

## **Up Your Creek!**

The electronic newsletter of the Alameda Creek Alliance

### **Upcoming ACA Restoration Workday in Niles – March 19**



Join us on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to noon, for a morning of habitat restoration along Alameda Creek. We'll continue clearing invasive plants, check on our recent plantings, and plant some more native grasses and rushes along Alameda Creek. This continues past work by ACA volunteers, and your efforts will enhance habitat for fish and wildlife along Alameda Creek for years to come!

Meet at 10 am at the Niles Staging Area Parking lot along Old Canyon Road near Canyon Oaks Court in the Niles area of Fremont (roughly 720 Old Canyon Road), and we'll work until about noon. To RSVP and find more details [visit us on Eventbrite](#).

**Please wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes** that can get dirty (no sandals or flip-flops). We provide gloves and tools. The work isn't on much of a slope, but the ground can be uneven. There is no poison oak in the immediate area where we'll be working. Expect cool weather and morning dew when we start. Heavy rain cancels. All participants need signed waiver forms ([one for the ACA](#) and one [for Alameda County](#)), and anyone under 18 needs a parental signature.

Our next restoration workday in Niles will be our Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Sunol Wildflower Festival – April 9**



It's time to celebrate the season of the birds, bees, flowers and trees at the annual Sunol Wildflower Festival. The festival will be held in Sunol Regional Park on Saturday, April 9th from 11 am to 4 pm. Join the Alameda Creek Alliance at the Old Green Barn Visitor Center in Sunol Park for hikes, crafts, music, and nature activities. Visit the ACA outreach table and learn more about the native fish that live in Alameda Creek and what you can do to help keep a clean and healthy environment for them.

The East Bay Regional Park District has hikes and activities planned for different ages, distances and on different natural history topics. Pack a picnic lunch, put on your hiking boots and join us for a glorious day filled with flowers in this very special wilderness! Carpooling encouraged.

We need volunteers to help staff our outreach table and help with our fish painting activity for kids. Please contact Ralph at [ralph@alamedacreek.org](mailto:ralph@alamedacreek.org) if you can help.

## Train Derailment in Alameda Creek



An Altamont Corridor Express passenger commute train derailed yesterday near Sunol and plunged into Alameda Creek. Fortunately no one was killed and only 9 of the more than 200 passengers were injured, apparently none critically.

We are checking with the Alameda County Water District to see if any toxic materials went into the creek as a result of the crash. This does raise the issue of what would have been the result if this were an oil train or a train with tankers of toxic materials that crashed, which are regularly transported on tracks across the creek in Niles.



Train with nitric acid tanker crossing Alameda Creek at Niles

## **Pacific Lamprey Sighted at BART Weir**



Lamprey at the BART weir February 18

On February 18, while looking for potential migrating steelhead trout in Alameda Creek at the BART weir, Alameda Creek Alliance member Dave Garges spotted six very strange fish trying to suck their way up the cement incline at the BART weir.

These were Pacific lamprey, a weird, but native, fish. Can steelhead trout be far behind? Keep an eye out in the lower creek this month for steelhead.



Here is a better view of a Pacific lamprey. Lampreys are delightfully bizarre fish, vastly underappreciated for the role they play as a food source in estuarine, stream, and river ecosystems. Ancient, jawless fish, lampreys superficially resemble eels but are not related to them. They have an anadromous life cycle (migrating to freshwater for spawning), similar to salmon and steelhead trout.



Here is the business end of a Pacific lamprey. Large concentrations of adult and larval lampreys were once an important and dependable high-fat food source for many birds, fish, and mammals along the Pacific Coast and acted as a buffer to reduce predation on migrating adult salmon. Like salmon, lampreys play a key ecological role transporting nutrients such as nitrogen to freshwater ecosystems. Pacific lamprey are known to spawn in upper Alameda Creek in Sunol Regional Park.

