

Inside this

Issue:

1: Water
Quality
Testing

2: Roots &
Shoots

3: Secretary
for
Resources

4: FIRE! A
project has
started!

5: News
from the
past.

6. Letter
from a
landowner

7: Directors

1 Water Testing

In order to help students in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed understand the importance maintaining the quality of water in our watershed and understand how scientists gather data, members of Evergreen Middle School's 8th Grade Environmental Committee and Mr. Mitchell's science classes are conducting water quality tests on Cottonwood Creek. This is a pilot project and next year, members of the Environmental Committee will collect the data every month. The data will be given to the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Coordinator, shared with the CCWG Board of Directors and kept in an archive at the CCWG office in Cottonwood.

Quality of Cottonwood Creek

My colleague and I visited various water sources to test the pH and dissolved oxygen other levels of the water in our local creek and water sources. We take samples of water and put it in two separate tubes, one being bigger than the. One tube is for the pH testing and the other one is for the dissolved oxygen testing. The pH test tells us if the water has a high or low

acidic or basic value. The dissolved oxygen tells us how much oxygen is in the water. The higher the level of oxygen the better the water is for fish like salmon and trout. Most organisms that indicate a healthy aquatic environment like water that has a neutral or close to neutral pH level. We found the pH to be close to a 7 (That's neutral.) and the dissolved oxygen level to be 4 ppm (That's 4 parts oxygen per million.). That isn't too bad of a reading.

We also do a turbidity test. This tells us how much sediment and other material is suspended in the water. It was pretty murky when we did our test in April because it was early spring and lots of soil was suspended in the water. Lastly, we took the temperature and it was 58°F.

It is difficult to monitor our creek because it changes so much throughout the year. We hope that next year the students in the Evergreen Environmental Committee will collect the data every month so members of our community can see how different it is from month to month. We conducted the tests at

four different sites on Cottonwood Creek. One site is the Evergreen Bridge off Evergreen Road, another Steel Bridge on the South Fork off Bowman Road, another off the I-5 Bridge, and finally the Steel Bridge on the North Fork off Gas Point Road.

The importance of this water testing is to detect signs of pollution, and unbalanced levels in the water, early before problems affect the environment and the wildlife.

By Alex Crowell and J.J. Feser

8th Grade Evergreen
Middle School
Environmental Committee

2: Roots & Shoots:

Karen Scheuermann and her group of Roots & Shoots students did some willow planting in the watershed last month. Those involved included: Caroline & Steven Hillesheim, Max, Joe & Annie Freedman and Emily & Mark Vaughan. Karen is always looking for both students that want to get involved in projects and projects that need to be done. Give her a call at: **347-1687.**

Mission
Statement:

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

CCWG 10/27/1999

3. Secretary for Resources

"Is 'watershed' a 'dividing point,' as a dictionary defines it, or is it a 'gathering place?'

Watersheds have a wonderful ability to bring people together, even those once in conflict. Watersheds help find what unites rather than what divides a community. They also bring out creativity and innovation by bringing

together many viewpoints through the collaborative process. This study will help to outline the future roles of state agencies in creating a comprehensive assistance program for local watershed efforts. By following the recommendations in this report, the state is assured of developing a

true partnership with local efforts for the first time.

These watershed partnerships are a vital link in fulfilling the state's responsibilities for natural resource stewardship. This kind of a movement is too good to ignore!"

Mary D. Nichols

4. FIRE! PROJECT STARTED

The Fuel Reduction project in the upper watershed (Cottonwood Wilds) was started on Monday, May 12, 2003. The workers from the Sugar Pine Conservation Camp are presently doing a cut and stack with burning to take place this fall conducted by CDF.

This fuel reduction effort is in conjunction with the fuel reduction effort by the forest service on the Knob Peak project.

Net results will include involved water flows, increased wildlife habitat and less fire prone forests.

Special thanks to the landowners of Cottonwood Wilds, BLM, and the Harrison Gulch Ranger District for their cooperation in this fuel reduction effort.

5: News from the Past

Excerpt from Dottie Smith's book, History of Cottonwood, Now and Then. Enjoy!!

More school information:

1875: Oak Knoll School was established and was the first school built inside the Cottonwood "township". The one-room school was built of wood in a thicket of chaparral and oaks on top of an oak knoll where local Indians supposedly went to hold councils and ceremonies. At this the time of building, there was not another building in sight. Today's location would situate it right in the middle of High Street between the sanctuary of the Baptist Church and the vacant lot across the street to the north.

1938: East Cottonwood School was completed on Brush Street between Second and Third Streets. As a result, Oak Knoll School (see 1875) ceased being a school and all the students moved into the new, modern, seven-classroom school building. The school was built with \$3,500 supplied by the federal government, \$30,250 from local public utility companies, and \$8,250 from local taxpayers.

6: A letter of history from a landowner. (Part 1)

Donald Lawson wrote the following letter. In the letter he recalls living in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed around the Rainbow lake area in the early 1930's. The letter will appear in three parts over the next few newsletters. Carmen Doherty, a member of Mr. Dennis Mitchell's 8th Grade Environmental Committee, retyped the letter in order that we could share it with the CCWG readers:

Greetings, We call our spot, "Our little bit of Heaven."

