



# CalEPPC News

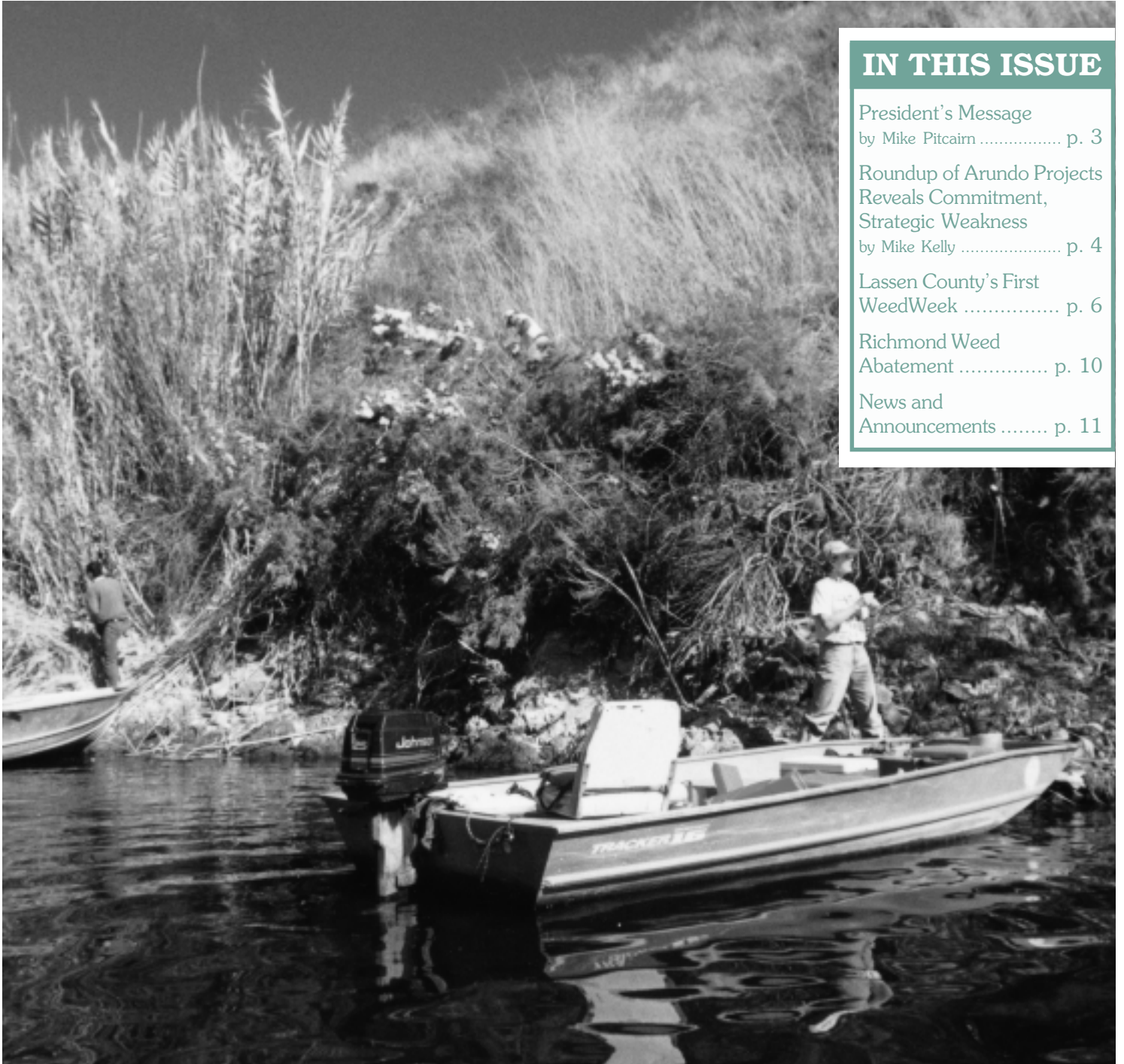
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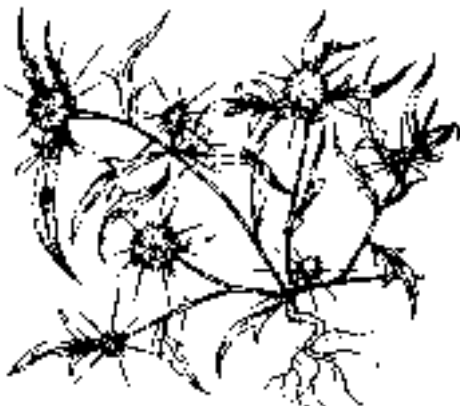
Volunteers used boats to access remote *Arundo* patches for removal on San Diego's Lake Hodges. Left to right: Rob Hutsel, Terry Gaughn (high on slope) and Randy Reid.

Photo by Mike Kelly

# Who We Are

**CalEPPC NEWS** is published quarterly by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, a non-profit organization. The objects of the organization are to:

- Ψ provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California;
- Ψ facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management;
- Ψ provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by this council;
- Ψ promote public understanding regarding exotic pest plants and their control;
- Ψ serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management and control of exotic pest plants;
- Ψ facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants in California; and
- Ψ review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties.



