

Cottonwood Creek and you

*Inside
this*

Issue:

1: Creekside
Committee

2: Stop
Polluting
Our
Waterways

3: Election
Results

4: FIRE!
FIRE! A
project
about to
start

5: News
from the
past.

6: Judge
Richard
Scheuler's
Speech
from Farm
City Night

7: Arundo
Removal

1 Creekside Committee

WE NEED YOUR HELP, AND WE'D ALSO LIKE TO HELP YOU!! At the Annual Meeting, we discussed the formation of a creekside committee comprised of the landowners that live along the creek. Are you interested in this committee? We will be calling our first meeting soon, and if you would like to participate, please let me know

ASAP. The object of the committee is to discuss some methods of restoration to the channel and the possibility of getting some effort started this year. It will probably be funded by those involved, so the more participation, the less the cost. It has been estimated that at a cost of \$60,000 over a three year span could provide

some relief on the erosion that occurs annually. If you live along the creek, and suffer from erosion, are interested in some effort of controlling this erosion, please call the office @ 347-6637 to be added to this committee or to get further information.

2 Stop Polluting Our Waterways

Did you ever stop to think about where all the excess water ends up? The excess water from rain, watering lawns, washing cars, etc. ends up in our waterways. The water that is not absorbed in the ground eventually finds its way to the nearby stream through storm drains, small tributaries, and runoff. As the water makes its journey from one point to the other it collects pollution in its path. By the time the water reaches the nearest stream it is carrying all sorts of pollution.

This includes the pollution we can see, like litter, and pollution we can't see, like biohazards and toxic chemicals. People tend to dump all kinds of untreated waste and trash into the water not knowing the hazards involved in doing so.

Water pollution is one of the most serious environmental problems in the world. Polluting our waterways can lead to human illnesses, polluting the ocean with toxic wastes and can causes many other harmful problems. What most people don't realize is we are the ones harming ourselves. By dumping toxins down storm drains we pollute the water that might eventually circulate back into our drinking water.

There are many sources of pollutants by humans to water; industrial waste, etc. Most pollutants are found in storm drains. Storm drains can actually be more polluted than the actual stream or waterways they are dumping into. Most of

these toxins are not visible to the human eye. Toxins such as these are dumped into the drains by everyday home maintenance. People tend to unknowingly pollute the water by washing cars, fertilizing their lawns, or changing the oil in their car. These hazardous chemicals eventually make it to the ocean through storm drains.

What can be done to help lower the amount of pollution getting dumped into our waterways? Be aware of the visible pollutants, like litter. Pick it up and throw it away. Try to use environmental safer chemicals when washing cars or fertilizing lawns. Above all, remember that all wastes thrown on the ground eventually get washed into the nearest waterway and can eventually make it to our tap.

*By: Heather Pruitt
Evergreen Middle School*

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. Election Results

The Annual Meeting showed that the previous slate of directors met with the approval of the stakeholders. They were elected to fill another two year term. Following the meeting, a Board of Director meeting was called for the purpose of election of officers. That also remained unchanged so the following is the Board of Directors Contact list:

- Dennis Mitchell, Chair 347-1287
Tom Harrington, Vice Chair 347-0543
Jackie Baker, Secretary 347-3232
Robin Rich, Chief Financial Officer 396-2432
Roy H. Richards 347-3152
Richard Edsall 347-5284
Gene Davis 347-3604

These folks donate a great many hours to their position on the board, and would appreciate hearing from you with both concerns and compliments.

4. FIRE! FIRE! PROJECT TO START

CCWG was successful in obtaining a small grant from the Shasta County RAC for the purpose of doing some hazardous fuel reduction in the upper watershed. The area is called Cottonwood Wilds. This area is comprised of over 2200 acres owned by thirty-six landowners. The purpose of the project is to do some amount of brush cutting and stacking to burn, followed by a controlled burn on the balance of the acres involved. The effort is being done with CDF and BLM partnerships and in conjunction with another 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 LANOWNERS OF COTTONWOOD WILDS, BLM, CDF 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!!

"The Cottonwood/ Tehama County Subscription School was established beside the road on the south side of Cottonwood Creek approximately 200 yards south of the banks of Cottonwood Creek near Ludwig's Toll Bridge and near the mouth of Hooker Creek. The school was eventually moved to the south side of Bowman Road approximately one-half mile west of the present-day Interstate 5 where it became known as the Barry School. The school had a lifespan of 91 years-1860-1951. All that remains are its foundations inside a fenced area."

