Elfin Forest area for eight years.

Also in March, Leonard Wittwer was elected President, Tim Costanzo, Secretary, and Bruce Hamilton, Treasurer.

Trash Cleanup

On Saturday, April 29, 2000, at 8 a.m., 21 friends and neighbors met to give the Escondido Creek Watershed a thorough cleaning. Among the crowd were some particularly distinguished guests, Elfin Forest's 1999 Citizens of the Year, Frank and Pat McCulloch. These two work hard on a daily basis to keep Harmony Grove Road spotless.

By 1:30 p.m., the crews had picked up three tons of trash which was taken to the Escondido Resource Recovery Center. It included cups and fast food packaging that was tediously gathered along the entire length of Elfin Forest and Questhaven Roads. Other items included concrete debris, palm fronds, plant refuse, glass, a sofa, bedsprings, a car frame, a microwave oven, a newspaper stand, and too many items to remember. In addition to covering neighborhood streets, work parties scoured the back roads winding through the watershed. Tipping fees were provided by a grant from The Elfin Forest Foundation while Volvo donated handsome T-shirts modeled by our workers.

Among the strong and brave volunteering that day were: Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Chief Twohy, who delayed the fire training to lend TECC more bodies, Gail Twohy, Gervais Pimentel, Betsy



Keithly, John Olsen, Frank McCulloch, Andy Haass, Brent Alspach, Luis-Jose, Jim McKim, Dave Jackson, Steve and Anne Witte, Jim McMillen, Deborah LeLevier, and TECC Board of Directors, who are never afraid to get "down and dirty": Leonard Wittwer, Steve Barker, Tim Costanzo, Jack Olmstead, Patti Newton and Jerry Harmon. Richard Newton did some one-man, hefty trash moving on Friday night since he was unable to attend on Saturday. Phillip Young took the initiative to remove the two mattresses at the north end of Elfin Forest a week before the group project. Thanks to him and the great example that he set for the neighborhood! Many of the volunteers were extra generous to also donate the use of their trucks and gasoline. Gerry and Mary Boeke, of the Harmony Grove Spiritualist Retreat, are always kind enough to lend us their large truck. They were unable to assist on Saturday due to health issues. We wish them both a speedy recovery. A HUGE thank you again to all who helped!



TECC's Mission

The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) is a non-profit, public benefit corporation dedicated to the preservation and protection of Escondido Creek and the natural open space within its watershed. TECC believes the natural lands within the Escondido Creek watershed are an irreplaceable natural asset with great community value. We support educational programs and compatible outdoor recreation within the watershed for the benefit of all residents of the area. TECC has formed alliances with landowners, government agencies, and education and community groups to increase awareness of the invaluable resources intrinsic to the Escondido Creek watershed. TECC's Board of Directors is comprised of committed local volunteers with expertise in business, science, land use planning, education, recreation, and restoration of natural landscapes.

- Leonard Wittwer** President
- Tim Costanzo** Secretary
- Bruce Hamilton** Treasurer
- Steve Barker** Director
- Jerry Harmon** Director
- Anita Hayworth** Director
- Patricia Newton** Director
- Jack Olmstead** Director
- Wendy Slijk** Director
- TECC Office** 760-471-9354

Thank You



Land Steward:

Martha Blane & Associates
Nanci Daniels
The Hamilton Foundation

Corporate:

Harmony Egg Ranch
Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Women's Club of Escondido
Palomar Audubon Society
Anita Hayworth

Sustaining:

Martin Benowitz
Joan Chitica
Timothy & Claudia Costanzo, TTEE
Robert Felter
Elizabeth Keithley
Deborah LeLevier
Robert & Marie LeLevier
Laura Mitchell
Richard & Patricia Newton
Sam & Kathy Pickard
Dr. & Mrs. J. Michael Sampson
James & Charlotte Smith
Mr. & Mrs. James Lacy Smith
Steve Witte & Family

Family:

Kenneth & Donna Carr
Art Cohen
Dennis & Viola Cummins
Icia Dummer
Dave & Mary Garman
Tom & Donna Golich
Janice & Edward Hall
Arthur Henning
Alta & Albert Kisselburgh
Nils & Elfriede Lunnerdal
Andrew Mauro
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Gervis Pimentel
Ricky Schliesinger

Individual:

Richard Barber
Michael Beck
Adeline Black
Janet Fairbanks
Sam & Sandy Farrow
Jerry Harmon
T.M. Hearn
Dorothy Kline
Sheila Melton
Richard Mercurio
Jayne Ottum
Craig & Sharon Tucker
Julie Vanderwier
Leo & Wilma Wittwer



Supervisor Slater Awards TECC \$20,000 Grant

Dec. 14, 1999, The Escondido Creek Conservancy was awarded a \$20,000 grant by the County Board of Supervisors. Annually, supervisors are allotted a fund for discretionary allocation within their respective districts. Third District Supervisor, Pam Slater, an ardent environmentalist, chose to fund TECC's efforts to manage open space.

TECC will use this award to help finance the costs of maintaining conservation easements along Escondido Creek. The easements, encompassing approximately 192 acres, are being conveyed to TECC from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District. TECC will monitor the parcels, manage restoration efforts as necessary, and provide trail access where feasible.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Supervisor Slater for her support and appreciation of TECC's commitment to protect and enhance the Escondido Creek watershed.

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P. O. Box 460791 Escondido California 92046

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