## Please Note:

The California Exotic Pest Plant Council is a California 501(c)3 non-profit, public benefit corporation organized to provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in California, and is recognized under federal and state tax laws as a qualified donee for tax deductible charitable contributions.

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## Submission Dates for CalEPPC News

If you would like to submit a news item, an article, a meeting announcement, or job opportunity for publication in the CalEPPC News, they must be received by the deadlines listed below. Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Send your text/disk/email to editor's address above.

### Submission Dates:

<b>Spring...</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<b>Fall...</b>	<b>October 15</b>
<b>Summer...</b>	<b>July 15</b>	<b>Winter...</b>	<b>January 15</b>

The articles contained herein were contributed to the CalEPPC newsletter. These articles represent the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CalEPPC. Although herbicide recommendations may have been reviewed in contributed articles, CalEPPC does not guarantee their accuracy with regard to efficiency, safety, or legality.

# President's Message

**Mike Pitcairn**

Several individuals from CalEPPC and the California Native Plant Society have been working to prohibit the sale of several invasive wildland weeds by nurseries in California. It seemed counter productive to be expending effort in controlling French broom when it is still available for sale at local nurseries. This effort has been slow but persistent. Our intention is not to be confrontational but cooperative. Discussions on this topic with representatives of the California Association of Nurseryman (CAN) have focused on exploring issues of common concern and ways we can work on them together.

One direction these efforts have taken is to have several of the most serious wildland weeds, such as tamarisk, giant reed, and Cape ivy, listed as "noxious" by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Historically, the noxious weed list maintained by CDFA consisted of agricultural weeds, including weeds of both cultivated croplands and rangeland. All weeds on the list are given an action rating, that is, the rating referred to the action taken toward the weed. The rating does not indicate the seriousness of the weed. Thus, newly invading weeds in small populations are usually given an "A" rating indicating they are to be eradicated where found. These weeds include diffuse and spotted knapweed, Sicilian starthistle, hydrilla, and alligator weed among others. Those weeds that are more entrenched and occur in

higher densities are usually given a "B" rating. For these, eradication is not mandatory but at the discretion of the County Agricultural Commissioner. Those weeds that are so widespread that directed control efforts appear to have little chance of succeeding are usually give a "C" rating. These weeds include yellow starthistle and Russian thistle. A complete listing of CDFA's noxious weed list is available upon request from: Fred Hrusa, Plant Pest Diagnostics Center, 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95832.

I provide this description of CDFA's weed list because an Assembly Bill, AB 1108, was passed and signed into law which broadened the definition of "noxious" from weeds that impact agricultural systems to include weeds that invade wildlands and impact native ecosystems. This bill was the result of much work by the California Native Plant Society and to them we are very grateful. This bill allows many of the weeds considered by CalEPPC to be of great ecological concern to be listed as noxious. It is hoped that by having them listed, their commercial sale will decrease.

Recently, a meeting took place concerning the listing of some of the weeds on CalEPPC's list of *Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California*. It was hosted by Nate Dechoretz of CDFA and attended by representatives of the California Association of Nurseryman, California Agricultural Commis-

sioners and Sealers Association, and Carla Bossard of CalEPPC. Carla reported that the meeting was productive. Serious discussion occurred on producing a list of 10-12 wildland weeds that would be agreeable to all parties and submitted for consideration of listing by CDFA. Both CDFA and

**“This bill allows many of the weeds considered by CalEPPC to be of great ecological concern to be listed as noxious.”**

CalEPPC brought a list of weeds to the table and it appeared that many on these lists would, indeed, be agreeable to all parties.

The next meeting will occur in August when, hopefully, a final list will be produced. This first meeting was significant and indicates progress in the education of the public and their representatives that wildland weeds are a serious threat to biodiversity and native ecosystems.



# Roundup of Arundo Projects Reveals Commitment, Strategic Weakness

By **Mike Kelly**

All over San Diego County giant reed (*Arundo donax*) is being eradicated by both volunteers and professionals. A list of the various projects shows the breadth of the eradication effort underway and the commitment to this effort. However, the list itself reveals a strategic weakness in the eradication efforts underway. A successful volunteer effort, the Sweetwater River Revival, is detailed as a model effort.

I'm not aware of any river or creek drainage in San Diego County without *Arundo*. (If anyone knows of one, please let me know!) That's a lot of this giant reed. In counterbalance, there is widespread recognition of the weed's negative impacts on local biodiversity and habitat and intensive efforts are underway to control it. A list by drainage, undoubtedly incomplete, of current or recently completed *Arundo* projects in San Diego County follows. Approximate acreage treated are given and sponsoring agencies noted (when known). Most of the non-volunteer projects were mitigation projects, where the project was mitigation for impacts to wetlands or riparian areas by road, sewer or water projects.

There are three types of projects. Some projects involve removing all the major exotic plants on a site, while some, unfortunately in my opinion, involve just controlling *Arundo*, while ignoring the other exotic species adjacent to it. Yet other projects combine removal of *Arundo* and other exotics with planting of native vegetation. To the best of my knowledge, all the projects have been using the same herbicides, either sprayed with 2% glyphosate

(Roundup® or Rodeo®, Monsanto Corp.) or 50 or 100% glyphosate applied to their cut stumps.

