



## Remembering Frank Cruzen

*by Alta Tura*

Frank Cruzen, co-founder and first president of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, passed away on August 29, 2006. Frank accomplished many things before he took on the challenge of advocating for creeks in Sacramento County. After he and his wife Marie raised their family, he retired from Pacific Bell and could have chosen leisurely golden years. Instead he chose to earn a college degree in biology and then put his newly acquired book-learning to practical use.

Almost 20 years have passed, but Jo Smith clearly remembers Frank asking her the question, "What are we going to do about Sacramento's creeks?" She didn't have an answer. Frank had some ideas. Jo made some calls, and a meeting was arranged. The Sacramento Urban Creeks Council was born with Frank at the helm.

Frank understood the problems of our creeks because he had walked most of them. He saw the garbage in the creeks. He observed the decline in fish and other aquatic animals. He saw how homes and businesses were built right up to the creek banks. He recognized the invasive plants that had escaped from yards and were taking over habitat from the plants. He took others to the creeks or showed people his photographs to point out the decline. Creek maps and documents were examined. He and Jo interviewed experts



*(continued on page 2)*

## Sacramento's Other Kings

*by Bill Templin*



*Photo: Bill Templin*

Dry Creek and its tributaries are noteworthy for having the only documented salmon run of any of the area's creeks. These runs occurred both before and after construction of the Natomas East Main Drain (now called "Steelhead Creek") and levee which were constructed around 1914-15 (<http://www.sacto-ucc.org/ucc-creeks-sloughs.htm>).

Have you taken the time to experience the excitement of this event? If not, please do, it continues to amaze and surprise many of our neighbors, as well as continuing to excite those of us who have seen it before. It is as close as Interstate 80 and Eureka Road!

How many more of our area's creeks (Arcade, Bannon, Burns, Chicken & Strong Ranch Sloughs, Magpie, Morrison and Sutter) are hosting "Kings (Chinook Salmon)" or have the potential to do so with a little help from their friends? Do you know why you don't see salmon in your local creek? Is it because you aren't looking for them, or because there are obstacles downstream?

*(continued on page 5)*



## 2006 Officers

### President

Alta Tura

### Vice President - Education

Beth Etgen

### Secretary

Peter Tucker

### Treasurer

Jane Steele

### Directors

Jessa Black, Dorothy Harvey,  
Dave Hodapp, Steve Mayer,  
Kris Olsen, Janet Parris,  
Sarah Ross, Bonnie Ross,  
Bruce Swinehart, Dave Tamayo,  
Bill Templin, Frank Wallace,  
Melinda Weinrich

### Advisors

Rick Bettis, P.E.  
William Yeates, Esq.

*Creek Watch Editor* - Betty Cooper

The purpose of the Urban Creeks Council of California is to encourage the preservation, protection, restoration, and maintenance of natural streams in urban environments. The goals are to educate the general public on the aesthetic, recreational, and ecological values of natural streams.

As a chapter of the statewide organization, Sacramento UCC assumes the same purpose and goals. The chapter holds regular meetings, develops educational materials, participates in neighborhood fairs and public events. It works with schools, neighborhoods, and youth groups to encourage creek clean ups 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.

Chapter meetings are generally held the fourth Monday of each month at the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District office. Please call (916) 482-8377 for specific meeting dates and times.

## Remembering Frank Cruzen *(Cont. from page 1)*

and concerned citizens who studied and pondered how to reverse the mistreatment and neglect of our local waterways. An initial solution proposed by Frank was to clean the garbage out of the creeks. Our new organization had its first project. On a spring Saturday in 1987, a small group of adult and youth volunteers plunged into a clean-up of Arcade Creek near American River College. Frank saw to it that the clean-up became an annual effort that expanded yearly. He involved the creek maintenance groups of the City and County of Sacramento, recruited leaders for the growing number of clean-up sites and volunteers, and formed a committee to plan the process as it grew into a major event. After a few years, he left the leadership of the committee in the capable hands of Jane Steele, who became the second president of the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

Frank saw the need for a curriculum that aided teachers in using creeks as outdoor classrooms. Dipping Into Creeks was the result. He suggested special recognition for schools that studied and performed service projects on creeks. The Creek Steward Award gives that recognition annually at the Creek Week Splash Off attended by sponsors and dignitaries. Frank established ties with American River College that, among other things, enlisted the help of students with the clean-ups.

