

Putah Creek News



We envision Putah Creek as a thriving corridor of native riparian and aquatic ecosystems connecting the Coast Ranges to the Sacramento River and the Delta. We envision a Putah Creek watershed community of people who value their creek and are committed to its stewardship.



Graham Calciano seeding flats in fall 2006

Putah Creek Council Hires Program Coordinator

Dawn Calciano

It is my pleasure, as Executive Director, to introduce the Putah Creek Council's most recent hire. Megan Harns recently began work as PCC's Program Coordinator and our second staff member. With Megan's help, we plan to grow the Putah Creek Council's restoration and education efforts and to continue collaboration among groups along the creek. Please join me in welcoming Megan to the Putah Creek Council!

Greetings Friends of Putah Creek!

Megan Harns

When I came to UC Davis as a freshman, I was amazed at the green trees and blue skies. Growing up in Southern California I saw little enough of both, but what really amazed me was Putah Creek. Water flowing year-round? Water that you could kayak on, fish in, bird-watch around? Unheard of! In my childhood, anyway. The beauty of Putah Creek was matched, in my mind, with its power to sustain such vibrant life despite the pressures from modern life. As my studies and recreation took me further upstream I found more to adore, like the frolicking of river otters and the music of the rapids.

I also found more to protect, more to restore, more to educate about. From undergraduate research in invasive species to science internships with elementary students, my path to a B.S. in Environmental Biology and Management was one long walk along the creek. I stayed to complete my teaching credentials and Master's in Education, and was pleased to take on the part-time

See Coordinator, p.2

From the Director

Dawn Calciano

If you are like me, then you have been scratching your head and wondering, "What happened to the winter this year?" and more specifically, "Where's the rain?" After two very wet years on the creek during which it was difficult to access our sites because of their being flooded, we had a very dry year this year that brought its own set of issues. As anyone who attended grass plug plantings this year knows, the ground was very dry and hard!

Although there were weather obstacles to overcome, the Adopt-A-Flat program and our volunteers pressed on. We would like to thank all of those hardy individuals for their dedication to the Putah Creek Council and our programs.

Coast and Creek Cleanup— Mark Your Calendar

Mark your date now for the largest annual event on Putah Creek—the Fall Coast and Creek Cleanup, of course! The cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 15, from 9:00 AM until noon. More details on loca-

tions and activities will be coming soon. Each year Putah Creek gets a little cleaner, but your help is needed to continue this trend. This is a great activity for families, volunteer groups, and classes! It is an opportunity to participate in an event that is not only local but part of a statewide, national, and international effort—that's a lot of trash!

The Statewide Coastal Cleanup Day Program, overseen by the California Coastal Commission, has a new presenting sponsor: Whole Foods Market. Look for information on the cleanup at any of California's Whole Foods stores and watch for the statewide 5% day that will support Coastal Cleanup Day.

Adopt-A-Flat Grows

The Adopt-A-Flat Program saw a record number of classrooms participating this year, with 11 classes adopting flats of native grasses and raising them for planting events. Students from Emerson Junior High and Willett Elementary in Davis, Shirley Rominger Intermediate in Winters, and Evergreen Elementary in West Sacramento

See Program Director, p.2

Program Director from p.1

seeded and raised a mix of native grasses that are being planted at the UC Davis Putah Creek Riparian Reserve. As part of the program, students learned about native plants, invasive species, and the history of Putah Creek.

Local citizens also took part in the Adopt-A-Flat program by attending two public seeding days, raising the flats at home, and bringing them to the planting events, which were held in March.

The native grasses help to stabilize the slopes and prevent erosion. They also provide habitat for local wildlife and help to keep invasive species from taking over the creekside riparian area.

“Creek Speak” Coming to Winters

Join the City of Winters, Putah Creek Council, Putah Creek Discovery Corridor, and UC Davis’s John Muir Institute of the Environment for interactive presentations on nature, art, and culture in the Putah Creek community. Learn about topics



Hydropsyche © Ken Davis

ranging from geology and fish to art and agriculture. Potential topics include Putah Rocks and Meet the Fish. The talks will be held the fourth Tuesday of each month from May to November 2007 at the Winters Community Center. The talks will begin at 7:00 PM and run for approximately one hour with time afterward for questions. And yes—there will be snacks!