We'll analyze the strategic weakness first so as not to lose readers who may not have the inclination to plow through the long list of projects.

## Strategic Weakness

*Arundo donax* appears to reproduce vegetatively, not sexually, in California. To date there have been no reports of fertile seed production; rather, the plant is propagated by root cuttings and pieces of the rhizome, moved both by people and by flood events. It's common after a flood event to see clumps of *Arundo* rhizomes deposited on fresh silt or partially buried in new locations downstream from upstream sites. The implication of this mode of reproduction is that we don't have to worry about seeds being carried about by people, animals, wind or water. Given that flood events are the most likely vector for spreading this weed downstream, control efforts ideally should encompass a top/down strategy. Efforts should be concentrated wherever the *Arundo donax* begins in the watershed and work down from there. Efforts that target populations downstream while leaving upstream populations invite a repopulation of control sites by upstream propagules (pieces of rhizomes in this case). Only on the Santa Margarita River, detailed below, is such a strategically planned effort underway. Why is this the case?

Several factors complicate taking a logical, strategic approach to controlling giant reed in a watershed. First, the resource agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps),

the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), (all with regulatory authority over wetland/riparian systems) generally require that mitigation projects be carried out as close to the site of the wetlands/riparian being impacted by x, y, z project as possible. There's a certain logical, dare I say parochial, sense to this requirement; impact locally, mitigate locally.

With weeds however, you want to first work on source populations, which in riparian systems tend to be upstream and upslope. Otherwise, you have a constant source of

**“Flood events are the most likely vector for spreading this weed downstream.”**

propagules deposited onto your downstream, downslope mitigation/restoration site.

Another factor complicating the mitigation site is local jurisdictions. The “city fathers” in a given locale may balk at their local funds being expended in a mitigation effort in someone else's jurisdiction. This is a political reality that has to be dealt with. Most entities required to do mitigation probably don't care where it takes place; it's just a necessary hurdle to be jumped on the way to carrying out the impacting project. Some, however, care about where and on what the mitigation monies are spent on.

## Arundo Projects, con't.

In at least one local case in San Diego, an influential politician who had supported a major *Arundo* project in a major open-space park joined with a city Parks and Recreation Department official in an attempt to promote a watershed approach on the river in question. More than one city department, or other public agencies which own land on the river, showed no interest in planning a watershed-level approach. Such lack of interest can probably be overcome with education about the weed and a more concerted political effort.

Another obstacle to a top-down watershed level approach is technical; the *Arundo* isn't mapped in any but possibly one or two watersheds to date. Where in the watershed is the highest infestation? Where downstream? In which tributary drainages? Who owns the land? One local Resource Conservation District (RCD) identified property owners with *Arundo* on their lands and began approaching them about either the owners or RCD controlling the weed on their property. Some property owners agreed, while others refused to cooperate in removal efforts or even to allow someone else to do it on their property.

One solution to this mapping issue is on the horizon. Tom White of the U.S. Forest Service is spearheading a project to map both *Arundo* and tamarisk/saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) in all southern California watersheds in a Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

Ultimately, the resource agencies could drive a more rational approach to controlling *Arundo* and other major invasive weeds in watersheds by, (1) promoting these watershed mapping efforts; (2) choosing a small number of watersheds in which to concentrate control projects; and (3) require that other invasive weeds in a given project area also be controlled to

promote a genuine restoration of native species and not just a swap of exotics.

One possibility for promoting awareness and planning of exotic control efforts would be to form a Weed Management Area Committee as is occurring in other parts of California. Such committees are bringing together diverse interests for weed planning initiatives. San Diego is one of the few counties without such an effort.

## Arundo Projects Underway in San Diego County

### County Water Authority

The San Diego County Water Authority is controlling *Arundo donax* on its easement properties throughout its jurisdiction.

### Fallbrook

This city in northern San Diego county had a drainage through the center of town choked with giant reed, 2.3 acres in total. The County of San Diego, in cooperation with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) for the area, carried out the eradication project.

### Gopher Canyon (north San Diego County)

County of San Diego *Arundo* project, no acreage known.

### Highways 76 and 395

Two to three acres of *Arundo* are being controlled by the County of San Diego as mitigation for a bridge replacement across the San Luis Rey River. This river is critical habitat for the endangered arroyo toad. The river is heavily infested with this weed and saltcedar. Cape ivy is poised to enter the river from a tributary passing through the Bonsall Preserve, site of a

CalEPPC field trip several years ago.

### Keys Creek (Hwy. 76 and I-15)

About seven acres of *Arundo* and tamarisk are being treated by the County of San Diego. The County is often good about removing other invasives at the same time, as was the case with this project.

### Lake Hodges (north city area of San Diego)

Lake Hodges is a major City of San Diego impoundment and enjoys heavy recreational use by boaters and fishermen. It is an important link in a large linear park being built from the ocean to the mountains through the San Dieguito River Valley. *Arundo* and tamarisk are major problems, as is the recently discovered perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*). The SWAT volunteers helped get an exotic weed volunteer program off the ground two years ago, focusing first on tamarisk. This past fall the team volunteered to control the *Arundo* on remote parts of the lake that could only be reached by boat. The weed occurs in several dozen small to large patches, none over an 1/8 acre in size along the shoreline of the lake. Park authorities are working on the larger infestations elsewhere around the lake.