I wish to thank you for sending me the January –March 2003 edition of the "Cottonwood Creek and You." My connection with this area occurred around 1930 or 1931 when I was 10 years old.

My father, Edward Everett Lawson, his brother Clarence, Matt Burdett and Henry Powell purchased the Rainbow Lake Club on Moon Fork of the Cottonwood Creek. The Club House was located just up stream from the confluence of the North Fork of Cottonwood Creek (running out of Rainbow Lake (Stickleback?) and Moon Fork.

My father was known to a lot of his friends as 'Daniell' do to the love of the exploits of a man named Boone. The Club House had a kitchen with running water plus about 2 or 3 sleeping rooms. Water pipes were placed in the walls of the large fireplace and the fire was going, you had all the hot water you wanted.

There were some pictures of fish caught in the lake and the streams and one or two stuffed trout of trophy size. They also left behind all dishes and silverware and pots and pans.

I loved to play the old 78's on the Victrola that was there. My most favorite one was a 1916 Red Label Victor record entitled, "No news from home or what killed the dog," by Nat Wills. I later got a cassette of it

and still listen to it with my grandchildren and great grandchildren. The four fellows had 531 acres spreading all the way from Mrs. Webb's property at the end of the road down all the way to the diversion dam where the Happy Valley Water Co. took water out through a tunnel to supply the patrons who needed it.

In 1938, there was a terrible drought in Northern California and Rainbow Lake went dry, but not before the F. and G. commission invited any and all to bring gunny sacks and take as many fish as they wanted. Shaws bought the whole parcel but deeded back three 1000' by 200' parcels right up against Mrs. Webb's property. Matt Burdett's was the first, my dad and Uncle shared the next and Henry Powell the third. The reason was that Matt Burdett had hand built a cabin earlier on (still now the Alderman's). I have a Post Card from Matt to Henry Powell which says "Cabin 7 logs high today" which was on Labor Day 1931.

Our parcel was the next one. To this day we have never built a thing on it except a kitchen area and a fire pit. My uncle, Charlie Diesner, wanted to put up a A-frame but when he saw the havoc that the Ner-do-well heaved on the existing dwellings, he declined. (Powell's cabin was later owned by Henry Wells, a life long friend of Charlie Huelsman.)

(Continued next issue)

See Map of area on the back page

Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group

P O Box 1198
3233 Brush Street
Cottonwood, CA
96022

PHONE:
(530) 347-6637

FAX:
(530) 347-6346

E-MAIL:
ccwg@shasta.com

7: Directors

Are you interested in what goes on in your watershed?

Would you like to have a hand in the decision making and planning process for CCWG?

The watershed management planning process will be starting soon, as well as projects within the watershed; do you want to be a part of that?

The organization is always looking for interest persons to participate. Perhaps you would like a seat on the Board of Directors?

Our current by-laws require we have 3 members from the lower and 3 members from the upper. Due to the smaller population and the distance involved; it is

difficult to locate interested persons in the upper watershed, therefore, the board is considering adding a clause to the by-laws "if a candidate cannot be located, the position will be filled by a member at large until the next general election. This clause will be discussed at the next few meetings

The Board meets monthly for a regular meeting, and this takes place at the office in Cottonwood on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Board members are also encouraged to attend the monthly stakeholder meetings which are held on the 4th Tuesday of

each month at Evergreen School. We have had many great comments on the knowledge that comes from these meetings.

Contact the office for additional information and request a packet be sent to you. IF your or someone you know would like to know more about a position on the board please have them call 347-6637.

Stakeholder Meeting Schedule

When: 4th Tues of each month

Time: 6:15 pm.

Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA.

June 24: Rich Lis, Ph. D with Fish and Game. Program on Vernal Pools

July 22: Invasive Species

August 26: Native Plants

September 23:

October 25:

November 25:

December 23: Merry Christmas

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[http://www.eusd.
Tehama.k12.ca.us/
Watershed.html](http://www.eusd.Tehama.k12.ca.us/Watershed.html)

Boy Scouts of America

Are you interested in helping a small group of boy-scouts find a location to camp out and do some service work? A Boy Scout leader contacted CCWG regarding possible locations to take a small group of boys camping on Friday nights, and on Saturday they do clean-up of the area or restoration work as payment. If interested, give me a call and I will put you in contact with the troop leader.

Grants

The Kids for Our Creek contact has been executed and the program is scheduled to begin on July 1, 2003. We are very excited about this educational opportunity and would hope that if you are excited as well, you would be contacting the office to see how you can participate.

Fire Council continuation and the Platina Fuel Break have been awarded according to both the email and telephone call I have received. The award letters and contract information should be received in the next couple of weeks. These were applications which were made to the Sacramento Regional Foundation.

Red-legged frog habitat grant contract is in the review process with US Fish & Game.

Firesafe Council meeting Schedule:

Meetings will be held quarterly, at the CCWG office

**3233 Brush Street,
Cottonwood, CA.**

Time: 6:30 PM. The next meeting will be in September 10, 2003 the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

**COTTONWOOD
CREEK WATERSHED
GROUP**
P O Box 1198
Cottonwood, CA 96022

