

# SPAWNERS

*San Pablo Watershed Neighbors Education and Restoration Society*

August 2008

## **Public Meeting and Speaker** **House and Garden Audit: Protecting Your Family's Health and Improving the Environment by Karen Paulsell.**

*Wed. August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM*

*Location: 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante CA 94803*

Karen will be talking about a recent publication produced by the Friends of Sausal Creek called *The House and Garden Audit: Protecting Your Family's Health and Improving the Environment*. Free copies of the book will be distribute to everyone in the audience. Do not miss out the chance to get your FREE copy of the book!

The book is a great overview of actions that individuals can take in the house and garden to help keep themselves and their creeks and watersheds healthy.

The book covers the following topics:

- Managing some typical household pests without toxics
- Water use in times of scarcity
- Keeping pollutants and silt out of creeks
- Lawns: high water and pesticide use; polluting from mowing; low habitat value
- Garden practices to reduce the need for pesticides
- Common garden pests and non-toxic methods to reduce their impacts
- Beneficial insects and spiders
- Attracting beneficial wildlife to your garden
- Native plants to attract wildlife and reduce water and pesticide use
- Fire: a major watershed pollutant
- Landforms, drainage and effects of urbanization
- Homeowner options to reduce runoff
- The role of invasive non-natives in creek bank failures and gullyng
- Working in urban watersheds

Karen Paulsell has volunteered with Friends of Sausal Creek for 7 years. She does GPS and GIS work to map trails, creeks, rare plants, and even storm drain outlets. She also volunteers many hours at FOSC's native plant nursery, and helps collect seeds and cuttings. She's a member of the FOSC Restoration Committee that helps set FOSC's restoration goals, and is currently working on the research and writing for the FOSC watershed plan.

## **Trash can Decor that Helps Keep the Streets and Creeks Clean**

Littering is one of many sources of pollution that affect our local creeks.

Through a collaborative project with the City of San Pablo, SPAWNERS and local students decorate trash cans to be placed on the City's streets with inspiring images that invite San Pablo residents to use the containers and recycle cans and bottles.

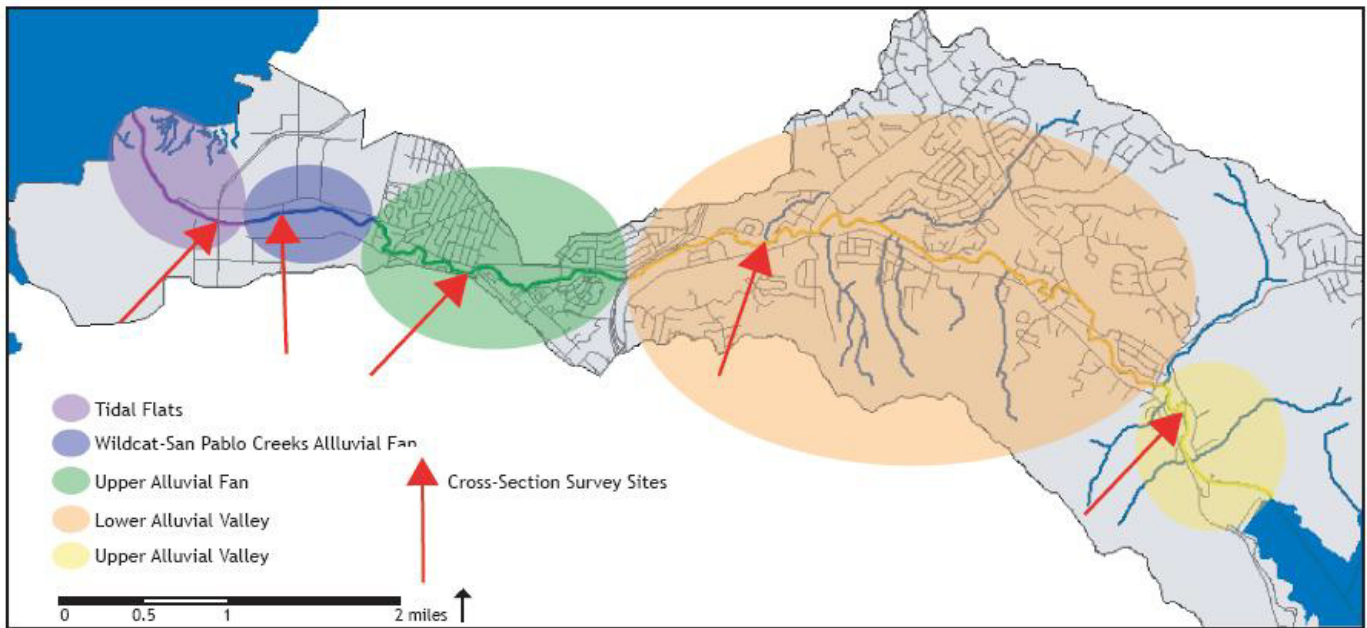
So far we have decorated 6 trash cans with ceramic tiles with students from the Richmond High School Aqua Team - 08, a service learning project at the Richmond High School, and with teens from the San Pablo Summer Camp Program at Davis Park. The trash cans will be placed at Kennedy Plaza (Brookside Drive and Road 20) and at Davis Park.