6: November 2002 Farm City Night Speech by Judge Richard Scheuler

Every agriculturalist in this audience is familiar with the story of the farmer who wins a million dollars in the lottery and when asked what he intends to do with it replies that he will just keep farming until it's all used up. Agriculture has never been easy, but today ranchers and farmers must face not only the weather, foreign competition and the vicissitudes of the market, but also increasingly complex law and regulation and attempts to take away the tools of farming. Those tools under attack include not only herbicides and pesticides but the very water that makes the land bloom.

We here know that farmers are not the enemy, and that the sons and daughters of farmers in this room will feed our children and grandchildren. But, a contemporary dynamic seeks to pit city against farm. Today more than ever there is value in reminding all present of the noble history of farming, and there is great value in examining some rather overstated and foggy principles used in today's attacks on agriculture.

When I first noted one of the signs along Highway 5 which read "Farmers feed America", I thought: "Why would you need to tell anyone that fact?" I have since come to realize that many people in urban centers act as though food were not grown but manufactured by Raleys or Safeway in a factory somewhere. To others in large cities, ranchers are people who overgraze public lands and farmers are people who pollute and generally intrude on otherwise pristine nature. Voters who honestly can't tell an angus from an antelope are controlling what happens in agricultural counties, and this climate has to be depressing for farmers and ranchers.

Emerson's great poem about the minutemen of our American Revolution includes these lines: "here once the embattled farmer stood and fired the shot heard round the world" — not the embattled soldier; not the embattled social worker or judge; the embattled farmer. The farmer was the bedrock on which all civilizations were founded. The farmers of ancient Mesopotamia channeled and directed the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates their efforts have been compared to the manner in which the Corps of Engineers now channels and directs the Mississippi. In ancient India and China, farmers built dams, levies and canals to direct the waters of the Indus and the Yangzei.

The legions of the Roman Republic were made up of farmers. Indeed after the legendary Cincinnatus led those legions in the successful defense of Rome, he was offered leadership of the Republic. He declined the offer and returned to his farm. History shows us that all of the armies of early civilizations were comprised of farmers yearning to return to their land, which fact produced the Biblical references to beating swords into plowshares.

History belongs to farmers because, just as farmers feed America today, farmers of yesterday fed Rome, Greece and all other civilizations. The difference is that the farmers in this room are much better at what they do than were their farmer ancestors. In the not so distant past most of the population was needed on the farm. As farmers got better, more citizens were freed to move to cities. The best farmers on earth live right here in the United States, and they continue to improve. In 1940 each American farmer fed 19 people but in 2000 each farmer fed 129 people. Citizens of India pay 51% of their income for food; citizens of Mexico pay 25%, but the

citizens of the United States pay only 10%. Thanks to efficient farmers, Americans have 90% of their income to apply to other needs and luxuries.

Without efficient farming we would not even have large, prosperous cities. So, how does it come to pass that many urban citizens have developed a negative attitude towards the agricultural community which is responsible not just for our prosperity but our very lives?

One reason is that contemporary analysis often does not consider the alternatives. Just as one example, all Californians are told on a regular basis that pesticides are bad. Farmers use pesticides, and our citizens are left to draw the obvious and negative conclusion. But, as is often the case, this simple indictment fails to look at the alternative. Consider for a moment the words of Doctor Bruce Ames whose position is that the health advantage of pesticides outweigh any health risk that they create.

Dr. Ames is not selling a book, nor does he sell snake oil. He is not the type of completely unqualified expert you frequently see today on TV or the internet. In the 1950's while working with the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Ames invented the procedure by which scientists identify cancer causing chemicals. The Ames protocol is still used today. In the 60's he became a Professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of California. He made millions from a biotech company and donated over ten million back to the University. In 1998 our country gave professor Ames the National Medal of Science for his work in cancer research. Dr. Ames is highly qualified scientist without a personal agenda. Yet, most citizens have never heard or considered his input on this issue.

