



## Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed

# Creek Talk

March 2010

If you can't see pictures in this newsletter click [here](#) to view online.



The Mission of Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is to protect, conserve, and restore Marsh Creek and its tributaries, and to inspire appreciation and conservation of the Marsh Creek Watershed.



### Disney Give A Day Get A Day UPDATE:

A new opportunity was added for 25 spots for ADULTS 18 and over to help install burrows for the Burrowing Owls at the Antioch Burrowing Owl Preserve THIS COMING SUNDAY, MARCH 7<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to 3PM. You don't have to participate in Disney program to come out and help. Call Diane at 925.325.2908 to get info.



Creekside Park  
Demonstration Garden  
Brentwood



### Help Improve Burrowing Owl Habitat This Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 10AM to 3PM



### Next Meeting:

## March 4th

featuring

## Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed: What We Do

Get to know all about the programs, projects and activities that Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed are involved with throughout the year!

Meeting will be held from  
**7 to 9 PM**

At

Liberty Union High School District Offices  
20 Oak Street, Brentwood  
Click Here for directions

**RSVPS APPRECIATED**



Join us as we dig holes and bury 6 artificial burrows for Burrowing Owls at the Antioch Burrowing Owl Preserve.

If you are up for digging in the mud (we need to dig 6 holes that are 2 feet squared!!!) and helping these charming creatures of concern then join us!

18 and older only please!

To RSVP and get more details  
call Diane at 925.325.2908.

In January we began featuring articles about our volunteers and committees to highlight the various activities that Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is involved with. This month we will feature an article from Barry Margesson, Committee Chair of the Planting Committee



"There is new life in the soil. There is healing in the trees for tired minds and for our overburdened spirits, there is great strength in the hills, if only we will lift up our eyes. Remember that nature is your great restorer."

**Calvin Coolidge**

## FOMCW SPOTLIGHT:

### PLANTING COMMITTEE

*What is the FOMCW Monitoring Committee and What Exactly Do They Do?*

**By Barry Margesson, Committee Chair of the Planting Committee**

The planting committee's goals include introducing native plants to various sites in the Marsh Creek Watershed, Using demonstration gardens to educate the public about the advantages of native plants and home gardens, creating habitat for native species: aquatic, insects, and birds, provide skills and training for Liberty Transition students through plant propagation at the Liberty High School campus greenhouse, reduce peak run-off flows and sedimentation in the Marsh Creek Channel with deep-rooted species planting and year round foliage cover, strengthen community ties through volunteer planting projects, and promote neighborhood involvement in developing and monitoring new planting sites.

The Planting Committee's efforts are supported by the Liberty Transition staff and students, the Delta Informal Gardeners club, and REI. Assistance in providing volunteer logistics, waivers, and permission to plant on sites is provided by the city of Brentwood and the Contra Costa Flood Control District. Scout groups, Church members, area businesses, and local families comprise regularly come out to volunteer.

Current projects include the Demonstration Gardens at Creekside Park off Crescent Blvd in Brentwood, Sand Creek near Almond Park in Brentwood, and Creek Road off of Concord Avenue. Each Demonstration Garden features native plants, drip and sprinkler systems installed and a sheet mulching program used to control weeds wherever possible.

Future goals and projects include introducing more native oaks and grasses to hillsides, working to develop alternatives to herbicide spraying on creek banks with flood control, experimenting with grasses adapted to stabilizing banks without creating flow capacity reductions and new demonstration gardens in other parts of Marsh Creek. A new demonstration garden will be developed in large area adjacent to Marsh Creek Trail at the junction of Deer Creek. The Planting Committee also looks at creating demonstration gardens in Oakley soon including at the site of the creek restoration project at Oakley's Creekside Park.

