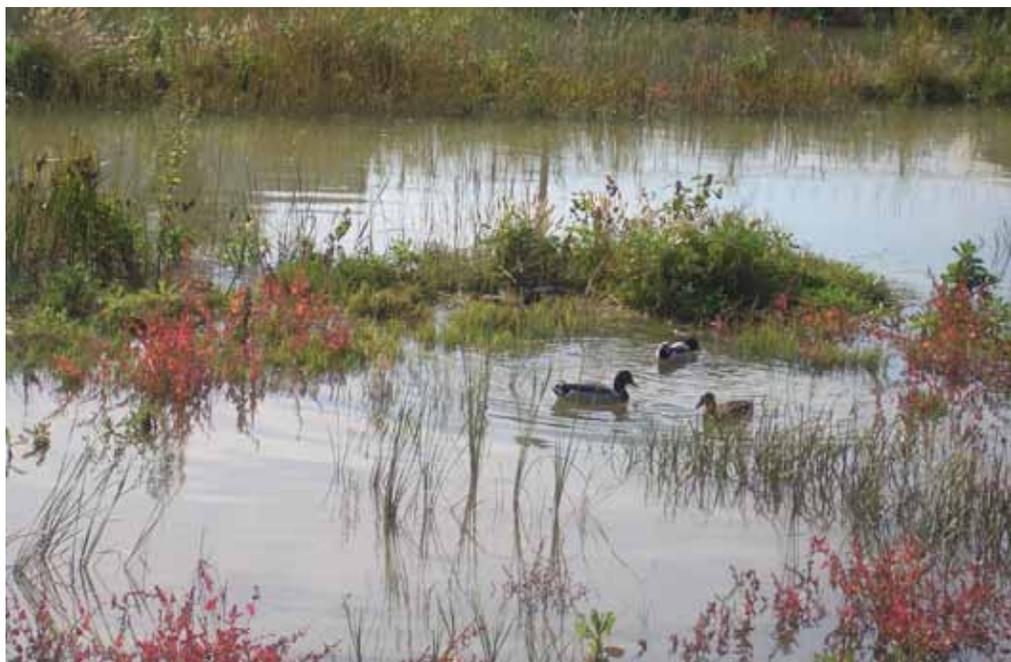


# Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

A Publication of Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed

Winter 2012



Carol Arnold

## Chelsea Wetlands Restoration update

This project will restore the Chelsea Wetlands to reflect historic tidal marsh conditions and habitat, as well as provide flood storage benefits to the cities of Pinole and Hercules. A large portion of this site was filled approximately 100 years ago during the rapid urbanization of the Hercules/Pinole area. The project will remove approximately four feet from the bottom of the wetland and a tidal channel will be constructed to allow the wetlands to experience tidal flows from Pinole Creek. The City of Hercules has obtained grant funding and is planning to begin construction in the summer of 2012. ■

## Did you know?

To report spills in the creek call: (510) 724-9010 or (800) NO DUMPING.

To report graffiti in the Pinole Creek area, contact the City of Pinole Public Works at (510) 724-9010.

The King Tides or high tides will be here January 20 to 22, 2012.

## Pinole Creek Restoration Wins Award!

The Pinole Creek Restoration project was awarded the **Outstanding Creek Restoration Project in Contra Costa County since 2008** by the Contra Costa Watershed Forum.

**T**his award was announced at the Contra Costa Watershed Symposium on November 17, 2011 where the City of Pinole Redevelopment Agency (RDA) and its partners, including the Friends of Pinole Creek, were honored. The RDA was acknowledged for working closely with the Contra Costa County Flood Control District, California Resources Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Restoration Design Group, and Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed.

The Watershed Forum congratulated the Partners for *“conducting a thorough community input process and demonstrating remarkable tenacity to bring an ambitious multi-objective creek project from vision to completion.”*

The Pinole Creek restoration project provides environmental, flood control, and recreational improvements. Many of us enjoy walking the new trail, seeing the native plant landscaping, and the variety of waterfowl that are now attracted to this stream. ■

## Pavon Creeks Restoration

If you've driven out Pinole Valley Road lately, you may be wondering about the construction work occurring near the intersection with Castro Ranch Road. You have been witnessing the construction of the new Pavon Creeks Wetlands. This project was completed by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) as part of the San Pablo Dam Seismic Upgrade Project. The Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed organized a tour of the site last spring.

In 2010, the nearby San Pablo Dam was strengthened to make it safe in the event of a major earthquake. EBMUD mitigated for habitat loss as a result of the project at Pavon Creeks in Pinole Valley and at Scow Canyon on the shores of San Pablo Reservoir. These projects created habitat for the threatened California red-legged frogs, restored existing stream channels, constructed new wetlands, and *(continued on page 2)*

# FOPCW News

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enhanced habitat for the endangered Alameda whipsnake.

The Pavon Creeks (there are 4 of them) flow into Pinole Creek near the intersection of Alhambra Valley Road and Castro Ranch Road. Three of the four creek channels were included in the restoration effort. The project will reduce the serious erosion of the creek banks that was occurring and significantly reduce the amount of sediment going into Pinole Creek. In addition, the site now has 2 new California red-legged frog breeding ponds and 4 new seasonal wetlands. Three seasonal wetlands were also created at the Scow Canyon site.

These wetlands now provide habitat for a number of sensitive species and are a great addition to the Pinole Creek watershed. In the next few years, wetland plants will develop and native wildlife will thrive at the site. Plan to make a special trip to see this dramatic transformation from arid grassland to flourishing wetlands yourself. It will be time well spent. *(Article written by Bert Mulchaey)* ■



Carol Arnold

*Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed tour the restoration of Pavon Creeks with Bert Mulchaey.*

## FOPCW Monitoring Pinole Creek Restoration Project

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The City of Pinole asked the Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed to assist with post project monitoring on the Demonstration Project along Pinole Creek. In June, the Restoration Design Group staff trained six of the FOPCW members on the protocols for taking cross sections to measure any physical changes in the channel since the construction in the fall of 2010. Cross sections as well as vegetation monitoring are required by the State Grant funders for a period of five years and the FOPCW have volunteered to do this work. ■



*Volunteers from the FOPCW, Carol Thompson and Bert Mulchaey, collect data for cross sections at the Demonstration Project site.*

## Contra Costa Watershed Calendars Available

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The beautiful Contra Costa Watershed calendars are now available. To arrange to pick up one of these free calendars, please e-mail Carol at [c2arnold@aol.com](mailto:c2arnold@aol.com). ■

## FOPCW Website Enthusiast Needed

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Do you like website design and maintenance? If you do and have a desire to donate your time and expertise, please e-mail Carol at [c2arnold@aol.com](mailto:c2arnold@aol.com). ■

## Make 2012 Your Year to Volunteer

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We need volunteers to work at the FOPCW native plant garden at the Pinole Library, organize events, and help with fund raising. To be added to the FOPCW e-mail list, please e-mail Carol at [c2arnold@aol.com](mailto:c2arnold@aol.com). ■