On two occasions the team utilized row boats and power boats during fall 1998 after the lake had closed for the season. Chainsaws were used to cut down the patches. A city Ranger is doing the follow-up herbicide spraying. The team plans to return to the lake next fall to complete cutting the remote patches. The volunteers also eradicated any other significant weeds near the *Arundo*, including *Eucalyptus*, castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and tamarisk. About a dozen volunteers turned out each time and were treated to many wildlife sightings, including bobcat,

*Continued page 6*

## Arundo Projects, con't.

mule deer, coyote and numerous bird species.

### Lakeside drainage into San Diego River (east San Diego County)

Three acres of giant reed are being controlled, more is to be added for control, by the county as mitigation for a liquid waste sewer line construction. This is high in the San Diego River drainage, where projects logically should be occurring.

### Los Cochés Creek (east county)

Two acres of *Arundo* and tamarisk are being controlled by the county as mitigation for widening Los Cochés Road.

### Montezuma Road (off Mission Valley, San Diego)

Larry Klassen, a Sierra Club activist who leads tamarisk bashing trips to Anza-Borrego State Park, finally couldn't take it anymore and just had to get at the *Arundo* growing along Montezuma Road, which leads down to the San Diego River. This was a personal effort on his part, with dumpster support from the city, and a local neighborhood cleanup group. Cleaning up tributary canyons such as this is critical for eventual eradication of this weed from the watershed.

### Peñasquitos Creek (north city area of San Diego)

Peñasquitos Creek originates as Poway Creek in the City of Poway, and becomes Peñasquitos Creek as it crosses city lines into San Diego on its way to Torrey Pines State Beach. It is one of two creeks flowing through Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The second is López Creek. There were four patches of *Arundo*, none bigger than 1000 sq. ft., on and above López Creek. Volunteers with the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve began control efforts on all

four some 4-5 years ago. All were cut down and either sprayed with the 2% glyphosate or had 100% glyphosate applied to the cut stump. Even after 5 years, one to several resprouts can still be found coming up each season! The origin of these infestations appears to have been a clump planted high on a slope by a landowner on the rim of the canyon.

The larger Peñasquitos Creek was clean of *Arundo* for its seven miles in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve but was moderately infested farther upstream in the drainage, out of the park, in both the City of Poway and the San Diego community of Sabre Springs, especially in the Sabre Springs Wildlife Refuge. Approximately one acre of the cane was scattered in numerous patches over 1.5 miles of the creek in Sabre Springs. Control efforts started 4 years ago by the same Friends group. About half the patches appear dead and haven't resprouted in a year, while growth still occurs on the remaining patches. Volunteers chose not to spray the mature plants since the patches invariably occurred in a thick matrix of native vegetation, especially willows and oaks. Cut stump application and spraying at the 5-7' level of growth of the same herbicides were used.

### Peñasquitos Lagoon (north city area of San Diego)

Peñasquitos Lagoon is part of Torrey Pines State Reserve and is fed by three creeks: the aforementioned Peñasquitos Creek, Carroll Creek, and Carmel Valley Creek. The first two become Sorrento Creek (historically Soledad Creek) where they join in the upper lagoon. The upper lagoon is badly infested with the giant reed, with at least 50 patches, some as big as 2-3 acres in size.

The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve surveyed, identified,

and quantified the different weed species, including *Arundo*, in the upper to mid-lagoon. The Friends then submitted a report to Torrey Pines State Reserve proposing priority weeds and control strategies. At the conclusion of the successful Sweetwater Revival (see below), the Friends' Special Weed Action Team (SWAT) offered to begin a monthly volunteer project in the upper lagoon to eradicate most of the weed species. The State Park accepted and is helping to publicize the effort.

This project began in November 1998 and is expected to last 2-3 years. From five to fifteen volunteers have turned out, including a core of veterans of other projects. *Arundo* has consumed the bulk of the effort to date, but other weeds controlled include catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*), the most common invasive tree in the upper lagoon, *Eucalyptus* spp., myoporum (*Myoporum laetum*), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Cape ivy (*Deleria odorata*), tamarisk, leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), gopher spurge (*Euphorbia lathyris*), jubata or pampasgrass (*Cortaderia jubata*), Hottentot fig, iceplant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), and iris (*Iris pseudocorus*). Iris is the dominant understory vegetation under the willow canopy in many places in the lower Peñasquitos and upper Sorrento Creeks.

Many of the volunteers on this project are chainsaw-safety and herbicide-safety trained. California State Park let out a small contract to eradicate two of the big patches of Cape ivy in the upper lagoon. Volunteers are spraying the patches in the upstream drainages, outside the park. The largest *Arundo* patch of 2-3 acres was recommended for a commercial contract because of its size.

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## Arundo Projects, con't.

### **Rose Creek / Rose Canyon Open Space (central San Diego)**

Volunteers began cutting the *Arundo* in November 1998 as part of a monthly volunteer work party and cut the last of the eight patches in May 1999. Volunteers were drawn from the Tri-Canyon Task Force, Marian Bear Natural Park Recreation Council, the Rose Canyon Recreation Council and the Special Weed Action Team of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Funding for equipment and herbicide came from a Riparian Enhancement Grant from the State of California Habitat Conservation Fund. Total acreage of the combined patches was probably 1/4-1/2 acres. The funds covered removal of not just *Arundo* but a wide variety of exotic plants from the riparian system.