Frank worked and studied hard, planned well, found partners, nurtured new recruits and was a strong leader. When he decided it was time to retire from his volunteer work, he made sure successors were in place. If you didn't know Frank, imagine somebody unassuming, kind, good, thoughtful and considerate - with steady determination, showing you his creek pictures and urging you to help him answer the question, "What are we going to do about Sacramento's creeks?" You can be proud to be part of his answer.

**Bruce Swinehart:** Years ago on the first day of one of my classes, I asked each student to explain why they were taking my Natural History class. I always did that as an ice breaker. It seemed to be a normal make-up of the class except for one very bright-eyed fellow who looked almost as old as I did, unlike most of my students. He said he was retired and was always interested in nature and wanted to do something of value with his time. Many people just sit down in front of the TV set and take it easy. Frank was definitely not that type. I would often come in to the classroom early and find Frank there.

During the class students could come in and study the specimens on their own time any time the class room wasn't in use. He was so interested that I invited him to come with my group on the Sacramento Christmas Bird Count. He came for several years until his back caused him too much trouble. Through the Bird Count we became friends. Frank enjoyed college and did so well that he decided to get his degree. He graduated from American River College and then attended California State University, Sacramento, where he was awarded his BA degree. I was very impressed with his desire and energy to go back to college and

*(continued on page 5)*

# Creek Critters

## Water Striders *by Bonnie Ross*

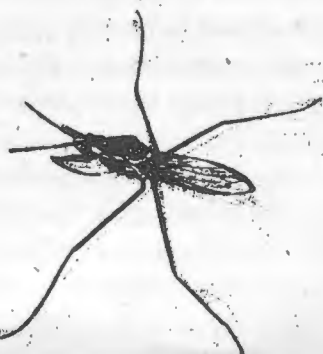
Among aquatic insects, long-legged water striders are about the easiest to see. They live on the water surface film and they tend to congregate in large numbers. One genus, would you believe, lives on the surface of the ocean, sometimes many miles from land!

Water striders belong to the family Gerridae within the order Hemiptera, or “true bugs.” Being a “bug” they do not undergo complete metamorphosis, and don’t go through the larval and pupal life stages many other insects, such as butterflies and beetles, experience. Instead they hatch from an egg, then become a nymph and undergo five molting periods called instars, each causing them to increase in size and look a little more like a mature adult. Water strider adults overwinter in protected areas near the water’s edge. Eggs are laid in the

spring and summer.

As with all aquatic insects, adaptations allow them to survive in their unique niche. Water strider legs are adapted to “skate” on the surface film as they possess fine hairs that resist water saturation and do not break through the surface film. They are carnivorous, using their short forelegs for grasping prey rather than for skating. They capture terrestrial insects that fall on the surface or aquatic life forms that come to the surface to breathe.

Being a member of the “true bug” clan they are equipped with a long proboscis normally used to inject their prey in order to suck out body juices. The proboscis can also deliver a wicked sting to human hands. So, when searching for water striders to observe, it is best to just watch them and appreciate their unusual place in Nature.