Stream Biomonitoring

The Biomonitoring Program is now in its third year. The program began as a pilot and has expanded each year to establish a baseline measure of the benthic macroinvertebrates (stream bottom-dwelling bugs) in Putah Creek. Along with the baseline surveys, volunteers in the program have learned about the invasive New Zealand mudsnail, which can harm macroinvertebrate and fish populations, and received training on stream monitoring protocols and how to accurately identify the macroinvertebrates. This is our first long-term program in which volunteers monitor the invertebrate populations once a month when the stream conditions are suitable. We plan to expand this program to include more activities for children to learn about what is in their creek.

Please check the PCC website for upcoming biomonitoring dates. If you are interested in more information or in joining the biomonitoring group, please contact Dawn Calciano at (530) 795-3006 or dawn@putahcreekcouncil.org.

Coordinator from p.1

position of program coordinator for Water-Ways, a science and water-conservation education program based out of Lake Solano Park in Winters. With activities that introduce children to watersheds, wildlife, and aquatic insects in fun and hands-on ways, this volunteer-supported program helps me to lead youth on the first step to making a difference: appreciating Putah Creek’s role in our area. But I wanted more.

That’s why I’m so pleased to be taking on the part-time position of program coordinator for Putah Creek Council. Education is made more effective with action, and the actions undertaken by the Putah Creek Council and its dedicated volunteers are just what I was looking for! Working with Executive Director Dawn Calciano, I look forward to supporting the Community Stewardship Program and its important projects that give us all a chance to make a visible difference in the health of our ever more beautiful creek. I am encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of neighbors like you, newsletter readers, to take on this role as another step forward in protecting and enhancing Putah Creek. I hope you’ll join me in giving back to the creek that gives us so much—see you at our May 5th clean-up!

Megan Harns

PCC’s newest employee

**Featured Site: Monticello Dam****Fifty Years of Flow**

Amy J. Boyer

Deep inside Monticello Dam there is a cool, slightly damp tunnel, a good temperature for red wine, that runs from end to end of the base of the dam. Within it are a power supply for the dam’s outflow valves, a computer, three plumb lines running the height of the dam, and alas no wine. Wine or no, the dam is getting a celebration: for the last 50 years, Monticello dam has been providing Solano its water of life.

The dam was controversial from its inception, pitting Solano County against Napa and Yolo counties. A glance at a map shows why Solano fought for a high dam and a large reservoir: Napa has its own river; Yolo has both Cache and Putah Creeks, draining large watersheds; but Solano’s

creeks draw water from only a ridge or two. Without a reservoir, Solano would be—and was—dependent on well water.

But none of the counties simply opposed damming Putah Creek; they just had different ideas about where to put a dam or how big it should be. Yoloans, who had been diverting water from Cache Creek for decades, worried about loss of groundwater recharge, higher water fees, and the catastrophic flooding that could result if an earthquake occurred at the fault under Devil’s Gate, the site where the dam now stands. But they wanted flood control and a regular water supply. So they accepted a dam at Devil’s Gate, but they wanted a lower dam. Napa was willing to dam Putah Creek, but in Coyote Valley, a smaller valley than Berryessa Valley, close to Middletown and the headwaters of the creek, which would have meant much less land

lost to the water, but also less water storage and less impact on flooding.

The dam was bitterly opposed by the people of Monticello, the small town that was home to generations of Berryessa Valley farmers, but the high dam at Devil’s Gate won out. Said Governor Earl Warren as he approved the dam in 1948, “It is the solemn duty of our generation to plan wisely for the best use for all purposes of every drop of water,” and in that time, when urban sprawl was just a gleam in a developer’s eye and California’s population was far smaller than it is now, fueling the post-war boom must have seemed like the obvious choice for Putah Creek water, which was otherwise wreaking havoc on Winters

see Dam, p. 3



This bridge crossed Putah Creek in the town of Monticello. It can still be seen in the lake when water is very low. © US Bureau of Reclamation

from Dam, p. 2

bridges (carrying one downstream nearly to Davis in one notable year), and shrinking to seeming uselessness during tomato season.