### **San Clemente Creek / Marian Bear Natural Park (central San Diego)**

A mild infestation of only six small patches is found on this seasonal creek. Volunteers from the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and the Marian Bear Recreation Council have cut and sprayed two of the six, located in the riparian area itself. The remaining patches are on slopes, having moved downhill from plantings in backyards, and will be dealt with in the Summer and Fall of 1999.

### **San Diego River (Santee, San Diego, inland to coast, central San Diego)**

Two projects Mission Trails Regional Park (City of San Diego). The first project in earlier years at Mission Trails Regional Park involved park volunteers, Americorps volunteers, and a professional contractor removing five acres total of *Arundo* scattered along several miles of the river. Funding included \$50,000 from the State Habitat Conservation Fund, matched with 10,000 volunteer hours (an

unusually high ratio of hours to dollars in my opinion) and \$149,000 from restitution funds resulting from a fine of a private company that spilled diesel fuel into this same river. \$40,000 of the \$199,000 was spent on a bioassessment of the section of the river in this regional park, leaving a total of \$159,000 spent on the *Arundo* removal itself. *Eucalyptus*, tamarisk, palms, and fennel were also removed from these same areas. Some planting of native species took place.

The second project in Mission Trails Regional Park involved 8-9 total acres of *Arundo* removal by a private contractor funded by mitigation money for sewer line impacts (Metropolitan Waste Water Department) within the park. Planting of natives on 5 acres of affected acreage took place.

Stadium area, middle Mission Valley portion of San Diego River. Metropolitan Waste Water Dept., several acres of removal of (mostly) *Arundo* and a few other exotics, with revegetation of natives.

Lower San Diego River. Four or five *Arundo* removal projects by Caltrans, Metropolitan Transportation District Board (MTDB), Metropolitan Waste Water, and City of San Diego Environmental Services, affecting less than 10 acres total of *Arundo*. Several involved simple eradication of scattered patches of the giant reed, all under 1/4-acre in size, with no revegetation. Two projects involved extensive revegetation in addition to *Arundo* and other exotics removal, due to major impacts of a trolley line crossing the river, a new sewer line, and a road project.

Mission Valley Preserve, lower San Diego River, a new preserve is being formalized in the same area as the above *Arundo* projects. A newly formed Friends of the Mission Valley

Preserve, with the help of the Special Weed Action Team, has begun removing the remaining giant reed on the lower river, as well as numerous other exotics.

### **Santa Margarita River (Fallbrook, extreme northern San Diego County and Orange County)**

San Diego's only free-flowing river has major *Arundo* infestations along most of its length, including many multi-acre patches. Major efforts are underway by the U.S. Marine Corps on Camp Pendleton, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), San Diego State University scientists, and volunteers with groups such as the Fallbrook Land Conservancy. Sites on this river were part of a field trip organized for *CalEPPC Symposium '96*, the year it held its annual symposium in San Diego. Important research is being conducted on removal methods as part of this project. This is the one watershed where there is a concerted effort to develop a plan, follow it, and remove the giant reed from the top of the watershed down and not in the piecemeal fashion many others have been forced into. Generally, when *Arundo* removal is approved as a mitigation for wetland/riparian impacts (not loss of the same) by the Corps, the mitigation is required to take place as close to the impact site as possible. While this has a certain logic, it is not a good strategy for effective weed control. This river is the exception. The Corps allowed Camp Pendleton and TNC to mitigate Marine impacts off-base, upstream in the Santa Margarita. This is a strategy that makes sense and needs to become a model for other drainages.

The County of San Diego also has a large 80-90 acre *Arundo* control project on this same river, mitigation for a road repair in the riverbed.

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## Arundo Projects, con't.

### San Pascal Valley (north county)

A major effort in the valley on the San Dieguito River is in the surveying and planning stages. The San Diego Water Dept. will control the *Arundo* from the foothills of the mountains west to the City Park boundary. The City Parks Department will then use a volunteer effort to control the *Arundo* within the park, west to the San Dieguito River Valley Park, which already has control efforts underway.

### Spring Valley (east county)

La Mar Park in Spring Valley is the site of a 4-5 acre control effort by the county of giant reed, castor bean, tamarisk, and artichoke thistle for flood control purposes.

The extension of Highway 54 led to another *Arundo* mitigation project near the highway, of unknown acreage.

### Valley Center (east San Diego County)

A small infestation of *Arundo* in an inactive landfill site is being controlled by the County, along with other weeds such as cardoon/artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*).

### Sweetwater River (Chula Vista, Bonita, south San Diego Co.)

Caltrans on the upper river, acreage unknown. County Dept. of Agriculture, County Park on the lower San Diego River, 20-25 acres. Simple removal of *Arundo*, no other exotics, no planting of natives.

Sweetwater Revival, volunteer effort, 3 acres, complimenting County project (see details below).