Graphic: Tamara Sayre for  
Cornell University

---

## Mourning Doves *by Bill Templin*

As much as you might think that those mourning doves that you see in your back yards are locals, many of them are probably migrating from as far north as Canada in the late summer and up from Mexico in the spring. Mourning doves, like ducks and geese, are migratory game birds regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. ( More information at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mourning\\_Dove](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mourning_Dove))

We don’t think of doves as migrating because we don’t see massive flocks of them flying in “V formation” like waterfowl, but people spend their entire careers documenting this phenomenon. For example, Karen Fothergill [kfothergill@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:kfothergill@dfg.ca.gov) is our local California Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist in charge of California’s part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ “Mourning Dove Call-Count Survey.” This survey was developed to provide an index to population size and to detect annual changes in mourning dove breeding populations in the U.S. The survey consists of numerous routes throughout the U.S., which are surveyed in late May and early June. The resulting estimates of relative abundance and population trends comprise the principal information used in the annual setting of mourning dove hunting seasons. For more information, go to <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/statsurv/mntrtbl.html#mdccs>

As the summer wears on, have you ever noticed an increase in these doves in your back yard? Just for fun, next year try noting on the calendar how many doves you see each day.



Photo: Brian Gilmore

# Arundo Eradication and Control Program

## What is the Problem with Arundo?

Arundo (also called Giant Reed) is a bamboo-like grass that thrives in moist soils and Sacramento's hot climate. It can grow up to 30 feet tall, as much as 1 foot a week in the summer! Arundo chokes out valuable native trees



Photo: James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service

and shrubs that are an essential part of urban creek corridors. Willow, cottonwood and oak trees along with elderberry and buckeye shrubs provide food and nesting sites for native animals. Arundo competes aggressively with these plants, but native animals do not eat Arundo and birds will not nest in it. Arundo uses as much as 3 times more water than native plants and is extremely flammable. Arundo clogs streams and drainage channels, increasing the risk of floods and property damage.

## Where does Arundo Come From?

Arundo is a native of northern India and of the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. It was brought to the United States as an erosion control plant, for fencing, as an ornamental plant and for livestock feed. It was well established in southern California by the 1920s, and has spread throughout most of the Central Valley and the Sacramento River Delta, where farmers and homeowners now use it mostly as a wind break. It is infesting many creeks and drainage canals in Sacramento, the American River Parkway and as far upstream as the north fork canyon below Colfax.

## How Can Arundo be Eradicated?

The Sacramento Weed Warriors (SWW), in partnership with the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, has recently received a California Bay-Delta Authority grant to begin eradicating Arundo in Sacramento area creeks and the upper American River. SWW has been removing Arundo from the American River Parkway since 2001 under the supervision of the Sacramento County Parks Department. With this new grant support, SWW will collaborate with many local government agencies and will organize a community outreach program to publicize the project to schools, youth programs, neighborhood associations, church groups and environmental organizations. We will be organizing volunteer work groups to cut down the tall Arundo stalks and haul the slash away from the flood channels. Once regrowth occurs, a professional applicator will apply an herbicide to kill the thick rhizomes (root system). Arundo is very difficult to kill, so SWW staff and volunteer teams will monitor all treated areas for at least a year to be certain that no resprouts appear.

## Targeting Arundo

The primary target areas include Arcade Creek downstream from Haggin Oaks Golf Course and Humbug Creek in Folsom. More than 30 Arundo clusters are infesting the lower portion of Arcade Creek from Roseville Road to Norwood Avenue. There are isolated clusters in north and south Sacramento, Auburn and western Placer County.

For more information or to join our volunteer email list for work group flyers, contact Frank Wallace, SWW Director at 213-4682 or [frankw2@pacbell.net](mailto:frankw2@pacbell.net)



Photo: Amy Ferriter

**Mark Your Calendars for Creek Week 2007, April 20 - 28**

## Remembering Frank Cruzen

(continued from page 2)

start a new career. Needless to say, he did well and became very active in conservation in our area.

I was always very proud that I played a role in



Frank's success and was doubly pleased when he and Jo Smith got the UCC started on such a great foundation. I miss Frank very much as a friend and as an outstanding environmentalist in our area. I hope The Urban Creeks Council and membership will remember that the organization didn't just happen. It took people with vision and ability to make it happen. I really admire Frank and Jo for what they accomplished.

