

# COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

Jan-March  
Volume 8 Issue 1

NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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## "Extra, Extra, Read All About It!"

- Gates at Farquhar road crossing: Several landowners will be installing gates at the Farquhar Road creek crossing on the South Fork Cottonwood Creek, to stop illegal trespass and garbage dumping along the creek. This garbage ends up in the stream and is very harmful to the habitat. These gates will be installed on private land and are being paid for by grant funding from the State of California through Tehama County Solid Waste Program. The grant is one that is being provided to ranchers and farmers to assist them in cleaning up and stopping illegal garbage dumping.
- The historic Gas Point Ghost town was burned to the ground on Tuesday, April, 8 2008. The Gas Point ghost town's five buildings were fully swallowed up by the fire. The Ghost town was about 10 miles west from Interstate 5 down Gas Point Road. Visitors who viewed the Ghost town would have crossed over Cottonwood Creek via an old steel trestle bridge. Numerous landowners were saddened by this fire because of the history those five buildings held.
- The same grant that funded the Tedoc Mt CRMP project also purchased two 5,000 gal water tanks which are being installed in the Gas Point Road, Igo area for fire suppression and this work, which is being done by volunteers at Station 50, is expected to be completed by the end of April.

## TEDOC CRMP Wrapping Up

Over the past several months CCWG Staff and Dennis Possehn of Possehn Forestry, Inc., have worked together to finalize the formation of a Tedoc Coordinated Resource Management Program. On 29 March 2008, the Tedoc CRMP Plan, including a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), was signed by multiple landowners. Numerous copies of the Draft Tedoc CRMP Plan were sent out for review to various interested parties. A meeting was held on 16 March 2008 at Tehama CDF to bring all of the Tedoc stakeholders together to finalize the language in the plan. Following that meeting, the plan was edited and a final draft was prepared to be signed at a final meeting on 29 March 2008, also held at Tehama CDF. At the meeting, numerous landowners attended, the MOU was signed, and officers were elected to lead the Coordinating Group. Dennis Bebensee was elected as the Chair, Brian Campbell was elected as the Vice-Chair, and Diane Barcelona was elected as the Secretary. The next Tedoc meeting will be held on Saturday, 17 May 2008, at 10:00 AM, at Tehama CDF in Red Bluff. CCWG encourages anyone who is interested in learning more about the Tedoc CRMP to attend.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Stewardship Day

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Stewardship Day is going to be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Burrows Ranch. This event is going to be sponsored by the Sunflower CRMP, Tehama County RCD, Tehama County Co-op Extension, Chico State University and Shasta Community College. A continental breakfast will be served in the morning during registration, followed by a morning session, an hour break for lunch, and an afternoon session. The morning session will include Introduction of Special Guests, Ranch History, Sunflower CRMP History, Great Valley of California - Saving our Heritage, Conservation Easements as a "tool" for Estate Planning, Holistic Financial Planning, Advantage of Direct Marketing of "Natural" Meat, Round-up Ready Alfalfa and Biological Weed Eaters for Starthistle Control. Natural Lamb BBQ Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 1:00 (\$10 per adult, \$5 per child), or BYO. The Afternoon Session will include Solar Pumping for Livestock and Wildlife Water, California Gold (water) - Priorities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Biological Stream Monitoring, Ocular Behavior of Herbivores for Fire Break Maintenance, and Results of morning demonstration of weed control using Hair Sheep.

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*Mission Statement: "The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education."*

CCWG 10/27/99

CCWG is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, and  
Donations are tax deductible.

TAX ID # 68-0454530

## April Watershed Tour

The stakeholder meeting for April will be a tour in the lower watershed on April 26, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Dennis Possehn will be showing the Bowman Biomass project, after which we will also be viewing the gates at the South Fork that have been put in place. The tour will start at the CCWG office, with coffee and donuts, followed by a presentation/slide show of before and after pictures ending with a tour of the sites. Tour space will be limited to a first come first serve basis, so RSVP is required. Please sign up as soon as possible.

## Election 2008 News

On a vote of 5 to 1, the Board approved to invalidate the election results from the balloting held in February 2008 due to errors and allegations of wrong doings. Unanimous vote of the board approved the next election to be held at the January 2009 Annual Meeting, according to our by-laws, and the election committee will ensure that the nominations are started at least 120 days before the election date. During the 2008 calendar year all board members and officers will remain as they were in December 2007. The seats up for election in 2009 will be the same as those in 2008.