### Sweetwater River Revival; How it was Organized

In November, 1998 enthusiastic volunteers completed a two-year *Arundo* project on the Sweetwater River in Chula Vista, a town several miles south of San Diego in southern

California. About 3 to 5 acres of this invasive grass were removed by 180 different volunteers over the course of two years. The Sweetwater River is one of San Diego County's larger rivers. According to geologist Don Albright, a third-generation San Diegan, the *Arundo* on the Sweetwater goes back at least to the 1940s when he remembers seeing it there. The density and structure of the stands of this weed certainly suggested an older population.

This "Sweetwater River Revival" project was initiated by consulting biologist Viviane Marquez (Marquez & Associates). She learned that an effort by the County of San Diego to remove all the *Arundo* from a county park on the lower Sweetwater River was going to fall short by these 3 to 5 acres for lack of funding. Caltrans had completed a similar project upstream while the county tackled a 25-30 acre infestation at a downstream location near the Bonita Driving Range. Funds ran out after 25 acres were cut and removed. Marquez was determined that the momentum not be lost to remove this destructive plant from the watershed. She contacted this author and Cindy Burrascano, then President of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, to see if we would help organize an effort to complete the *Arundo* removal. This seemed to be a good project for the Special Weed Action Team (SWAT) local activists who had organized to travel around and jump-start projects like this. The project would have taken a lot longer to complete without the community and school group participation generated through Marquez' efforts.

SWAT agreed to help with the effort and I helped recruit a core team that stayed with the project through its entire two years. SWAT also supplied some of the equipment, all the chainsaws, and trained chainsaw

operators. Volunteers cut and stacked the sometimes 30-foot tall cane, while the county removed it in dumpsters and did the herbicide spraying at appropriate intervals after cutting.

How much of an effort does it take to cut and stack five acres of *Arundo*? Here are the statistics Viviane compiled. A regularly scheduled work party met the second Sunday of every month and worked from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Some 180 people participated over the two year time period, donating 1,675 hours to the task. Volunteers ranged in age from 6 to over 70 years-old, including groups of students from East Lake High School, Sweetwater High School, Miramar College, Scripps Institute of Oceanography (UCSD), San Diego State University, and Southwestern College. The aforementioned core of seasoned volunteers came in large part from the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and included veterans of weed wars from a number of area parks.

Volunteers such as Rob Hutsel, Cindy Burrascano, Doug Fenske, Jerry Jalalon, Nancy, Finn, and Brendan O'Shea, John Schulte, Drew DeShazo, Mike Kelly, and of course, Viviane Marquez, showed up most regularly, ranging from 9 times to Viviane's high of 27!

Marquez was aggressive in publicizing the project and succeeded in bringing television crews on several occasions and press crews, resulting in ongoing, favorable news coverage. She was also successful in reaching out to biology teachers and ecology clubs in several area high schools and colleges. Several women from one ecology club became regulars in the second year of the project. Many students came for the extra credit their teacher dangled before them or to fulfill community service hours increasingly required of high school students

*Continued page 9*



## Arundo Projects, con't.

in the San Diego region. Viviane routinely provided lunch and drinks after each work party, arranging for the donation of pizzas on several occasions. This seemed to help maintain the enthusiasm of many high school students, while providing a welcome socializing occasion for core team members, for whom this might be the only time each month they would see each other.

The work day was begun each month with a brief introduction by this writer, explaining the history of *Arundo*, its negative impact on the environment, and the goal of the effort: restoring wildlife, especially bird, habitat. This information was captured and played by TV crews on more than one occasion, helping to create a broader public awareness of the effort. Safety was also thoroughly covered in the introduction. Over the two years the only injuries were scrapes and cuts, nothing serious.

*Thanks to Bill Winans from the County Dept. of Agriculture for a listing of their projects and to City of San Diego Ranger Dan Bylin for information on Mission Trails Regional Park.*

## Lassen County's First Weed Week by Carolyn Gibbs

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors proclaimed the week of June 13th "Lassen County Noxious Weed Awareness Week." Attention to the weed problems in Lassen County, as well as the combined efforts of the Lassen County Noxious Weed Special Action Weed Team (SWAT), were heralded for the entire week.

The local newspaper, The Lassen County Times, and K-Sue radio were very supportive. Articles ran in the paper addressing noxious weed issues for several weeks.

Weed Pull Day, the last event of weed week, was held on a bright, sunny Saturday. SWAT members were the team leaders, and with 40 area Boy Scouts and their families, pulled 60 large bags of yellow starthistle, Dalmatian toadflax, and Mediterranean sage. While pulling weeds, the scouts learned to identify several of our noxious weed species, and also learned some control methods. These energy-filled children also know firsthand that they can make a difference in their county, where they play, and on their own property. The morning's efforts were followed by a BBQ lunch provided by Lassen County Cattleman's Association. The



*BLM's John Bosworth explains how to identify yellow starthistle to Cub Scouts at "Lassen County Weed Pull Day".*

day was a big success, and the scouts and their leaders said they are looking forward to working on the sites again next year.

SWAT team member agencies have had many questions about the strange weeds growing along the river or "what is that huge plant with all the thorns and the pretty purple flowers?" Some people have even brought in plant samples for identification. SWAT members felt that the goals were met and that all involved had fun during the first Lassen County Noxious Weed Awareness Week.

