

# SPAWNERS

San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society

April 2004

## Jam-Packed Meeting

Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.  
El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way

The state of our creek  
Free non-toxic cleaning kits  
Earth Day planning

Join us in learning about the health of San Pablo Creek and the surrounding watershed. Karen Taberski of the State Water Resources Control Board will present the results of water quality testing on San Pablo Creek, and compare them to other Bay Area creeks.

Did you know that many of our common household cleaning products are toxic to humans and to wildlife living in our creeks? Learn about safe, cheap alternatives and take home a **FREE** "green clean" kit!



Finally, help plan SPAWNERS activities for Earth Day in El Sobrante on April 17 and San Pablo on April 24.

EARTH DAY

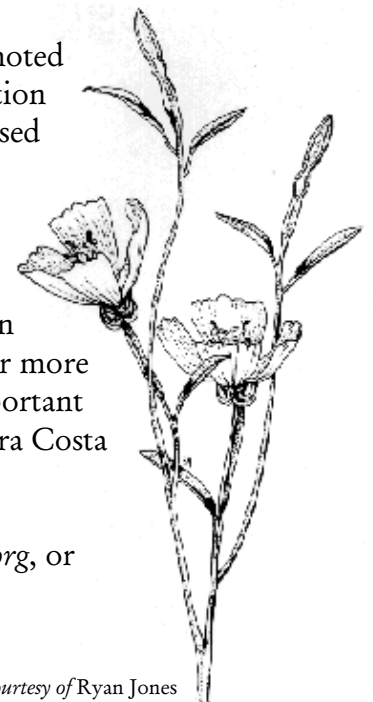


## Open Space Measure Would Help Protect Local Creeks *by Ivy Morrison*

In May 2004, Contra Costa County property owners may have an unprecedented opportunity, through a mailed ballot, to protect, preserve, and maintain our most important remaining open spaces, including creeks and watersheds. If approved, the measure would fund the acquisition of additional lands, as well as the restoration and maintenance of regional parks and recreational areas, including Mt. Diablo, Tilden Regional Park, and Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline. Local parks, hiking trails, and the lands around creeks, lakes, and shorelines would be earmarked for enhancement and maintenance as well.

If the proposed measure proceeds, it would provide \$7 million for creek and watershed restoration projects throughout the county. An additional \$28 million has been allocated for restoring and maintaining neighborhood parks, including the creeks which run through them. The funding could be applied to creek restoration, improving public access, and enhancing creek and water quality to help struggling fish and wildlife.

This measure is being promoted by the Contra Costa Coalition for Open Space, a broad-based group of environmental, business, and local leaders from Contra Costa County, who have worked diligently to bring the Open Space Measure forward. For more information about this important measure, contact the Contra Costa Coalition for Open Space. Call (925) 381-4187, visit [www.contracostaopenspace.org](http://www.contracostaopenspace.org), or email [imorrison@contracostaopenspace.org](mailto:imorrison@contracostaopenspace.org).



## Special Thanks

Genny Lavaud, a student at Athenian High School, has undertaken fundraising on behalf of SPAWNERS. By talking to her neighbors in Sherwood Forest, she raised \$132. Thank you, Genny and your Sherwood Forest neighbors!

SPAWNERS receives administrative and organizational support from the Aquatic Outreach Institute, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax deductible.

*Illustrations courtesy of Ryan Jones*



**SPAWNERS**  
 Aquatic Outreach Institute  
 1327 South 46th Street #155  
 Richmond, CA 94804  
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
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 Permit #226

**Dated Material – Please  
 deliver by March 29.**

*Join us at the next SPAWNERS meeting on **Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 P.M.**  
 The San Pablo Creek Watershed Awareness Program is sponsored by the Clean Water Program of Contra Costa County,  
 the City of San Pablo, and the CalFed Bay-Delta Watershed Program.*



*Illustration courtesy of Freeman*

### Meeting Recap

Jesse Quay, environmental scientist, gave a presentation on our four local native frogs and the non-native bullfrog. Frogs live in or near water for most of their lives and are therefore an indicator species for the health of a watershed and the quality

of its water. According to Jesse, red-legged frogs are fairly big and very susceptible to pollution and environmental stress. Chorus frogs are small but hardy and very vocal. Yellow-legged foothill frogs are about the size of the red-legged frog and rare. The western toad is similar in size but is poisonous to predators. Bullfrogs eat other frogs and just about everything else that comes their way. Jesse also told us about Frogwatch, an international program of citizens helping scientists. Local residents can monitor frogs by sound and report information on the organization's Web site. For more information visit [www.frogwatch.org](http://www.frogwatch.org) or contact Jesse at [pacific150@aol.com](mailto:pacific150@aol.com).

### Volunteers Needed

#### El Sobrante Earth Day

*Saturday, April 17  
 Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club,  
 4660 Appian Way, El Sobrante.*

Work on the activity of your choice until noon and then relax at the BBQ (free to volunteers). Activities include removing trash from creek banks, pulling ivy and other invasive plants, installing native plants, helping sign in and direct people, and giving out information. Everyone welcome.

#### San Pablo Earth Day

*Saturday, April 24,  
 10.00am-3:00 p.m.  
 23<sup>rd</sup> St. and  
 University Ave,  
 San Pablo*

Come and learn about composting, and the health of our creeks, tour Wildcat Creek, and help with clean-ups on two creeks.

#### Boys and Girls Club Volunteers

Would you like to volunteer with children after school and during the summer? We are looking for volunteers to continue a creek program that has already begun. Hands-on activities from science and social science curriculum build knowledge and respect for watershed resources. For more information, call Elizabeth O'Shea at (510) 231-9566.



*Illustration courtesy of Ryan Jones*

... Save the Date... Save the Date...

**Saturday, June 12**  
**San Pablo Creek Watershed Tour**

