

Stonybrook Creek Cleanup – Sunday, December 2

The Alameda Creek Alliance will sponsor a trash pickup along Stonybrook Creek on Sunday, December 2, in the late afternoon. Help us get the last of the trash out of this important trout stream before the rains come. Meeting location to be announced. To participate, contact the Alameda Creek Alliance volunteer coordinator, Ralph Boniello, at ralphboniello@gmail.com

Alameda Creek Watershed Christmas Bird Count – Friday, December 14

The Alameda Creek Alliance and Ohlone Audubon Society are looking for dedicated birders to help with the fourth annual [Eastern Alameda County Christmas Bird Count](#) on Friday, December 14. You can also participate by monitoring your backyard bird feeders on that day.

The count circle is in the vicinity of the towns of Sunol, Pleasanton and Livermore, and includes five East Bay Regional Parks, significant SFPUC watershed lands, and exciting East Bay birding hotspots such as lower Mines Road, Sunol Wilderness, Calaveras Reservoir, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Springtown Preserve.

Please contact Rich Cimino (yellowbilledtours@gmail.com) for more information.

This year's count is being conducted in memory of Bob Several, reporter, editorialist and photographer for the Livermore Independent newspaper. Bob was a conservationist and a strong advocate for protection of Sunol Ridge and Pleasanton Ridge, fought for the Pleasanton urban growth boundary, championed the Alameda County urban growth boundary and the Livermore urban growth boundary known as Measure D. Today birders enjoy the open space lands Bob fought to protect in eastern Alameda County, many of which are part of the CBC. Bob passed on September 21, 2012.

The other Christmas Bird Count in our watershed is the **Hayward–Fremont count**, which will be held on **Sunday, December 16**. For info about the Hayward–Fremont bird count contact Phil and Pat Gordon at pagpeg@aol.com or phone (510) 538-3550.

Support the Alameda Creek Alliance

Please support the Alameda Creek Alliance by joining or renewing your membership. If you have already joined, donated or renewed, thank you very much for your support! [Download an ACA membership form](#)

Your membership allows us to continue to be an effective voice for creek restoration and for the protection of native species and their habitats in the Alameda Creek watershed. Your support is essential to our success, so please send in a membership form today. The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit organization and donations are tax-deductible.

It's been another good year for Alameda Creek restoration, with major victories in our campaign to protect Niles Canyon from a misguided Caltrans highway widening and creek fill project, and a construction date in sight for the BART Weir fish ladder that will finally allow steelhead trout back into our watershed.

If you did not get a mailing from us this month, we do not have your address or have the wrong address for you. **Please send us your updated mailing address.**

Meet Ralph Boniello, Our New Volunteer and Restoration Coordinator



Ralph Boniello is the new volunteer and restoration coordinator for the Alameda Creek Alliance. Ralph will be working with the Alameda Creek Alliance to organize volunteers, outreach to landowners, and initiate small-scale restoration projects for fish habitat along Stonybrook and Sinbad Creeks.

Ralph has a degree in Ecology and Resource Management and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from U.C. Berkeley, where he specialized in study of conifers in the Sierra Nevada. He taught classes at U.C. Berkeley in Forestry, Natural Resource Sampling, Wildlife Ecology, Environmental Analysis and General Biology, and has experience in sampling water quality, evaluating botanical diversity, and controlling exotic plant species. Ralph is a Board member of Friends of Five Creeks in El Cerrito, is an active “Weed Warrior” working to remove invasive species from East Bay creeks, parks, and open spaces, and assists with native plant propagation and nursery maintenance at the California Native Plant Society’s Native Here Nursery. Ralph is also active in local transportation planning and bicycle safety issues.

If you are a landowner along Alameda Creek or its tributaries or want to volunteer to restore fish habitat, you will likely be hearing from Ralph soon. Welcome Ralph!

Calaveras Dam Replacement Project Faces Two Year Delay

The SFPUC has announced that construction crews working on the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project encountered unexpected and unstable geologic features in the left abutment and spillway area, that will likely cause a 25 month delay in the project. This would put project completion at summer 2018. We will try to figure out what this means for timing of promised mitigations, such as the implementation of the new stream flow releases, construction of the fish screen and fish ladder at the diversion dam, and new operation constraints on the diversion dam.

A SFPUC report on the problem can be found here:

[Status of the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project](#)

Click on Item 5-k, the Update on the Calaveras Dam Replacement Project on the agenda.

Oakland Zoo Measure A1 Defeated

Read the blog post from Save Knowland Park: [Measure A1 Defeated!](#) about the Oakland Zoo’s failed ballot measure, attempting to bill taxpayers for destruction of endangered species habitat at Knowland Park. The Alameda Creek Alliance helped oppose the measure.

California Water Conference Nov 29 & 30 in Chico

AquAlliance is hosting a conference on the future of water politics in California: [Water for Seven Generations: Will California Prepare For It?](#)

The conference is **Thursday, Nov, 29 & Friday, Nov. 30** at the Sierra Nevada Brewing Company, in Chico. Sponsors include the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, the

California Water Impact Network, the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment, and Sierra Nevada Brewing Company. To register and pay online, visit the [Registration page](#), or download and print the [Registration form](#) and mail it in with your check.

San Francisquito Creek Dam Notched for Steelhead Passage

More great restoration news to report from [San Francisquito Creek](#) in Palo Alto, following [last months announcement of funding for two future projects](#). A press release from California Department of Fish and Game and NOAA Fisheries describes the recently completed notching of an obsolete diversion dam on [Bear Creek](#), a primary tributary to San Francisquito Creek. Also included is a [link to a great time-lapse video of the dam being notched](#) down to near streambed elevation so that threatened steelhead trout can easily migrate upstream.

[New Website for the Coming Film "DamNation"](#)

Regional Salmon News

[A Historic Day: Salmon Return to the San Joaquin River After 62 Years](#)

NRDC blog – November 15, 2012

[SYRCL Issues Notice of Intent to Sue Army Corps for Failure to Comply with New Legal Requirements to Protect Salmon on Yuba River](#)

SYRCL press release – November 14, 2012

[New Index Shows Federal Agencies Fail to Meet Salmon Restoration Goal](#)

ENews – November 14, 2012

[One Fish, Two Fish - The New Bay-Delta Salmon Doubling Index and the Need for Improved Restoration Efforts](#)

NRDC blog – November 13, 2012

[Eel River Salmon Run 'Largest Ever Seen'](#)

Willits News – November 7, 2012

[Volunteer Groups Count Thousands of Salmon Coming Up Eel River](#)

Redwood Times – November 5, 2012

[Tribe Bashes Federal Officials; Claims They're Endangering Salmon](#)

Redding Record-Searchlight – November 1, 2012

[Golden Gate Salmon Association Announces Central Valley Salmon Rebuilding Plan](#)

IndyMedia – November 1, 2012

[Plan to Save Central California Coast Coho Salmon Mapped Out](#)

Inside Bay Area – October 26, 2012

[Stanislaus Salmon See Boost](#)

Union Democrat – October 26, 2012

[Feds, State, Sonoma County Break Ground on \\$1.8M Dry Creek Rescue Plan for Last Remaining Coho Salmon](#)

Healdsburg Patch – October 17, 2012

The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by becoming a member.