



# Creek Currents

Sacramento Area  
Creeks Council

www.saccreeks.org

Spring 2011

## Creeks Council is Making Changes for the Better

*Some of the changes: an email newsletter, a new website, a blog, and acceptance of online donations.*

At a time of tighter budgets, when everyone is looking for corners to cut, Sacramento Area Creeks Council is making some big changes for the better. Some changes are long overdue, others are just a matter of luck, but they are all going to give us a better organization for the future.

### Our New Look and Feel

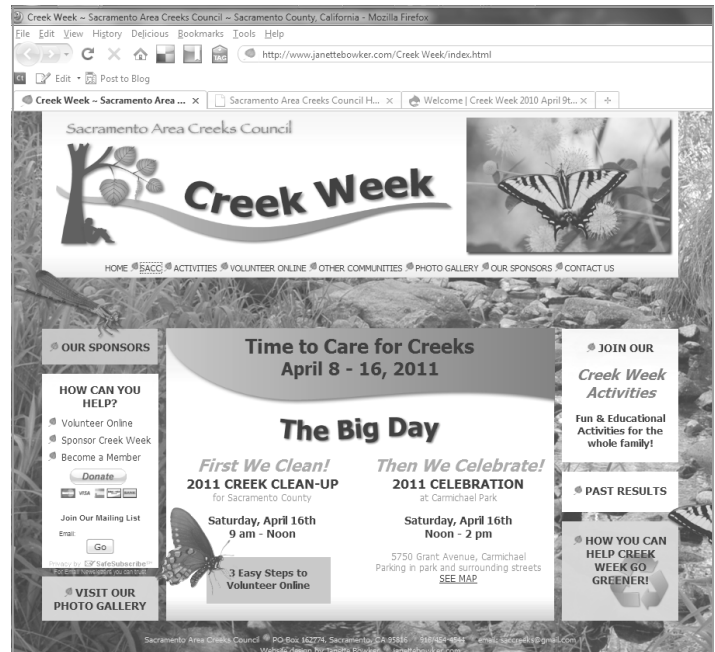
This year, we were incredibly lucky to have found a professional web designer to help us redesign our web presence for [www.creekweek.net](http://www.creekweek.net). Janette Bowker not only has many years experience in graphics, web design, and professional photography, but she also shares our passion for our local creeks, rivers, and environment. As we move into Spring, Janette will continue to support further changes to [www.saccreeks.org](http://www.saccreeks.org). You can see her white-water photography and samples of her design work at [www.janettebowker.com](http://www.janettebowker.com).

### CMS

We hope the change will make the Creeks Council more responsive to our communities as well as individuals looking for ways to get—and stay—involved. We are using a Content Management System (CMS) to allow non-technical individuals to express themselves on our site. Roman Ambroselli continues to be our consultant for all things CMS.

### Help Our Newsletter Go Green—Via Email

Currently, we are spending between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to produce each issue of this newsletter. We pay an editor, and we pay for the printing and postage of about 2,900 newsletters each issue. We also enlist volunteers to apply mailing labels. Well yes, volun-



The new Creek Week homepage includes important Cleanup information, volunteer sign-ups, a “Donate” Button, e-newsletter sign-ups, and a sponsor list.

teers, but they work for pizza.

So it might seem like old news that we want to go electronic. After all, it’s not new math to see that we will save money by paying less than \$300 per year for an online email service. We also hope that by choosing Constant Contact, a service very popular among Sacramento non-profits, you will be assured your contact information will not be sold to third parties or used in any way without your permission.

Please help us save money and reduce waste by signing up for the electronic version of Creek Currents. You can find the “Join Our Mailing List” link on [www.creekweek.net](http://www.creekweek.net).

*see “Changes,” page 3*



## Sacramento Area Creeks Council

P.O. Box 162774  
Sacramento, California 95816  
Phone (916) 454 - 4544  
[www.saccreeks.org](http://www.saccreeks.org)

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#### *Creek Currents* Editor

Lia Robertson

The Sacramento Area Creeks Council provides information, educational resources, and stewardship opportunities that encourage the protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural streams in Sacramento County. Its goals are to educate the general public on the aesthetic, recreational, and ecological values of natural streams.

The Sacramento Area Creeks Council holds regular meetings, develops educational materials, and participates in neighborhood fairs and public events. It works with schools, neighborhoods, and youth groups to encourage creek cleanups and streambank restoration. It cooperates with city and county efforts to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff. It cooperates with other organizations to monitor developments along stream corridors. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to share in these activities.

Creeks Council meetings are generally held the third Monday of each month at the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District office. Please call (916) 454-4544 for specific meeting dates.

## Creeks and Sewer Pipelines

*Their connections may surprise you.*

Creeks and sewer pipelines are an unlikely pair, yet their relationship intersects in many ways.

The first connection is erosion. Some sewer pipelines run across waterways while others are buried underground. Over time, creek flows slowly erode the creek banks and bottoms. As the soil erodes, sewer pipelines under the waterways become exposed. Sewer pipelines that cross over the top of a waterway also become vulnerable to failure as soil erodes away from pipeline supports and joints are exposed. When sewer pipes along creeks fail, there is the risk of sewage spilling from the pipeline and into the creeks.

To identify the problem of exposed sewer pipelines near and in waterways, the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) has implemented the Creek Protection Project to determine which pipes are at risk and recommend repairs. Permanent repairs take time due to environmental permitting. However, SASD completes temporary repairs including sandbagging to slow the erosion and installing restraining devices on the pipeline to provide extra stability.