**If you are interested in getting involved with the Planting Committee call Barry at 925.2506826.**

***We also need donations including a storage space, landscaping tools and equipment, plastic pots, tarps and wheelbarrows. If you would like to a tax deductible donation call Diane at 925.325.2908***

## California and Water ... Some Interesting Numbers

*Quoted from Dr. Lawrence Kolb at a recent League of Women Voters Forum on the Delta Conservation Plan*

### Links to Check Out:

[Great Delta Trail Website](#)

[Friends of Live Earth: Dow's 6K Walk at the Wetlands](#)  
Come see us at the FOMCW table!

[Gardening in Contra Costa County](#)

An amazing reference database for Contra Costa Gardeners!!

[City of Antioch Burrowing Owl Preserve Page](#)  
Join us this Sunday to help build burrows!

- The State of California covers 100 million acres with 2 feet of average rainfall statewide equaling about 200 Million acre feet (MAF) of precipitation annually. (One acre foot equals 325,851 gallons)
- 2/3 of precipitation returns to the sky through evaporation / transpiration through plant leaves.
- 70 million acre feet run off to streams and rivers.
- 43 million acre feet are diverted to dams, canals.
- 20% of developed water goes to domestic use, 80% goes to agriculture.
- Crops are 2% of the State economy
- Cotton, rice, and irrigated pasture use 40% of agricultural water and yield 13% of agricultural dollars.
- San Francisco Bay would receive 27 MAF if flows were not impaired by dams / diversions.
- Of the 13 MAF diverted: 6.7 is sent to the north, 5 to the south, .4 to the west, and .8 MAF to the Delta.
- The proposed Delta Peripheral Canal has a capacity of 15,000 Cubic feet per second / 165 acre feet per hour

## Upcoming Activities

**March 7<sup>th</sup> Burrowing Owl Project at Burrowing Owl Preserve in Antioch**  
(See first page of newsletter for more details)

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** Friends of Live Earth: Dow's 6K Walk at the Wetlands (See Link)

**April and May Hikes with Dr Hale in Round Valley**  
Official dates haven't been set but will be announced soon!

**Fish Kill Monitoring Training in April and Monitoring in May** FOMCW is working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board monitoring portions of Marsh Creek for fish kill conditions. In years past there were 3 different fish kills that occurred. The causes of these fish kills were never identified. Join FOMCW in May while we do weekly water quality sampling. In April we will be doing training for the monitoring project. We will also be training volunteers to be available to be a part of our immediate local response team in the event of a fish kill. The response team will be taking water samples that are compliant with the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and fish carcasses in the event of a fish kill. By responding quickly we may be able to capture data that will explain the conditions that have caused fish kills in the past.

**EARTH Day Community Service Day April 24<sup>th</sup>**

More information will come out in next month's newsletter- more opportunities will be on the Disneyarks.com site in the next few weeks.

**CREEK CLEANUP PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Creek Cleanup will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Join us in early May as we start planning this important event!**

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## Policy on Representing FOMCW

Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed is a corporation and tax exempt organization that must follow particular guidelines and regulations. The Coordinating Committee has established a policy regarding who may speak on behalf of and represent the organization: **“While we recognize and encourage all members to express personal opinions, only the Chairperson of the Coordinating Committee and the FOMCW Executive Director are to speak on behalf of and or officially represent the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed organization unless given prior approval.”** FOMCW encourages you to identify yourself as a member of (if you are a member) and/or volunteer for FOMCW to help further the awareness of the organization but requests that you clarify that you are speaking a personal opinion and not representing the organization. *If you have questions contact FOMCW.*

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## Are You a Member?

**Have you renewed your membership this year?**

**FOMCW now collects dues for membership. Regular membership dues are \$30, Family Memberships are \$45 and Students are \$15.**

**To renew your membership or to become a new member fill out a membership card at a meeting or mail your dues and card to**

**2063 Main St, #311,  
Oakley, CA 94561**

**Membership cards can be found on the FOMCW website at  
[http://www.fomcw.org/files/fomcw\\_membership\\_signup.pdf](http://www.fomcw.org/files/fomcw_membership_signup.pdf)**

**Contact Us**  
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**Marsh Creek**  
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