So up went the dam, 326,000 cubic yards of concrete laid over four years of construction. The creek protested: in 1956, with the dam well underway, a storm dropped over seven inches of rain on Winters. It washed out a bridge over Pleasants Valley Road and sent water into the new lake at the rate of 100,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Water rose nine feet per hour behind the dam. But the overspill was 32,000 cfs, a considerable lessening of the flood.

That same year, Dorothea Lange and Pirkle Jones came to photograph the bucolic life in Monticello: the neat general store, the enormous oaks, the marble obelisks in the cemetery and the gaping holes of its relocated coffins. Jones's photos are in the slim, poignant book *Berryessa Valley: The Last Year*. The dam bears the name of the town that was sacrificed to it.

In 1957 the dam was done. Lake Berryessa filled completely in seven years; the famous glory hole spilled for the first time in 1963. The Solano Water Project, the raison d'être for the dam, is far more extensive than the bulk of the dam. The Putah Diversion Dam below Lake Solano turns the water into the Putah South Canal, which runs southward a couple of miles west of I-505 to Vacaville and beyond to Fairfield, where it turns west, then south through orchards, west again, and finally ends near Green Valley, north of the junction of I-680 and I-80.

Don Burbey supervises this waterworks. "The first day I went to work was my first day there" at the dam, says Don,

who became an apprentice dam tender in 1982. "It was different from anything I'd ever done—it was daunting." But he liked working outside, and the variety of the job. "There was a lot of work at the diversion dam in winter. There are twelve gates for floodwater, and the dam tender had to stay all night" to control the flow. "Lake Solano fills up quickly."

Now computers do a lot of the gate-tending. But there's a lot of upkeep: painting graffiti, maintaining fences, clearing the screen at the Putah Diversion Dam, greasing motors, checking gauges. Oh, and changing the outflow from Monticello dam to balance the needs of Solano farmers and Putah Creek fish. Every so often, particularly if there's been a nearby earthquake, there's an inspection of the dam, inside and out, walking the tunnel, checking the plumb lines that measure the dam's expansion and contraction, and climbing the stairs at either end of the tunnel, 11 flights of 20 steps, that go up to the top.

After 50 years in service, the dam is definitely doing what it was designed to do, though the flow regime has been upended: whereas the creek's lowest flows had been in summer, and staggeringly high flows occurred in winter, the creek began to have low flows in winter, and relatively high flows in summer to support irrigation. Still, the bridges in Winters stand unmolested by water. And the roughly 400,000 people in Solano County have water for drinking, for raising crops, for brewing beer and making jellybeans.









"It's a valuable source," says Don Burbey of Putah Creek water. "It's up to us to maintain it." The dam was approved at a time when the Endangered Species Act did not exist and Environmental Impact Reports



Celebrate Monticello Dam's 50th Anniversary

You are invited to join the Lake Berryessa Recreation Resources Branch of the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA), and many local partners to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Monticello Dam.

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM, join us at Lake Solano for celebration and education, which will include the following:

-  Tours atop Monticello Dam
-  Hikes
-  Music
-  Boat tours
-  Fly-fishing demonstrations
-  Hands-on children's activities
-  Interactive booth displays
-  Local produce

Watch for more information in the upcoming months on the Putah Creek Council website www.putahcreekcouncil.org and via our e-mail listserve.

Excavating the outlet for the Glory Hole.

© US Bureau of Reclamation



had not been invented yet. Learning how to make the dam do what it was not designed to do, maintain the health of the creek, is still a new project, but an exciting one.

Putah Creek Natural History



A male Anna's Hummingbird, soon to be banded. © 2007 Neil Kelley

Hope is the Thing with Feathers

Birds along Putah Creek

Amy J. Boyer

“There’s no place like home” could be the motto of the Ash-throated Flycatcher, a bird that returns every year from Central America to Putah Creek. Flycatchers raised here set up house in the same neighborhood in which they were raised. This is just one of the intriguing and heartening results from years of monitoring Putah Creek birds. Once again, as soon as you look closely enough, Putah Creek becomes a treasury of rare gems, not least because of the people who care for it.