First, Ames notes that many conclusions about pesticides are defective because they are based on studies which fed massive quantities of the tested chemical to rats. Ames contends that you might induce cancer in lab animals by giving them massive quantities of any chemical. In other words, it is not the quality but the quantity of the chemical that creates the lab result. Further, he notes that, proportionately, human beings never come into contact with even a small fraction of the quantities given to those laboratory animals. When considering this position, remember, Dr. Ames invented the carcinogen testing procedure.

Second, Professor Ames asserts that decreasing pesticide use will result in more cancer, this because the food supply will be reduced and people, especially poor people, will be less able to obtain the fruits and vegetables necessary to a healthy diet.

Does this mean we should stop washing produce or that we should all have a bowl of pesticide for breakfast? No. It means that there is a trade off to every important decision. Lack of pesticides might possibly save a certain number of lives, but that lack will most certainly cause the loss of a larger number of lives through malnutrition and disease.

(Speech continued on page 4)

A second reason for the misunderstanding of agriculture is that contemporary analysis often acts on partial information. Farmers are criticized for what is now referred to as their footprint on nature. In South America the systematic destruction of the rain forests is extinguishing or will extinguish literally millions of species of plants and animals, yet our farmers feel harassed by regulations concerning fairy shrimp and field rats. Things we did not even have a name for yesterday are today’s vernal pools which the law protects from farmers and ranchers. The resultant image in the minds of many metropolitan voters is that farmers are bad for the environment. Now add that global warming is attributed to everything from farm dust to cow flatulence.

Our children need to be taught, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story. Let us begin with this: fully 99.9% of all species that ever lived on this earth are now extinct, and they became extinct before the 20th century and before contemporary agriculture. Our children are taught that we should return the land to the condition it was in yesterday, but often they are not taught that yesterday is a geologic measurement and that there are thousands of yesterdays to choose from. I suspect there are those who, if it were possible, would reintroduce Tyrannosaurus Rex to your neighborhood. And you thought coyotes and dog packs were hard on stock.

If you go back far enough, parts of California were jungle or even under water; shall we return to those yesterdays? About twelve thousand years ago, New York City was under a wall of ice perhaps a mile high. Shall we return to that yesterday? So, what’s the point? The point is that sweeping and grand changes in climate are not unusual; they occur cyclically; and they began occurring long before man and certainly long before farms or cities. And those cycles are not necessarily tens or hundreds of thousands of years long.

As an example, many of you are familiar with the famous picture of Washington crossing the Delaware. Until last year my mind’s eye saw Washington standing in the boat with seated men laboring to row the boat across the River. But look closely next time you see that picture; those in the front of the boat are not rowing. They are fending off great hunks of ice because the Potomac froze over in those days. Today you will not see those mini icebergs on the Potomac. The Revolutionary war was fought towards the end of mini ice age which lasted several hundred years and was so severe that many people starved to death, especially in Europe and Asia. But, as is true following all ice ages and cold periods in history, the mini ice age that ended in the 1700’s was followed by global warming. We must remember that we have suffered the detriment and benefit of countless global warmings in our meteorological history, the vast majority of those global warmings occurred before farms and even before man himself came on the scene.

Am I saying man has no effect on short term weather patterns? No. The lesson is that the last 20 or 50 years is a geologic millisecond and that in drawing environmental conclusions, we must be very careful to review all of the history of geology, paleontology and other sciences.

My final point is that agriculture often suffers from pure

fantasy — the fantasy that there once was a time when man lived without negatively impacting nature. Since the time our ancestors first arrived on the scene they have negatively impacted on nature as it existed before them. The slaying of mastodon had a very negative impact on mastodon. When our ancestors moved from hunting to farming they began the wholesale cutting of trees to make way for fields. De Tocqueville, who wrote a very famous book about America in the early 1800’s, noted that everywhere he went he heard the sound of the axe and saw the smoke and fires of burning slash.

I do not suggest that man has no negative impact on nature but that we must disregard fantasy and consider the alternatives and the entire picture, because the elimination of all negative impact on nature would require the elimination of people. Our children need to know that the house they live in, the school they attend, and the car they someday hope to drive all have an impact on the environment. We as citizens need to understand that everything is a trade off, and voters need to know that decisions which are intended to benefit today’s snail darter may tomorrow endanger our children.