## Four Exotic Weed Education and Eradication Internships Available with the BLM at Fort Ord

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is excited to request applications for four Student Conservation Association Weed Warrior Internships. The intent is to help initiate a nationwide, community-based, education and outreach program that addresses the environmental problems caused by invasive non-native weeds on public wildlands such as those managed by BLM on Fort

Ord. Recently much of Fort Ord, an army base on the coast of beautiful Monterey Bay, has been set aside as a 15,000 acre Natural Resource Management Area for 44 rare plant and animal species and unusual plant communities. Intern projects include leading and assisting on weekly volunteer weed eradication and habitat restoration projects; working with the BLM weed crew and botanist on field

projects; creating an extensive weed education and train-the-trainer program; giving community organization and classroom presentations; and helping to organize the War on Weeds III symposium at Fort Ord. For a Student Conservation Association application please contact: Bruce Delgado at (831) 394-8314 or email at [bdelgado@ca.blm.gov](mailto:bdelgado@ca.blm.gov)

# Richmond Weed Abatement Ordinance

The City of Richmond has recently adopted an amended weed abatement ordinance which deleted, added and amended sections of of RMC Chapter 9.50 as follows:

“Weed” means any plant, which, when mature, bears wingy or downy seeds, or which because of having such large growth and being dry has become a fire hazard, or which, because of its nature, is noxious, such as, for example, poison oak, or any part of a plant, including but not limited to seeds, seedlings, roots, branches, trunk, root crown suckers, or rhizomas suckers, that is out of place and is therefore a pest causing a fire hazard, traffic hazard, visual blight, ecological detriment of other risk to the public interest.

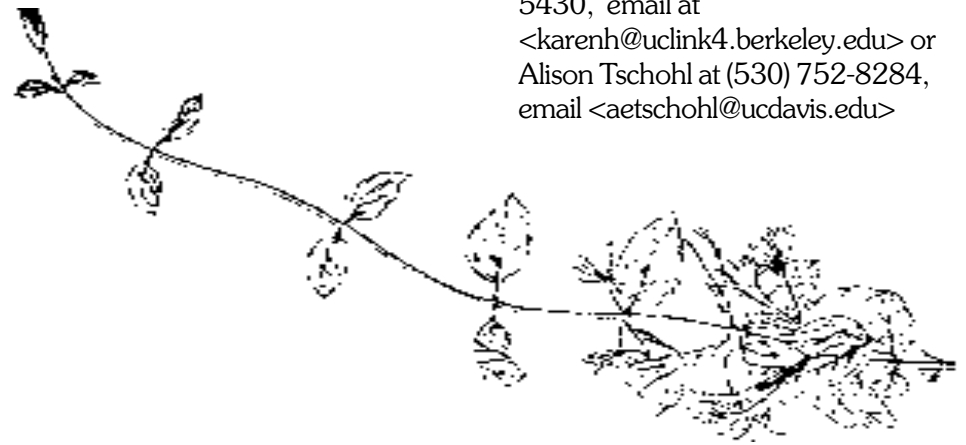
A weed can be annual, biennial, or perennial in reproductive habit and take the form of, but not be limited to, a tree, bush, ground cover, forb, grass, vine, bulb, or aquatic species. All weeds that are listed as noxious or quarantined by the Federal and State governments, or which are invasive exotic species are included. Periodically, the Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner or the City of Richmond Pest Control Advisor can deem a plant species a weed to address a localized pest problem.

“Invasive Exotic Species” means invasive and aggressive non-native plants which tend to spread into the surrounding ecosystems and displace native plants because they are more aggressive in their growth habits, or because they put out more seed that

lasts longer in the soil, or because there is nothing to eat them, compete with them, or disease them in the California ecosystem.

Invasive exotic species that may be found in Richmond include, but are not limited to, the following: *Carpobrotus edulis*, *Centaurea solstitialis*, *Cotoneaster pannosus*, *Cortaderia jubata*, *C. selloana*, *Cynara cardunculus*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *C. striatus*, *Delawarea odorata* (= *Senecio mikanioides*), *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Eucalyptus globulus*, *Genista monspessulana*, *Hedera helix*, *Pennisetum setaceum*, *Rubus discolor*.

Property on which weeds exist outside of a managed landscape or garden area where such plants are purposefully cultivated, propagated, and controlled, or where weeds or other vegetation pose a risk of harm to the public, or constitute visual blight or reduces the aesthetic appearance of the neighborhood or is offensive to the sense or is detrimental to the use and enjoyment of nearby properties or reduces nearby property values.



# Mark Your Calendars

## Mark Your Calendars for CalEPPC Symposium '99

Mark your calendars to reserve the weekend of October 15-17, 1999 for CalEPPC Symposium '99 at the Red Lion Sacramento Inn in Sacramento, California. One full-day and two short-day field trips will tour local restoration sites. The invitations will be in the mail shortly. CDPR has tentatively approved 14 hours of continuing educational credits in the “Other” category.