Since 2003 the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology (MWFB) has been doing creek monitoring, an effort headed by Andy Engilis and Melanie Truan, longtime mainstay of PCC. The point-count surveys started by Melanie Truan in 1997 have expanded into several ways of looking at blackbirds, bluebirds, and all kinds of other birds. The museum is doing all these things:

- Mist netting according to Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) protocols, banding birds and checking for breeding status
- Working on a Breeding Bird Atlas study to check for birds that display breeding behavior, like making nests or bringing food to young.
- Walking transects (pre-determined lines parallel to the creek) and doing point counts

to record any birds seen and heard.

- Setting up nestboxes on the Putah Creek Nestbox Highway to encourage and monitor cavity-nesters like Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

There is funding for monitoring through 2019, which will provide an unusually long-range view.

One of the first results: Putah Creek supports a much more diverse group of birds than previously thought. Landowners were tremendously helpful. A survey of bird diversity along Putah Creek had been done earlier by a non-local group, who went where they had easy public access, in this case Winters—which has lower bird diversity than any of the other sites currently monitored. Persuaded to give MWFB researchers access to their property (often by streamkeeper Rich Marovich), participating landowners along the creek have allowed for the current monitoring effort to establish a much broader picture of Putah Creek ornithology. So far, 205 species of birds have been sighted along the creek, nearly two-thirds the total number sighted in Yolo County, and 75 species are confirmed or probable breeding birds.

Certain birds are especially sensitive to riparian habitat or lack thereof, either because they require it (“If the habitat’s not there, the bird’s not,” says Andy Engilis) or because they favor it along with other habitats. The Riparian Habitat Joint Venture and California Partners in Flight have designated these as focal species. For instance, Swainson’s hawks breed in trees along the creek. The Willow Flycatcher, a threatened species

breeds in riparian shrubs, especially willow thickets, and has been observed along the creek. And the Common Yellowthroat, which requires wetlands and is believed to be declining in the Central Valley, probably breeds along the creek. Bank swallows, a threatened species, may breed along the creek; they need exposed, easily dug banks in which to build their nests, which means they need waterways that can meander and recut their banks. The Least Bell’s Vireo, an endangered species, has been sighted on the creek, as has the Yellow-billed Woodpecker. “This illustrates the value of our local riparian areas as migratory stopover points,” says Melanie Truan.

The creek also supports California endemics (birds with ranges entirely or almost entirely in California). The Anna’s Hummingbird, so common around backyard feeders, is a probable breeder. The Yellow-billed Magpie is practically a symbol of the Central Valley, and is vulnerable to West Nile Virus; one piece of good news is that it may be bouncing back, and that individuals have been found with antibodies to the virus. Other endemics known to breed along the creek include the Oak Titmouse, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, and California Towhee.

Cavity-nesting birds nest in holes in trees, or in nestboxes, which apparently feel like holes in trees, and the Putah Creek Nestbox Highway was home to about 650 fledglings of 7 species last year, all banded and recorded. One question the researchers ask is whether breeding birds are raising plenty of young along Putah Creek or finding Putah Creek a dangerous neighborhood. A way to answer the question is to catch birds in mist nets and see how many adult birds there are compared to young hatched that year.

But some birds, such as the Ash-throated Flycatcher, are not easily caught in mist nets. Luckily, it’s a cavity-nester. The nestboxes on the highway are periodically examined for young, and they show that flycatchers are breeding well enough to maintain a stable population. In fact, many more Ash-throated Flycatchers are raised along Putah Creek than can find breeding space there upon maturing. Says Truan, “At least one individual was captured in a MAPS mist net 6 years (!) after it had been banded as a chick from one of our nestboxes . . . Putah Creek must be an attractive and successful location for breeding if individuals return to it year after year.”

