

SPAWNERS

San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society

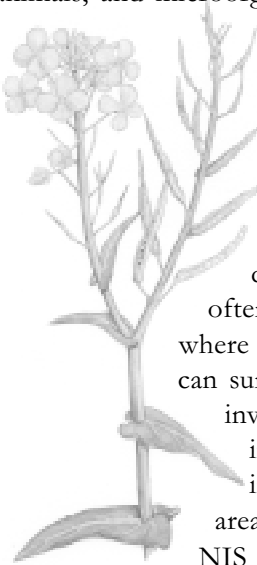
May 2004

Meet Your Weeds

Wednesday, May 5, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way

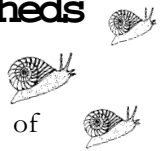
Non-native Invasive Species (NIS) Program

Roger Buttermore, Fishery Biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will explain how the NIS in the CALFED area includes plants, animals, and microorganisms. Concerns about invasive species include the economic cost and the fact that they are the second leading cause of native species extinction and endangerment. NIS damage ecosystems by destroying diversity and often creating a monoculture where only the invasive species can survive. Learn about these invasive species, why it is important to control them in our gardens and riparian areas, and why the CALFED NIS program was initiated.



IPM Spells Healthier Watersheds for Contra Costa

by Tanya Drlik



Contra Costa is now one of a growing number of California counties whose official policy is to use integrated pest management (IPM). Orkin, the County's new pest control company, will work closely with the Contra Costa IPM Task Force to manage pests, such as ants, rodents, and roaches, using IPM at 12 pilot sites around the County.

But what *is* IPM? Well, IPM is good news for you and your watershed. It's a thoughtful approach to pest control that concentrates on prevention and long-term solutions. Pesticides are not prohibited in IPM, but they are used as a last resort and only as "spot treatments", exactly where and when they are needed. Pesticide selection focuses on those that are least hazardous to people and the environment.

Have you been annoyed over the last few months by ants marching through your kitchen? A common remedy is having a pest control company spray pesticide around the perimeter of the house. If that pesticide lands on hard surfaces, such as driveways and sidewalks, rain or irrigation water can wash the pesticide into the storm drain or a nearby creek. IPM techniques can help lessen this problem *and* improve the health of our watersheds.

For ants, that includes depriving them of food and a way to get into the house. You can do this by keeping your dishes, counters, and floors clean, and storing food in the refrigerator, or in plastic containers with tight-fitting lids. If you can't get to the dishes, cover them with soapy water. Empty trash frequently.

Caulking cracks will also help keep down ant invasions. The next time ants invade, follow the trail back to see where they're getting in. Seal it and wipe the ants up with soapy water or vacuum them up.

When you can't seal them out, try using a bait. By using a bait station you reduce the amount of pesticide needed to kill the ants, and it doesn't wash off into storm drains and creeks.



To learn more about IPM, come to a presentation at the El Sobrante library on Monday, May 17th, from 7:00P.M.-8:30P.M. Be sure to bring your questions.

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

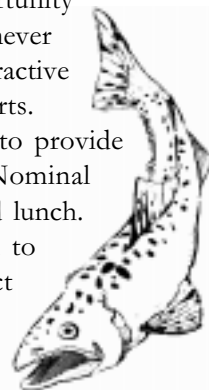
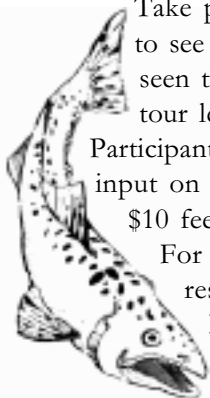
Saturday, June 12

San Pablo Creek Watershed Tour

Take part in a unique opportunity to see our creeks as you've never seen them before in an interactive tour led by local creek experts.

Participants will also be invited to provide input on watershed planning. Nominal \$10 fee includes bus tour and lunch.

For more information and to reserve your seat, contact Elizabeth O'Shea at (510) 231-9566.



Visit our website www.spawners.net.



SPAWNERS
 c/o The Watershed Project
 1327 South 46th Street #155
 Richmond, CA 94804
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**Dated Material - Please
 deliver by April 29.**

*Join us at the next SPAWNERS meeting on **Wednesday, May 5, 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.*

El Sobrante Earth Day

The El Sobrante Earth Day was a great success, attracting over 70 volunteers. Appian Creek was cleaned up all the way to the road, and Boy Scout Troop 146 trimmed and mulched all the trees on SP Dam Road. Over 300 plants were installed at the library. In back of the library, the trash removed filled a big dumpster. The ivy on the fence at the end of the bridge was removed, as well as all the ivy seedlings. The Rotary re-attached and cleaned the picnic tables. After the work was done, volunteers enjoyed a barbecue and raffle at the Boys & Girls Club. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who made this a special day in El Sobrante.

Visit the Library Gardens

Douglas iris, bleeding heart, buttercups and sticky monkey flower are all in bloom in back of the El Sobrante library. The new demonstration garden in front of the library, planted on Earth Day, is just settling in. Watch how these native plants grow and form a low-water, no-pesticide garden, and a safe haven for our birds, butterflies, and other wildlife, as well as a restful place for us humans.



Illustrations courtesy of Ryan Jones

Newt Rescue a Great Success

The newt patrol is over for this year. Many stalwart volunteers went out at dawn and dusk, in rain and cold, to help these small salamanders reach their breeding grounds. Although 74 newts were killed by cars, volunteers saved 530 others by carrying them across Hillside Drive. Thanks to all those vigilant volunteers for helping to keep our wildlife safe.

New Name for Sponsor

Our sponsor, The Aquatic Outreach Institute, has recently changed its name. Now known as The Watershed Project, the organization will continue to offer workshops to educators and the public, and provide support for watershed groups.

San Pablo Earth Day

The Earth Day festival in San Pablo enjoyed wonderful weather, many vendors, varied entertainment and a lot of information about endangered species, water quality, and the value of recycling and composting. A large crowd attended the festival and participated in various activities including a tour of Wildcat Creek and a mini-cleanup of its banks..

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO SPAWNERS

<p>Please help SPAWNERS maintain and expand our efforts on behalf of the San Pablo Creek Watershed by making a donation today. This newsletter alone costs SPAWNERS about \$600 each month to produce, print, and mail. Help us accomplish our mission of watershed stewardship with your support.</p>	<p>Name _____ Address _____ City/State/Zip _____</p>
<p>Mail this form with check made payable to SPAWNERS to The Watershed Project, 1327 S. 46th Street #155, Richmond, CA 94804. SPAWNERS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contribution is fully tax-deductible. It will be sent for your records.</p>	<p>Telephone _____ City, State, Zip _____ Accounts of Donation <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>



Matching Gifts: Can your workplace match your donation? If your workplace has a matching gift program, please let us know. In Kind: We can always use in-kind donations. Contact us to donate food, supplies, or anything else.