## American Rivers—NOAA Community Partnership Grant

Upon visiting the ACID siphon in late February, CCWG began working on a grant to do feasibility studies to determine the occurrence and extent of fish passage impediment occurring at the ACID Siphons on the Main Stem and the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. Patricia Bratcher (CDFG), Brenda Olsen (USFWS), Madelyn Martinez (NOAA), Stan Wangberg (ACID), and CCWG Staff, have all worked together to determine what the main issues are at the siphons, and what the best way would be to address these issues. If funded, this grant will allow CCWG to conduct multiple studies on fish migration in Cottonwood Creek, and provide recommendations of the feasibility of repairing the channel at the siphons to improve fish passage. Look for updates on this grant in future newsletters as there may be some great opportunities for you to get involved and help CCWG protect the salmon of Cottonwood Creek!

*See what's on the flip side!*

### Tehama Wild Care Program

Karen Scheuermann, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator  
*Mission Statement: To give injured wildlife a second chance at life and encourage people to live in harmony with their wild neighbors.*

This month you will start to see wild animals nesting in peculiar places and the appearance of wild baby animals. Many people trim their trees and mow this time of year. They are horrified to find they have cut down nests in the branches or killed parent animals that are nesting on the ground. Please check for nests in the branches or cavities before you cut or better still, trim those trees before nesting season when the trees are dormant. It prevents disease in the tree and prevents injury to wildlife. Before you mow or rototill, walk through the area to make sure no rabbits, fawns or ground nesting birds are in harms way. That will flush the parent bird or mammal. But keep your dogs on a leash to prevent them from hurting the animal. You might be able to mark the nesting area and protect that area for a couple of weeks until after the babies have moved or left the nest. Remember, it is a felony to disturb an occupied nest or eggs, or the parents in any way, possess or make pets out wildlife native to California. You must have permission of US Fish and Wildlife Service and/ or California DFG to possess or disturb native wildlife. Leave healthy wildlife alone or return it to its nest. If you find a native wild animal in distress, please call Tehama Wild Care, 347-1687.

Karen Scheuermann, Certified Wildlife Rehabilitator  
17455 Big Bear Lane Cottonwood, CA 96022

### News from the Past

An excerpt from Dottie Smiths book, History of Cottonwood Now and Then.

#### 1914...First Irrigation Canal

Work began on the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation Canal (ACID) which tapped the waters of the Sacramento River in Redding and carried water through Churn Creek Bottom, Anderson, and eventually Cottonwood by way of a detailed system of canals and ditches.

1916: The first unit of ACID canal was completed.  
1917: The first water flowed through the ACID canal. 15% of the irrigated district was using ACID water by 1919 and green pastures were beginning to take the place of grain fields and fruit orchards.

### Watershed Festival 2008

CCWG invites you to join us at Watershed Festival 2008, which will be held at Caldwell Park in Redding, on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10-4. This year the theme is "Make a Difference for Tomorrow—Today", and there will be interactive exhibits, a student video contest, Salmon Croquet, a Youth Watershed Passport Activity, and live music. This event is free, so please come down to Caldwell park the first Saturday in May to learn how you can help to make a difference in your community!

### Tax deductible donations received by CCWG

CCWG is a 501-(c) 3 non profit organization and all contributions made are tax deductible. We take this space to thank the special businesses and individuals who have made contributions to CCWG.

- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Phoenix Spa     | Lawrence & Associates |
| Dragon Fly      | Avilla Ranch          |
| Craig's Tractor | Axner Excavating      |
| Dan Pearson     | Chuck Lema            |
| Mike McGuire    | Bill Williams         |
| Dee Swearingen  | Tom Harrington        |
| Lon Currey      | Henry Lopez           |
| Wal-Mart        | Costco                |
| Raley's         | Holiday Market        |
| Food Max        | Safeway (2)           |
| Grocery Outlet  | Winchelle's           |

Thank-you's and receipts have been sent to all.

### CCWG Board of Directors & Staff

- Jan Lopez, President.....396-2685
- Bill William, V President..... 347-3230
- Jennifer Williams, CFO ..... 347-9711
- Carole Ryan, Secretary..... 347-9083
- Jim Busher.....1-415-847-1233
- Ron Crane.....347-1218
- Vieva Swearingen.....347-1923
- Maureen Teubert..... 321-9993
- Danielle Moss.....339-6130
- Office.....347-6637
- Fax.....347-6346

#### Stakeholders Meeting Schedule:

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:15 pm  
Where: Cottonwood Community Center  
20595 Gas Point Road, Cottonwood, CA 96022

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| April 26 (as mentioned) | July 23    |
| May 28                  | August 27  |
| June 25                 | October 22 |

All of the newsletters have been added to our website:  
[www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org](http://www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org)

If you would like to participate in the group, or have questions, please give us a call.

Volunteer help is always appreciated as are donations.