

# Watershed Lookout

Alameda Creek Watershed  
**Forum**



**H**appy 2015. In this Winter edition of *Watershed Lookout* we note a number of upcoming meetings and workshops that examine California water issues. We also look back at the acwForum technical symposium on restoration, as well as the results of watershed-wide trash clean up efforts in support of Coastal Cleanup Day. Our Toolkit section features a rain barrel rebate program. Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) provides this issue's Spotlight. As always, we welcome your feedback and submissions for the next edition of *Watershed Lookout*.

Now is also the time to provide suggestions for the acwForum Annual Conference. We're looking for your ideas for topics to discuss and field tour locations to visit. [Contact us](#).

Fingers crossed for a return to wet weather!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### January 24 California Water Law Symposium

"Wasted Water: Reasonable Use Law in 21st Century", Golden Gate University Law School, San Francisco.  
[www.waterlawsymposium.com](http://www.waterlawsymposium.com)

### February 5-6 Water 101 Workshop

From the Water Education Foundation. State water management, groundwater regulation, and the 2014 water bond, Sacramento.  
[www.watereducation.org/foundation-event/water-101-workshop-0](http://www.watereducation.org/foundation-event/water-101-workshop-0)

### February 19 BAFPAA-CHARG Annual Conference

"Sea Level Rise, Extreme Weather and Regulatory Hurdles: The New Challenges

for Flood Protection"  
[www.bafpaa.org/conference](http://www.bafpaa.org/conference)

### March 3-4 3rd Rustici Rangeland Symposium

Rangeland management & water quality in response to the Statewide Grazing Regulatory Action Plan (GRAP), UC Davis.  
[rangelandwatersheds.ucdavis.edu/index.htm](http://rangelandwatersheds.ucdavis.edu/index.htm)

### March 11-14 33rd Salmonid Restoration Conference

From the Salmonid Restoration Federation, Santa Rosa.

**March 16  
CEDEN Workshop**  
Opportunity to learn about and provide feedback on the SWRCB's surface water quality database.

[http://ceden.org/docs/workshops/031615\\_workshop\\_flyer.pdf](http://ceden.org/docs/workshops/031615_workshop_flyer.pdf)

### March TBA BAWN Annual Meeting

A date for the Bay Area Watershed Network event is coming soon!  
[www.sfestuary.org/watershed-network](http://www.sfestuary.org/watershed-network)

**...April 22, 2015  
Earth Day**  
Stay tuned! Announce your event in the Spring edition of *Watershed Lookout* or at [www.acwForum.org/calendar](http://www.acwForum.org/calendar).

**Late Spring 2015  
acwForum Annual Conference**  
Now's your opportunity to suggest topics for the Annual Conference. We're also interested in your ideas for field tour locations. [Contact us!](#)

Send us your [upcoming event](#) for the next *Watershed Lookout*, or add a calendar item to [www.acwForum.org/calendar](http://www.acwForum.org/calendar) by contacting [Haley Burgardt](#).

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Restoration in the Alameda Creek Watershed: Challenges & Solutions**

The acwForum’s technical symposium drew 30 people to the Castro Valley Library for an afternoon of presentations on case studies, permitting, plant nurseries, data sharing, and monitoring success. The half-day meeting concluded with an interactive panel discussion, during which attendees posed questions to many of the day’s speakers. In addition, three information tables provided restoration irrigation techniques, common restoration planting problems with hungry wildlife (and solutions), and climate and hydrology research. Also, a community information table held information sheets from a number of participating organizations and agencies. Participants took advantage of networking opportunities and the Castro Valley Creek restoration site just outside the library.



Restoration Symposium, NRCS

Did you miss the Symposium? View the agenda and link to presentations by visiting [www.acwForum.org/calendar](http://www.acwForum.org/calendar).

Many thanks to: our expert speakers; the acwForum Steering Committee and Alameda County Conservation Partnership staff for assisting with the day’s logistics; and to event sponsors and supporters, including City of

Fremont, San Francisco Estuary Partnership, Zone 7 Water Agency, and Alameda County Flood Control & Water Conservation District!

**WATERSHED TOOLKIT**

**Rain Barrel Rebate Program**

In drought years like 2014, rain barrels can be a saving grace. 1,000 square feet of roof surface captures 625 gallons of water for every 1 inch of rain that falls ([www.BAWSCA.org](http://www.BAWSCA.org))! Installing a rain barrel helps to maintain a healthy urban watershed by reducing the demand on the potable water system to irrigate your landscaping and by reducing the amount of wet weather runoff that is collected and sent into the public storm water system, which ultimately drains untreated into the bay.

To encourage the installation and use of rain barrels, agencies are offering rain barrel rebate programs. The Alameda County Water District (ACWD), which serves Fremont, Newark, and Union City, is offering rebates of up to \$50 per rain barrel for the purchase and installation of qualifying rain barrels for a limited time this winter! There is a limit of 2 rebates per residential account. The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) is administering this program on behalf of ACWD and other BAWSCA member agencies. Visit ACWD’s rebates page—[www.acwd.org/rebates](http://www.acwd.org/rebates)—to find out more about the program. Funding is very limited and may be exhausted quickly, without prior notice.

Rain barrel rebate programs may be available in other parts of the Bay Area as well. Visit the BAWSCA website for details: [www.bawasca.org/conservation/rain-barrel-rebate-program/](http://www.bawasca.org/conservation/rain-barrel-rebate-program/).