In conclusion, am I suggesting that farmers are always right and everyone else is wrong. No. What I suggest is that decisions must be made on intelligent, accurate and well thought out data and that farmers are suffering in part because decisions are made without those factors. Utopias designed on paper have never — not once – worked when attempted on the ground. As any farmer or cook could tell us, you can’t make an omelet without breaking eggs. Those in Urban areas must be made to understand that you can’t feed a 6 billion and growing world population without impacting on nature as it was yesterday.

The negative attitudes just discussed, and many more, are the result of delusional history and incomplete science. Here are some non-delusional facts:

- No group of people on earth loves animals more than ranchers.
- There is no group which loves the land more than farmers.
- Agriculture is not just California’s largest industry, responsible for over a million jobs, agriculture is what keeps us alive and what makes possible the population centers of our state and nation. And finally,
- Our farmers are the finest, most efficient on earth, and the agricultural community is doing a magnificent job of stewarding the land while supporting a population that just will not stop growing .

My message tonight is simply this: **To the city people in the audience:** Make sure that your children are learning accurate science and that they know how to consider the real-world alternatives when making decisions.

To the farm people in the audience: There are people in the City who understand what you do and how vital it is, and we are with you.

On this night of symbolic farm city cooperation, we hope that our brethren in large metropolitan areas will some day join us in understanding that farming is the bedrock of our history and the foundation of our future.

Thank you for inviting me here tonight. It has been a pleasure speaking to you.

I was asked to reprint this article in its entirety. And for those of you who took the time to read it, will find it food for thought and worth the read.

Vieva

7. Arundo Removal

Tehama County Resource Conservation
District Meeting
Reeds Creek School, Rm.5
18335 Johnson Road
Red Bluff
Wed., March 12, 2003 @ 7PM

This month there will be a presentation by UC Berkeley's internationally renowned fluvial geomorphology professor Matt Kondolf. He will be in Tehama County looking at Giant Bamboo (Arundo) and Salt Cedar (Tamarix) removal along Reeds and Red Bank stream corridors.

Professor Kondolf has been involved with stream restoration both nationally and internationally. His presentation is not only an excellent opportunity for streamside landowners to better understand exotics on their property, but for all Tehama County residents to learn about the form and function of local creeks. The presentation will cover characteristics of local creeks, issues with non-native plant removal, bank stabilization and the options for revegetation. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

CCWG is planning for Arundo and Tamarisk removal in the near future. This information could prove interesting to those

of you who have these exotic plants on their property, and want to learn about the methods of removal and revegetation of the area.

**CREEKSIDE
COMMITTEE
UPDATE**

CCWG is forming a committee made up of landowners that live along the creek for the purpose of discussion and formulating a plan to help stop the erosion that has been occurring. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the office.

Talk with your neighbors to make sure they are on our mailing list.

**FireSafe Council meeting
Schedule:**

*2nd Wednesday of Each month
at the CCWG office -3233
Brush Street, Cottonwood, CA.
Time: 6:30 PM*

**Stakeholder's Meeting
Schedule:**

When: 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm
Where: Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

- Feb 25th: John Stokes, Shasta County Planning Dept.
- Mar 25th Wayne White, Safe Harbors -USF&WS
- Apr 22nd Ryan Burnett, Songbird Inventories-PRBO
- May 27th - Carol Adkins, Mercury reports-Harris & CO
- June 24th - Richard Lis, PhD-Vernal Pools-DF&G
- July 22nd Rich Gresham, co-coordinator Sacramento River Watershed Program
- August 26th Native Plants
- September 23rd
- October 28th
- November 25th
- December 23rd -Seasons Greetings

Company Name

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, ST 11111

PHONE:
(111) 111-1111

FAX:
(222) 222-2222

E-MAIL:
name@email.com

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.Example.com

Back Page Story Headline

In a few words, it should accurately represent the contents of the story and draw readers into the story. Develop the headline before you write the story. This way, the headline will help you keep the story focused.

Examples of possible headlines include Product

Wins Industry Award, New Product Can Save You Time, Membership Drive Exceeds Goals, and New Office Opens Near You.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press

releases, market studies.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

Continued Story Headline

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful

content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research

articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

About Our Organization...

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of

context.

Microsoft includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter.

There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

COMPANY NAME

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
City, ST 11111

COMPANY NAME
STREET ADDRESS
CITY, STATE 00000