A second connection involves improper disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG), which can contribute to sewer overflows. More than half of the District's sewer backups and overflows are caused by fats, oils, and grease poured down the drain. While sewer overflows rarely reach waterways, it is still a concern.

**“More than half of the District's sewer backups and overflows are caused by fats, oils and grease poured down the drain.”**

SASD implements a comprehensive FOG program designed to reach its residential customers. Program messages include FOG prevention strategies, proper disposal tips, and environmental impacts.

The third connection is the partnership between SASD and the Creeks Council in an effort to work toward a shared goal of protecting local waterways. The two agencies work together in a number of areas including participation in Creek Week activities, website messaging, and the soon to be implemented labeling program. The labeling program's purpose is to increase public awareness, provide specific information for quickly determining a location, and an easy way to report sewer problems. The labeling program will involve selecting and painting sewer manholes along creeks to make them easily identifiable. Placards will be placed on the painted manhole lids that include a SASD message, a 24-hour dispatch number, and a location grid number. Stencils may also be used to tag sewer pipelines that are not underground and manholes that are partially exposed in the waterways. The stenciled message will inform passers-by to call SASD immediately if they notice a leak or crack in a sewer pipeline or manhole.

For more information about SASD and its programs, please visit [www.sacsewer.com](http://www.sacsewer.com). ■

# Creeks Council Partners with Sacramento Weed Warriors

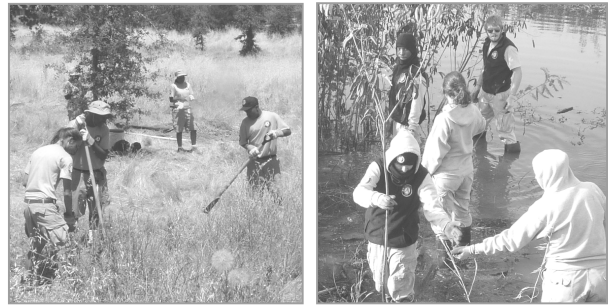
*Fifty-Five volunteer work groups generated 4,062 hours of invasive weed removal this year.*

In partnership with the Creeks Council, the Sacramento Weed Warriors (SWW) project was productive in removing invasive weeds in the Sacramento area in 2010. Throughout the year, SWW relied on AmeriCorps NCCC teams to conduct much of this work. In June, working with the Folsom Adopt a Creek-Trail Project, AmeriCorps high school Summer of Service members cleared a large field of a variety of thistle species.

In November, in partnership with Jones and Stokes/ICF and the Cities of Sacramento and Citrus Heights, SWW conducted a very intense, short-term project that required rapid removal of large Arundo (giant reed) clusters that were impacting Cripple Creek and Arcade Creek in north Sacramento. An AmeriCorps team removed 22 clusters in less than a month. During this project, the AmeriCorps volunteers filled eight large dumpsters with all the plant slash—that weighed more than 18 tons in total!

Work groups also removed Red Sesbania infestations along Steelhead Creek below Elkhorn Bridge and along the American River Parkway. This invasive plant, originally from Argentina, is a serious invader impacting watersheds in many parts of Northern California. This work will continue in 2011 because of a small Sacramento Weed Management Area grant that will be awarded to the Creeks Council.

To join us for this important environmental stewardship work, please contact Frank Wallace by phone at (916) 213-4682 or by email at [frankw2@pacbell.net](mailto:frankw2@pacbell.net). ■



*“Changes,” from Page 1*

## Donate Buttons

The Creeks Council is a 100% volunteer 501(c)3 tax deductible non-profit that gets its funding from a unique blend of public and private agencies. You can see a list of our sponsors at [www.creekweek.net](http://www.creekweek.net). More than 95% of donations go towards the promotion and organization of Creek Week and this newsletter.

We do ask for an annual donation from members, but we do not charge for memberships—so please join! This year we are including “Donate” buttons using PayPal for online donations.

## Future Change

We always welcome new ideas for community and volunteer involvement. Help us be the organization you want to see. Please send your ideas to [sac-creeks@gmail.com](mailto:sac-creeks@gmail.com). ■



**Top: AmeriCorps volunteers clear invasive weeds at sites throughout the Sacramento region. Above: Fun after a hard day of work.**

## Thank You Recent Donors!

Joyce & Tony Mihanovich  
Marisa Franz



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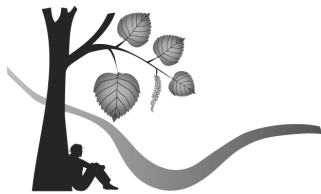
## ***Change Service Requested***

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**NEXT CREEK WEEK CLEANUP IS  
SATURDAY, APRIL 16TH**

## ***Creek Week Brochure Inside!***



The Sacramento Area Creeks Council is dedicated to protecting and sharing the abundant natural treasures that make up the extensive creek systems of our region. As a member, you will receive many benefits, including our newsletter *Creek Currents*. To become a member or renew your membership, please fill out and mail the form below to: Sacramento Area Creeks Council, P.O. Box 162774 Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816.

**YES!** I want to help Sacramento area creeks. Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$10 Students	\$25 Regular membership	\$40 Family Membership
\$100	\$250	Other _____

I would like to be a member of the Sacramento Area Creeks Council.

I'm already a member; please accept my donation and renewal.

*Make check payable to: Sacramento Area Creeks Council.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions?** Call: (916) 454-4544 Email: [saccreeks@gmail.com](mailto:saccreeks@gmail.com)