## Call for Posters

Posters addressing all areas of exotic pest plant control in wildland ecosystems of California will be displayed in the symposium break area. You and your colleagues are invited to display your poster regarding research, control methods, tools, or other related topics. Informal presentations by poster authors are invited, but not required. Please call Karen Haubensack at (510) 643-5430, email at <karenh@uclink4.berkeley.edu> or Alison Tschohl at (530) 752-8284, email <aetschohl@ucdavis.edu>

# CalEPPC New Members

CalEPPC would like to welcome the following individual and institutional members who have joined CalEPPC in the months from March through June:

Barbara Amberson  
David Amme  
Barry Baba  
David Bakke  
Bitterroot Restoration, Inc.  
Mary Burns  
CalTrans Environmental Program  
Christopher Campbell  
Amy Carpenter  
Jerome Draper  
Melissa Ervin  
Stephen Fischer  
Vincent Giese  
Margaret Graham  
Ian Harlen  
Scott Harris

Jane Holte  
Lenora Kirby  
Ann Klovstad  
Ann Knopf  
Keith Knudsen  
Kathleen Kraft  
Donna Krucki  
Caroline Kuizenga  
Land Conservancy of SLO County  
Leslie Lebeau  
David Mayer  
Robert Mazalewski  
Mary McClanahan  
Kathryn McEachern  
Audrey Miller  
City of Mission Viejo

Paul Moreno  
Janet Nickerman  
Steve Nicola  
Katy Pye  
David Schmidt  
Sarah Scott  
David Selleck  
Western Tree Service  
Trish Smith  
Greg Smith  
Susan Spofford  
John T. Stanley  
Jean Starkweather  
Mark Subbotin  
Viansa Winery/Sam Sebastiani  
Stan Weidert  
Carol Deane Weiske

## News and Announcements

### Instructional Video      Check Out These Web Sites

“Pampas grass: Managing an Invasive Alien Species” is a 24-minute video explaining how to control Pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp.). After introducing viewers to the problem of invasive alien plants, a primer is given on safety considerations for the manual control of Pampas grass. Then modules are presented on manual, chemical, and heavy equipment methods, each concluding with a success story. Price: \$20 delivered. To order contact: Lief Joslyn, Xenobiota Xposures, 62 Stratford Road, Kensington, CA 94707, (415) 897.9577, <leifjoslyn@earthlink.net>

As an enthusiastic grower of California native plants and a computer nerd, I've been hoping to find an email discussion group for California native plants. After checking around I've found that no one seems to have started one as yet, but many people have told me they would be interested in one.

I've finally decided to do something about it, and my employer, the Cambria Corporation, has generously allowed me to use their mail server and high-speed internet connection to set up a California Natives list. The purpose of the list is for members to share their experience, knowledge, and questions about California native plants with each other. Topics will include gardening with natives, plant identification, propagation techniques,

habitat restoration, legal and political action, invasive non-natives, and event announcements. Anyone wishing to subscribe to the list inquire at <<http://www.calypteanna.com/ca-natives.htm>>

Gregory McCann

A website that lists some invasives that are still sold by the horticulture industry: <<http://www.taunton.com/fg/features/plants/invasive/2.htm>>

Dave Nelson

Take a look at the Biocontrol of Leafy Spurge web site: <<http://www.gov.sk.ca/agfood/farmfact/biocon.htm>> or the BLM Weed Hall of Shame: <[http://www.blm.gov/education/weeds/hall\\_of\\_shame.html](http://www.blm.gov/education/weeds/hall_of_shame.html)>

#### ERRATA

CalEPPC News, Volume 7 Number 1 should have been designated Winter 1999 edition.

# 1999 CalEPPC Membership Form

If you would like to join CalEPPC, please remit your calendar dues using the form provided below. All members will receive the CalEPPC newsletter, be eligible to join CalEPPC working groups, be invited to the annual symposium and participate in selecting future board members. Your personal involvement and financial support are the keys to success. Additional contributions by present members are welcomed!

## Individual

- Low Income \$15.00
- Regular \$25.00
- Family \$40.00
- Contributing \$50.00
- Sustaining \$100.00
- Lifetime \$1000.00

## Institutional

- N/A
- Regular \$100.00
- Contributing \$250.00
- Patron \$500.00
- Sustaining \$1000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make an additional contribution in my name to:

Student/Low Income membership: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cape Ivy Biocontrol Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to **CalEPPC** and mail with this application form to:

CalEPPC Membership  
c/o Sally Davis  
32912 Calle del Tesoro  
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-4227

*\* Students, please include current registration and/or class schedule*



## Calendar of Events

September 7 - 11 **The Wildlife Society, 6th Annual Conference**, Austin, TX. Contact: 301.897.9770, <mailto:tw@wildlife.org>

September 23 - 25 **Reweaving the World, 11th Annual International SER Conference**, San Francisco, CA. Contact: Julie St. John, 520.670.6896, ext. 5, <mailto:Julie\_St.\_John@usgs.gov>

September 28 **Restoration and the Cultivation of Nature; a Colloquium on Restoration Ecology**, UC Davis. Contact: Truman Young, 530.754.9925, <http://envhort.ucdavis.edu/young/nature/>

October 15 - 17 **CalEPPC Symposium '99, Taking it to the Field: From Prevention to Management**, Sacramento. Cost \$80. Contact: Sally Davis, 949.487.5473, <sallydavis@aol.com>

October 13 - 16 **Conservation Planning: From Sites to Systems**, Natural Areas Conference, Tucson, AZ. Contact: 520.884.0875, <confreg@twp.org>



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EXOTIC  
PEST PLANT  
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