Featured Volunteers: Interns at PCC

Saving the World One Creek at a Time

Amy J. Boyer

Despite having put mailing labels on hundreds of envelopes and endured paper cuts from folding hundreds of letters, both Anna Cady and Jennifer Kocsis say they'd recommend being a Putah Creek Council intern to their friends. "Yeah, yeah!" says Anna. "It's important to get these things done." "I'm learning about helping as much as possible without having to save the world," says Jennifer. And Dawn Calciano says, "I really like having interns! They bring new life to projects, provide different perspectives, and come up with really amazing ideas." Both Anna and Jennifer agree: the environment is important, conservation work is important, and so is making people aware of both.

The two high school students began in early fall. Jennifer started with the Coast and Creek Cleanup in September: "It was cool to organize the posters and see the different things people did." She'd also done an Adopt-A-Flat project with her Girl Scout troop.

Anna has environmental issues in the blood: her father is a program director at Community Alliance with Family Farmers. She was involved in the 100 Oaks program at Restoria, the early restoration project on the UC Davis campus: "I did watering and weeding. It was really hot. And then

it burned!" Jennifer was also active at Restoria, and Dan Leroy, former board chair and one of the driving forces behind Restoria, remembers their involvement as "a constant reminder of what I feel is one of the most powerful aspects of community-based restoration projects: they get people of all ages working together, sharing experiences, celebrating in community. Opportunities like this seem to be fewer and farther between in today's world."

It hasn't all been mailing labels and paper cuts. "Dawn has her hands full," says Anna. "She gives us projects she really wants done but doesn't have time for." The interns have been developing educational material so fourth- through sixth-graders have classroom projects that can go along with Adopt-A-Flat, such as a mock trial, in which students represent different interests debating proposed development along the creek, and a "Native Grassport," in which students can get stamps after they complete an activity related to native grass. Other components include a native grass growth chart and crosswords and a mystery game related to native grasses.

Says Dawn, "I've been impressed that they took the Adopt-A-Flat education concept with very little supervision from me and really took off and worked together to develop the activities. Some of the activities are adapted from other sources for Putah Creek but they have come up with quite a few ideas on their own."

One perk of the internship is coming to

the office in its farmland surroundings near Putah Creek. "I love the fields and the orchards," says Jennifer, and Anna says: "It's the best drive of the day. Of the week, even."

Jennifer is exploring when it comes to careers; she's also checking out a biotech lab at UC Davis. Anna says "I'm pretty sure I want to major in environmental science, probably do field research." Their internships get wedged in among plenty of other extra-curricular interests. Jennifer plays rugby and likes to take photographs: "I like things with personality." She also paints pictures based on the photos. Anna kayaks and plays the oboe; she recently took a trip with the school band to Disneyland, where they got to try out a sound studio.

Dawn hopes the internship teaches them about restoration and nonprofits, and it sounds like her hope has been realized. Anna calls the experience "eye-opening," and Jennifer says, "it's a good way to see what goes on at Putah Creek Council." For anyone considering an internship, Dawn says, "If you are interested in the environment and helping to protect it for the future then it's worthwhile getting involved in any organization, whether it's local groups like PCC, the Yolo Basin Foundation, and Cache Creek Conservancy, or broader groups like The Nature Conservancy." To find out more about becoming a PCC intern, contact Dawn Calciano at (530) 795-3006 or dawn@putahcreekcouncil.org.

From Birds p.4

Another finding is that Putah Creek cavity-nesters consistently produce eggs earlier than at other locations in the U.S., probably to escape the summer heat, which can be fatal to young birds; they also produce more eggs per clutch.

Landowners are critical to the success of the nestboxes as well, because many nestboxes are on private property (and welcomed there). It looks like they're also important to bird abundance; one transect consistently has high bird diversity compared to an adjacent site, and the difference is thought to be because the landowner at the high-diversity site manages the land for good wildlife habitat.

Answers raise more questions. Most of the species along the creek seem to be year-round residents, but careful tracking of banded birds shows it's not that simple:

one set of spotted towhees may occupy a location in summer, but a different bunch of spotted towhees may live there in winter. Another question is what helps winter residents survive and prosper. A third is how the bird population changes over long periods, especially as species compete; for instance, House Wrens are happily taking up nestboxes, but they are outcompeting Bewick's Wren; and the Blue Grosbeak is known to breed along the creek, but it is vulnerable to Brownheaded Cowbirds, which lay their eggs in the nests of Grosbeaks and other birds. There is no constant but change; thanks to the monitoring, we will soon know much more about how local bird populations ebb and flow.

