



Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

August 2005

War of the Weeds

All over California natural wildlands are under attack by invasive pest plants. An invasive plant is a successfully reproducing species of plant that is, or has the potential to become, unacceptably abundant in a particular plant community. As native habitat is replaced by these wildland weeds, we also lose many species of birds, insects, fish and other wildlife.

Arundo, or giant reed, fuels dangerous wildfires, increases local flood damage, consumes more water than natives, and eliminates native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Pampass grass invades and degrades habitats along the entire California coastline. Eucalyptus has fueled disastrous fires in the Oakland Hills, in Santa Barbara, and elsewhere. It has been estimated that invasive pest plants cost California hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Here in Contra Costa County, problems range from artichoke thistle in grasslands to Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, and English ivy along creeks.

- From the "Cross Currents" newsletter published by the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District, www.ccrd.org, or (925) 672-6522 x 110.



English ivy is a common invasive species in the Pinole Creek watershed

What You Can Do

- Volunteer with FOPCW to survey Pinole Creek with GPS units. We will map important features of Pinole Creek including invasive vegetation.
- Volunteer with FOPCW to remove invasive creekside plants during one of our restoration workdays at the Pinole Library. Check our website, www.pinolecreek.org, for dates and times.
- Learn more about invasive species from the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) at www.cal-ipc.org, info@cal-ipc.org or (510) 843-3902.
- Don't plant invasive species such as ivy, cotoneaster, pampassgrass, or broom. Contact Cal-IPC or FOPCW for information on alternatives.



Survey Pinole Creek with GPS

Training: Thursday, August 18, 6:30 - 9:00 P.M.

Public Safety Building, Alex Clark Room
880 Tennent Ave., Pinole

Survey: Saturday, August 20, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Meeting Location TBA

A second survey date will likely be added

Summer is upon us and it's the perfect time to wade into Pinole Creek! This August, FOPCW will be participating in the Contra Costa County coordinated effort to collect data in our local creeks. The Global Positioning System or GPS uses satellite signals to create precise coordinates on the Earth for mapping and navigation purposes. On Thursday, August 18, volunteers will learn how to use handheld GPS units to survey Pinole Creek and map important creek features including bank composition and slope, vegetation and canopy, and man-made structures such as outfalls. The training will be followed by a creek survey using those newly acquired GPS skills, on Saturday, August 20. Ten to twelve feisty folk prepared to get wet and meet fellow creek enthusiasts are needed! Attendance at the Thursday training session is highly recommended and RSVPs are appreciated for both events. **Please also attend the training if you are interested in the second survey - date to be announced.** To RSVP, contact Nicholle Fratus at nicholle@thewatershedproject.org or (510) 665-3690.

New Web Page for Upper Watershed Residents (& others too)!

Please visit our Web site, www.pinolecreek.org, where we've added a new resources page that contains phone numbers for Contra Costa County offices, information on where to take household hazardous waste, whom to call to report dumping and spills in the creek, a creek care guide, the Pinole Creek Watershed Vision Plan, the Pinole Creek Watershed Sediment Source Assessment, and links to information on invasive species, native plants, integrated pest management, groundwater and wells, horse keeping, and more!

Thank you to the upper watershed residents who provided input on the web page contents!



the
watershed
project

1327 South 46th Street
155 Richmond Field Station
Richmond, CA 94804

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Richmond, CA
Permit #226

**Dated Material - Please
Deliver By August 15**



Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

Visit our Web Site at www.pinolecreek.org

 Printed on recycled paper

Outreach Committee Now Forming

The Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed is looking for volunteers to join our newly formed Outreach Committee. Do you have ideas for ways to find and keep volunteers? Thoughts on how to get our group better known in the community? Ideas for how to grow the membership of our organization? If so, please consider joining the FOPCW Outreach Committee. Contact Maura Sullivan at (510) 964-1946 or twoms@comcast.net

More Great Ways to Get Involved

Meeting Program Coordinator – Line-up guest speakers for our meetings.

Restoration Photo-Monitor – Follow photo-monitoring protocols to take pictures of our creek restoration and native plant demonstration garden at the Pinole Library.

Training is provided! We need increased community support and volunteer involvement to keep our efforts going. Please consider applying for one our volunteer openings today! Contact Nicholle at (510) 665-3690 or nicholle@thewatershedproject.org to get involved.

Celebration By the Bay

The Watershed Project's First Annual Open House

Did you know Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed is a Program of the Watershed Project? Drop by the Watershed Project on Sunday, September 25 anytime from 12:00 to 3:00p.m. to learn more about all of our programs and celebrate this year's achievements.

Explore tWP's native plant nursery to enjoy free refreshments, family activities and a raffle. Tours of tWP's current marsh restoration project at Stege Marsh will depart at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30.



Directions available at www.thewatershedproject.org.

Upcoming Events

For more information visit
www.pinolecreek.org or contact
Nicholle Fratus at (510) 665-3690
or nicholle@thewatershedproject.org

August

- Thursday, August 18
GPS Creek Survey Training
6:30 - 9:00 P.M.,
Alex Clark Room,
880 Tennent Ave., Pinole
- Saturday, August 20
GPS Creek Survey
9 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.,
Pinole Creek, location TBA

Please check our web site at
www.pinolecreek.org for current
information and additional meetings
and events.

Call to Report Dumping and Spills in the Creek

- For dumping in progress, call 911.
- For spills and dumping in Pinole creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (510) 724-9010.
- For spills and dumping in Hercules creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (510) 799-8252.
- For spills and dumping in Contra Costa County creeks, storm drains, and waterways, call (800) NO DUMPING.

The Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed is a program of the Watershed Project and supported by the Community Watershed Stewardship Grants Program of the Contra Costa Watershed Program, the Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund and the San Francisco Estuary Project.