## ACA's Derrell Bridgman Honored for Trout in the Classroom



Alameda Creek Alliance Board member Derrell Bridgman (also with the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers) is one of the original sponsors of the [Trout in the Classroom](#) program in the Bay Area. Derrell was honored earlier this month and received an Award of Appreciation from the Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, for his many years of working with teachers to provide tens of thousands of students with a hands-on education about the life cycle of rainbow trout. Derrell coordinates four Trout in the Classroom programs at elementary schools in the Alameda Creek watershed.

Thank you Derrell for your inspiring and continuing volunteer work connecting kids to nature!

## Alameda Creek Trail in the News

### [Southern Alameda Needs Proposed Niles Canyon Trail](#)

Editorial by Supervisors Valle and Haggerty in the Oakland Tribune - February 9, 2016

### [Niles Canyon Trail Plan Seen As Regional System Connector](#)

San Jose Mercury News – January 26, 2016

## Regional Salmon Restoration News

### [Poor Season Forecast for Klamath Chinook Salmon](#)

Eureka Times-Standard – March 5, 2016

### [Lessons for California as a Dam Falls and a River Moves](#)

San Francisco Chronicle – March 4, 2016

[\*\*\*Is There Hope for California's Salmon?\*\*\*](#)

Pacific Sun – February 24, 2016

[\*\*\*New Hope, Scrutiny for Carmel River in Wake of Dam Removal, Rerouted Channel\*\*\*](#)

Monterey Herald – February 20, 2016

[\*\*\*Save the Wild Trout of the San Gabriel River\*\*\*](#)

San Gabriel Valley Tribune – February 19, 2016

[\*\*\*Say Hello to the \(New\) Biggest Dam Removal in U.S. History\*\*\*](#)

Adventure Journal – February 16, 2016

[\*\*\*Cold, Dead Fish Awards for 2015\*\*\*](#)

Daily Kos – February 4, 2016

[\*\*\*Local Group Uses Civic Center As Screen to Push for Coho Salmon Protections\*\*\*](#)

Marin Independent-Journal – February 3, 2016

[\*\*\*California, Oregon Moving to Demolish Klamath River Dams, Despite Congress\*\*\*](#)

Sacramento Bee – February 1, 2016

[\*\*\*Only 3 Percent of Juvenile Salmon Survived California Drought In 2015\*\*\*](#)

Sacramento Bee – February 1, 2016

[\*\*\*Northern California Salmon Run Devastated, Again, By Drought\*\*\*](#)

San Francisco Chronicle - February 1, 2016

[\*\*\*2nd Disastrous Drought Year for Endangered California Salmon\*\*\*](#)

Merced Sun-Star - February 1, 2016

[\*\*\*Stop the Delta Tunnel Water Madness\*\*\*](#)

San Jose Mercury News editorial – January 29, 2016

[\*\*\*Why the Delta Project Needs To Break Ground in 2016, Or It Likely Won't Happen\*\*\*](#)

ABC10 – January 28, 2016

[\*\*\*State Wants to Close Sacramento River to Protect Endangered Salmon\*\*\*](#)

Redding Record-Searchlight – January 27, 2016

[\*\*\*Assemblymember Eggman Introduces Bill to Force Vote on Delta Tunnels\*\*\*](#)

Daily Kos – January 23, 2016

[\*\*\*Tuolumne River Salmon Debate Goes Way Back\*\*\*](#)

Modesto Bee – January 22, 2016

[\*\*\*PacifiCorp Pursues Dam Removal after Collapse of Klamath Legislation\*\*\*](#)

OPB – January 20, 2016

[\*\*\*Group Criticizes Salmon Transport Plan\*\*\*](#)

Mountain Appeal-Democrat – January 17, 2016

[\*\*\*Drought Hammers Endangered Salmon\*\*\*](#)

Redding Record-Searchlight – January 14, 2016

***The Alameda Creek Alliance is a non-profit community watershed protection group. Please support our efforts by [becoming a member](#)***