Ash-Throated Flycatcher

Myiarchus cinerascens

© 2005 John Pelafigue



Thanks for Your Support

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all our members who gave from April 2006 to March 2007!

The Council relies heavily on the support of our members. Private contributions are extremely valuable, giving us flexibility to augment our other restricted funds. We are honored when you include us in your philanthropic support. While most gifts are by check, the Council can also receive contributions of appreciated stock. If you have other ideas for supporting Council work financially, just call or e-mail our Executive Director, Dawn Calciano, at (530) 795-3006; dawn@putahcreekcouncil.org.

Your volunteer support is also essential to keep our programs going: restoration, cleanup, education, biomonitoring, and more. How about pledging to be a key volunteer for one of our events? Be sure to let Dawn know! Thanks again.

Lars Anderson
 Marsha and John Anderson
 Kim Ohlson and Allen Barnes
 Lawrence Bazel
 Lois Beazell
 Elizabeth Berteaux
 Hannah and Ernst Biberstein
 Greg Bonovich
 Ann Brice
 Mary Burke
 Ginny and Tom Cahill
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 Gary Zamzow
 Irene and Haig Zeronian
 Kathleen and David Zezulak

A New Year Breathes New Life into the PCC Board

Dawn Lindstrom

With the coming of 2007, the PCC Board experienced many changes. Chris Rose has stepped into the position of board chair with Deborah North as the vice chair. Ruth Williams continues to do an outstanding job as our treasurer/secretary. The PCC Board currently has eight members: Chris Rose, Deborah North, Ruth Williams, Barbara Kendrick, Ron Unger, Joe Krovoza, Allen Barnes, and Olga Garzon.

Chris and Deborah were introduced to you in our Fall 2006 PC News. They have willingly stepped up into leadership roles on the Board and we are happy to have their vision guiding us in the years to come. Chris Rose, chair, is the lead habitat restorationist with Audubon California's Landowner Stewardship Program. He hopes to further connections between groups on Putah Creek and with landowners. Besides serving as the PCC board chair, he is also serving as the Putah Creek Council liaison on the Winters Putah Creek Committee.

Deborah North, vice-chair, currently works for the Yolo Land Trust and is interested in helping to facilitate closer connections among the local conservation community. Ruth Williams, treasurer, is the executive director of Tree Davis.

Board members and staff sincerely thank Dan Leroy, Allen Barnes, and Gary Godefroy for their time and dedication to the Putah Creek Council and for serving as recent officers on the PCC Board.

Dry Creek Invertebrates

Dawn Calciano

Interesting sightings have been taking place at the Dry Creek Confluence. New bugs, (more technically, stream macroinvertebrates), have been showing up at the confluence of Dry Creek and Putah Creek where they haven't been seen before. While aquatic biologist Ken Davis was out monitoring the confluence site, he discovered significant populations of locally rare and unusual invertebrates. Dry Creek and other local intermittent waterways below Monticello Dam had been monitored before for gravel but have not been formally surveyed for the presence of significant invertebrate populations. These Dry Creek invertebrates might be responsible for replenishing invertebrate populations in Putah Creek.

With the introduction and spread of the New Zealand mudsnail (NZMS), it is becoming more and more important for new populations of beneficial invertebrates, like those we are seeing at the confluence, to make their home in Putah Creek. Fish, such as trout, show a preference for feeding on mayflies, one of the beneficial invertebrates. Native fish populations rely on beneficial invertebrates that they like to eat in order to survive and support the Putah Creek food web. Most fish cannot crack the hard shell of the New Zealand mudsnail and the snail has little nutritional value.

Eight species of invertebrate have been

documented at the Dry Creek Confluence that have not previously been collected in Lower Putah Creek. All of these new species are beneficial invertebrates. Upstream of the Dry Creek Confluence, NZMS make up around 97% of the invertebrate community, whereas in other areas at the confluence of Dry and Putah Creeks NZMS are less than 1% of the invertebrate community.