Wherever rain barrels are installed, avoid creating breeding pools for mosquitos. Rain barrel openings should be covered with fine mesh

**Alameda Creek Watershed—Creeks to Bay: Coastal Cleanup Day 2014 Results**

An astounding 797 volunteers within the Alameda Creek Watershed participated in environmental stewardship events in conjunction with Coastal Cleanup Day, observed September 20, 2014. Since the beginning of this cleanup day in 1985, Californian’s have been collecting trash and recyclables from our waterways. This year volunteers within Fremont, Livermore, Dublin, and Union City did their part to clean up our creeks and shores from the inland valleys to the Bay.



Union City volunteer creek cleanup group on Coastal Cleanup Day, Union City

Within the Alameda Creek Watershed, volunteers removed an estimated 6,089 pounds of trash and 519 pounds of recyclables (see the table, below)! Some of the results were compiled and reported to the California Coastal Commission to document stewardship efforts and raise awareness. See statewide results at [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html).

Coastal Cleanup Day: Alameda Creek Watershed Totals - 2014				
Organizer	Location	Volunteers	Trash (lbs.)	Recyclables (lbs.)
Alameda Creek Alliance & ACRC	Old Alameda Creek	55	116	63
City of Dublin	Tassajara Creek, Alamo Canal, Alamo Creek, South San Ramon Creek	100	261* (2.61cy)	51* (0.51cy)
East Bay Regional Park District	Del Valle Lake	144	1,220	100
City of Fremont	Alameda Creek in Niles	315	2,160	
Tri-Valley Creeks	Livermore creeks	171	2,183* (3,789gal)	309* (537gal)
Volunteers of City of Union City	Old Alameda Creek	12	200	
TOTALS		797	6,140*	523*

\*Indicated trash and recycling volumes were converted to pounds at 100lbs per 1cy (estimate used by City of Dublin staff based on averages from Stop-waste and Recyclemania). Dry gallons were first converted to cubic yards.

screening (1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch or finer) to exclude adult mosquitos. The tops of rain barrels and other water containers can also be covered with a tight fitting lid when it isn’t raining. More rain barrel mosquitos. Rain barrel openings should be covered with fine mesh screening (1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch or finer) to exclude adult mosquitos. The tops of rain barrels and other water containers can also be covered with a tight fitting lid when it isn’t raining. More rain barrel mosquito-proofing tips for common water conservation methods

# acwForum

## ABOUT US

The Alameda Creek Watershed Forum (a.k.a., acwForum) is a voluntary, non-regulatory stakeholder group that supports the community's interest in protecting and achieving a healthy and sustainable Alameda Creek watershed.

acwForum stakeholders include signatory members—agencies and organizations with stewardship interests and purview in the Alameda Creek watershed that have signed the Letter of Understanding—and other interested local agencies, watershed organizations, landowners, land managers, and residents.

The purpose of the acwForum is to facilitate communication among watershed stakeholders and demonstrate their commitment to understanding, protecting, and restoring the Alameda

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[www.acwForum.org](http://www.acwForum.org)

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Funded by ACFC&WCD with support from Zone 7 Water Agency

## CONTACT US

### Chair:

Elke Rank, Zone 7 Water Agency  
erank@zone7water.com

### Vice Chair:

Ralph Johnson, consultant

### Coordinator:

Ian Howell, ACRCO  
ian.howell@acrcd.org

### Website & Outreach Assistant:

Haley Burgardt, ACRCO  
haley.burgardt@acrcd.org

## Rain Barrel Rebate Program...

are available in an educational brochure from Alameda County Mosquito Control District at [www.mosquitoes.org](http://www.mosquitoes.org).

Thirsty for more general information on rain barrels? The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission maintains rainwater harvesting information at <http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=178>.



Newly installed rain barrel under the ACWC \$50 rebate program in Fremont, A. Evans 2015

## SPOTLIGHT

### Nancy Harden & Ken Asmus, Open Space Volunteers, LARPD By: Patti Cole, LARPD

Dedicated volunteers are worth their weight in gold, or in this case, invasive vegetation.



Nancy and Ken surveying amongst the oaks, LARPD

Grove Park, Nancy recruited Ken to partner with her in not only invasive plant removal but also the development and on-going maintenance of the park's demonstration native garden.

Several years ago, Nancy initiated a focused plan of attack on teasel (*Dipsacaceae* family). Teasel was developing into some very dense stands along secondary drainages within the park. After researching the plant, Nancy decided on a two pronged approach to its removal: 1) while the ground was moist, hand pulling each plant, with roots; 2) while the ground was too hard for hand pulling, cutting off the seed heads before they matured. Once Ken came onboard, the dynamic duo of teasel eradication really took hold. Since seeds can remain viable for

Meet the superheroes of invasive plant removal, Nancy and Ken. Their perseverance and effectiveness in this regard is legendary.

Nancy began her volunteer career with Livermore Area Recreation & Park District in the spring of 2008. After a couple of years working with the park rangers at Sycamore

a couple of years, they also incorporated a methodical survey of teasel-favored habitat within the park, continuing the attack on established stands as well as new sprouts. Their efforts have resulted in a significant reduction of teasel in Sycamore Grove Park.

In recognition of Nancy's many years of volunteer service and resulting positive impacts, she was awarded the California Park & Recreation Society District 3 Outstanding Volunteer in Parks & Recreation in 2012.



Nancy receiving her award alongside LARPD Park Ranger, Amy Wolitzer, LARPD 2012