We hope that all these wonderful paintings on the sides of the trash cans remind the community of the importance of keeping our streets clean for the health of the local creeks and the San Francisco Bay, since trash often finds its way into the storm drain system, which goes unfiltered into the creek, chokes the local wildlife, and pollutes the oceans.



*Continued on back...*

*Visit our website at [www.spawners.org](http://www.spawners.org)*



## The San Pablo Watershed's Hydrologic and Geomorphic Zones

The lower San Pablo Creek Watershed can be broken into five distinct zones defined by geomorphology and hydrology. The **Upper Alluvial Valley** comprises the creek from Kennedy Grove Regional Park to the confluence of Castro and San Pablo Creeks. "Alluvial" refers to the deposits made by flowing water, washed away from one place and deposited in another. Gently sloping banks characterize this zone.

The **Lower Alluvial Valley** comprises the creek from the confluence of Castro and San Pablo Creeks to the I-80 culvert. Three perennial tributaries drain to San Pablo Creek in this area, transporting year-round water to the main stem. Consequently, the active channel is wider here than in the Upper Alluvial Valley. Also, the creek in this area is highly incised and consistently has an inset terrace on one or both sides of the channel.

The **Upper Alluvial Fan zone** comprises the creek from the bottom of the I-80 culvert to the railroad tracks near Giant Way, in the City of San Pablo. "Alluvial fan" refers to a fan shaped depositional area where a flowing stream flattens out.

The **Wildcat-San Pablo Creeks Alluvial Fan** is the area where, historically, Wildcat Creek and San Pablo Creek shared floodplains and frequently meandered throughout the shared fan area. This zone includes San Pablo Creek from the railroad tracks to the area between Third Street and the Richmond Parkway in North Richmond. This zone is characterized by a wide floodplain with a narrow, active channel.

The lowest zone is the **Tidal Flats** from Third Street/ Richmond Parkway to the mouth adjacent to the West Contra Costa Sanitary Landfill. The presence of salt-tolerant species and the influence and inundation of tides marks the transition between the Alluvial Fan and the Tidal Flats zones. This area has a wide, flat floodplain.

*Extracted from the San Pablo Watershed Plan, 2006*

## Calendar of Events

### Public Meeting and Speaker

*Wed. August 6, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM*

*Location: 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante CA 94803*

*Speaker: Karen Paulsell*

### Mapping our Local Creeks

*August 21, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM*

*GPS-Global Positioning System training for new volunteers*

*August 23, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM*

*GPS - Global Positioning System Survey*

*10 volunteers required to have a full team. Give us a hand!*

RSVP to save a spot for our annual expedition into the creeks. Take the opportunity to wade San Pablo creek while collecting relevant information for the Watershed Atlas. No GPS knowledge required, but willingness to get a little wet and dirty is expected. Waders and snacks provided. This program is supported by the Contra Costa County Volunteer Monitoring Program. For last minute updates on the location of the survey visit [www.cocowaterweb.org](http://www.cocowaterweb.org)

We will sample a stretch of San Pablo creek below I-80. For further information contact Juliana at (510) 665-3538 or by e-mail at [juliana@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:juliana@thewatershedproject.org)

We will sample a stretch of San Pablo creek below I-80.

For further information contact Juliana at (510) 665-3538

or by e-mail at [juliana@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:juliana@thewatershedproject.org)

### Re-leaf of San Pablo Creek

*Sat. August 9, and September 13, 9:30 AM to 12:00 noon*

*Location: 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante CA 94803*

As we approach the final year of our creekside revegetation project behind the El Sobrante Library we need your help more than ever. Stop by on the second Saturday of the month and help us plant some native vegetation. We will be planting over 500 plants this fall and need your help to revegetate the grounds by the creek. Fun for the entire family. Tools, gloves and refreshments provided.

*If you have questions regarding our events or to RSVP call (510) 665-3538; E-mail: [juliana@thewatershedproject.org](mailto:juliana@thewatershedproject.org)*