Information does not exist for aquatic communities such as that in the Dry Creek watershed. Stream macroinvertebrates serve as an indicator of creek health and the health of the overall watershed ecosystem. Beneficial macroinvertebrates serve as a key food source for the health of many native fish and wildlife populations. With the spread of the NZMS in Putah Creek, it is important to continue baseline surveys of Putah Creek and its tributaries to determine the macroinvertebrate populations. Dry Creek is a unique opportunity to learn more about how, where and why the locally uncommon beneficial invertebrates are showing up and to see if they can help to repopulate lower Putah Creek for the long-term benefit of native fish and wildlife populations targeted as part of watershed restoration actions.



Dragonfly
© Ken Davis

Grant Thanks

Dawn Calciano

The Putah Creek Council has recently received two grants for which we would like to thank the granting organizations. In order for our programs to thrive, grant funding along with the support of our members is needed. We could not continue our work to protect and enhance the creek without their generous support.

In March 2007, PCC received a grant of \$15,000 from the Rumsey Community Fund to research the aquatic invertebrate communities of Dry Creek, a tributary to Putah Creek. In 2006 a consulting aquatic biologist, Ken Davis, documented the occurrence of unusual invertebrates (mayflies and stoneflies) that are probably coming from the Dry Creek tributary during the wet season. Locating the source of these beneficial invertebrates, which are a significant food source for native fish and birds, is es-

sential to the restoration of Putah Creek.

The funds will be used to monitor the Dry Creek watershed to locate the source of these beneficial invertebrates, to make corresponding recommendations for enhancing Putah Creek and Dry Creek aquatic habitat restoration efforts, and to educate the public about the importance of intermittent watersheds.

The second grant, awarded to PCC in April 2007, is from Soroptimist International of Davis. The grant of \$600 will provide food and drinks for our upcoming events, including cleanups, biomonitoring events, workshops, and field days. These refreshments are a small investment that will make a big impact in helping children and local citizens learn about their natural environment and their role in making the creek a healthy, beautiful habitat for animals and people.



Putah Creek Places

Spring has sprung and it's time to enjoy the creek! With new programs and renovations, many of our favorite spots have things to offer that you might not expect.

Stebbins Cold Canyon Reserve

Not only is Stebbins at its most beautiful at this time of year, the nature hike program is blooming right along with the wildflowers, with poetry hikes, stargazing nights, and even a toddler program. And if you want to botanize, that's an option too! For a list of hikes, see http://nrs.ucdavis.edu/stebbins/guides/guide_schedule.htm.

Lake Solano Park

A great place to go birding, catch fish, or put a canoe in—they have rentals if you are short a canoe. Spring migrants are moving and summer breeding birds are arriving. Catch the commotion here.

Winters Putah Creek Park

A lot of restoration work has gone on here, and the old railroad bridge has been refurbished to make a very pleasant walk/bike path across the creek. Take a walk along the creek, go fishing, or take a bike ride from here along Putah Creek Road.

UC Davis Putah Creek

Riparian Reserve

There's a new fire ring, several years' worth of Adopt-A-Flat plantings, and new oaks too. Take a long walk along the levee and see what your friends and neighbors have been doing.

Yolo Bypass

Another fabulous birding spot. You can take a tour with the Yolo Basin Foundation every second Saturday of the month through June, see one of California's largest bat colonies take wing starting in May, or go solo any time between sunrise and sunset. This area is a good bet for seeing Tricolored Blackbirds, and the skies should have plenty of migrants coming up the Pacific Flyway.



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Putah Creek News Spring 2007

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Donors of \$50 or more will receive a Putah Creek Council T-shirt (please specify size).

Here is my contribution:

Friend	\$25 (\$15 senior/student)	
Family	\$35	Sponsor \$250
Supporter	\$50	Patron \$500
Contributor	\$100	

Make checks payable to Putah Creek Council.

Contributions tax-deductible to extent allowable by law.

Putah Creek Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of Putah Creek and its tributaries through advocacy, education, and community-based stewardship.

To become involved in Putah Creek Council projects or to be added to our listserve, please contact Dawn Calciano, Executive Director, at (530) 795-3006 or dawn@putahcreekcouncil.org

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