**Benjamin Etgen:** Frank was also the president of the American River College

Alumni Association. He was both an excellent leader and a friend. He brought new life to the association. All of its members will fondly recall his term as president. The association hosted a dessert and play event. Like always, he was highlighting the efforts of others, desserts from the culinary department and a play from the theater department. He personally welcomed everyone and was sincerely interested in how they were and what they were doing.

### Contributions to Sacramento UCC in memory of Frank Cruzen

Dustin and Delores Rhoby  
Renee and Guy Berry  
Marion Rossi  
Bruce and Jeanne Swinehart



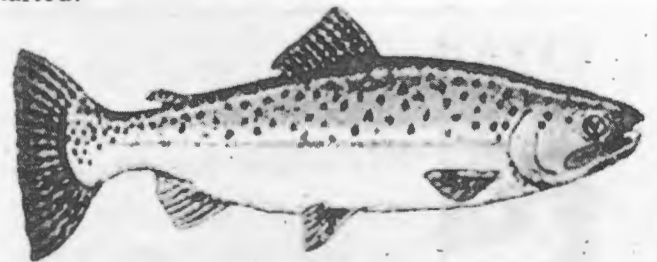
Volunteers responded to the call and Creek Week became an important annual event.

## Sacramento's Other Kings

(continued from page 1)

In the early 1900s, salmon came to spawn in Arcade Creek (<http://www.sacto-ucc.org/ucc-arcade-hist.htm>). Historically, Arcade Creek flowed through a large wetland and then to Bush Lake. Since then it has been cut off by the Natomas East Main Drainage Canal (a.k.a. NEMDC, and now Steelhead Creek) and has been channelized through the North Sacramento area (<http://www.sacto-ucc.org/ucc-arcade-hist.htm>). Isn't that similar to Dry Creek? If so, what is different in the Arcade Creek watershed?

What would it take to restore our local Sacramento area creeks to their former roles in the production of salmon? We have the successful restoration of Dry Creek as an example to follow. Could there be more creek restorations in our future? Maybe so, but first we have to document which streams are still hosting salmon and where there are none, then discover what is lacking. Then we can develop a proposal and look for funding and volunteers to help get it done. If you have answers to these questions or would like to help restore salmon to our creeks, please contact **Bill Templin** ([wtemplin@surewest.net](mailto:wtemplin@surewest.net)) and let's get started!



An exciting new science program is now available for presentation to classes and youth groups:

### **Dipping Into Creeks in the Classroom**

A trained presenter brings this environmental education program with hands-on activities based on the State of California Science Standards to your school. A guided field trip to a local creek may also be an option. For more information, call Beth Etgen at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, (916) 489-4918.



Sacramento Chapter  
 Urban Creeks Council  
 4855 Hamilton Street  
 Sacramento, CA 95841

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 619  
 SACRAMENTO, CA

***In This Issue***  
 Remebering Frank Cruzen, p.1  
 Creek Critters, p.3  
 Eradicating Arundo, p.4  
 Sacramento's Other Kings, p.5.

State Water Resources Control  
 Board *randra salazar Thompson*  
 P.O. Box ~~944213~~ *1001 I St. Floor 24*  
 Sacramento, CA ~~94244~~ *95814*

FWD

94244+2130-13 8001  
 94244 9998



The Urban Creeks Council of Sacramento 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 Watch*. To become a member or renew your membership, please fill out and mail the form below to: Sacramento Urban Creeks Council, 4855 Hamilton Street, Sacramento, CA, 95841

**YES!** I want to help Sacramento's 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 Urban Creeks Council.
- I'm already a member; please accept my donation and renewal.

Make check payable to: Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Questions? Call: (916) 482-8377 Email: [ucc@arcadecreekrecreation.com](mailto:ucc@arcadecreekrecreation.com)