



View of Mark West Creek, Photograph by Kate Wilson



SEPTEMBER 2004 NEWSLETTER

Friends of the Mark West Watershed

September 15, 2004 Vol. 1, No.1 Serving the Mark West Watershed

We are a watershed community dedicated to preserving, protecting, and restoring the Mark West Creek and its watershed as a natural and community resource.

Steering Committee Members

Richard Baril 538-2673	Pat Gray 539-2825	Grif Okie 537-9001
LuAnne Daly 538-5133	Ray Krauss 539-4330	Kate Wilson 537-7030

2nd Annual Harvest Moon Dinner Dance and Auction

When:	Saturday, October 23, 2004 from 5-10 p.m.
Where:	Alpine Hall 5380 St. Helena Rd., Santa Rosa, CA
Program:	5:00-6:30 Socialize & Music by John Rothfield and The Cajun Classics
	6:30-7:30 Dinner by A La Heart Catering
	7:30-8:00 Speaker and Slideshow, Brock Dolman, Occidental Arts & Ecology Center
	8:00-10:00 Dancing to Elliot Finesse and the Artlaws (same great band as last year!)

Reservations Required : \$40 per person, \$375 for a table of 8
Use cut-out form on inside to order tickets. Seating is limited to 100.

Preserve The Mark West Watershed and Learn More About One of the Most Important Tributaries to the Russian River!

We are holding a unique fund raiser at the historic Alpine Hall on Saturday, October 23th at 5 p.m. Limited to 100 people, it will be a catered dinner, dance, silent auction, and short informative program. If you missed it last year, here's your chance! We sold out and everyone had a grand time!

Whether you are a resident of this area or simply concerned and would like to help preserve and enhance the Mark West and it's watershed, this is your chance to do your part! We are a grass roots effort and need your support! If you sponsor a table for 8 at the rate of \$375 you will make a significant contribution to our community's efforts to preserve and maintain our beautiful watershed and all the creatures that depend on it for their lives.

All will enjoy a fine dinner, silent auction and music at a beautiful location near Mark West Creek. Your generous donations are welcome. If you include your email address with your reservation form we will keep you updated on our efforts and projects.

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PERMIT #470
SANTA ROSA CA

Friends of the Mark West Watershed
5515 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404



2nd Annual Harvest Moon Dinner Dance and Auction

Our History

Formed in 2003 in response to a major development proposal on Saddle Mountain adjacent to St. Helena Road, Friends of the Mark West Watershed joined the Audobon Society to voice our concerns about the 30 year old environmental impact report which did not address, among other things, endangered steelhead and salmon, water issues, and increased traffic. After many hearings, lobbying and concerted effort by many, recent news from the Open Space District indicates that they are very close to purchasing the 1200 acre property and thereby preserving it as a "forever wild" nature preserve.

At our general meeting in the spring we voted to formalize our organization in order to continue the effort to preserve the beautiful natural environment in which we live, ridge top to ridge top.

In addition to keeping a watchful eye on the Saddle Mountain project we organized a 2 day road and creek clean-up which filled 5 dumpsters with trash, car parts, water heaters, electronic equipment and 37 tires. More than 20 volunteers showed up to walk the roads and creekside to gather the litter.

In response to our education outreach we have been able to assist local residents with questions about creek stewardship and also organized to give them a hand when they needed help to prevent the erosion of sediment into the creek. When fingerling (baby) steelhead have been found trapped in pools this summer due to lower water levels, we moved them to a more protected area before their pool dried up in order to advance the steelhead population.

We are also collecting water quantity and quality data on the Mark West Creek and working towards establishing historical information from the past and present to help understand what happens in the future. We are working with Trouts Unlimited to obtain our own scientific instruments to measure all pertinent data. The equipment will belong to the community and will be available along with the necessary training.

Also, we have been able to obtain a non-profit status under the umbrella of the Friends of the Russian River.

Since it's inception, FMWW has raised over \$15,000, much of which was spent in the effort to protect the Saddle Mountain property from subdivision and developing. In order to attract necessary grant money, we must continue to demonstrate our ability to raise funds locally. To that end, we sponsored a Spring Garage Sale in Spring 2003 and 2004 and the Harvest Moon Dinner and Dance in 2003 and this coming October 23. We thank all who have contributed time, money and energy to any of these events, and are humbled by your continuing support!

Our Projects

Understanding Our Watershed and How It Works

Water Monitoring Committee (Grant Project)

- Train to use monitoring equipment, establish program to monitor creek and well water levels, keep accurate records, collect historical data on creek/well levels, network with hydrologist and other experts as needed.

Steelhead and Coho Preservation & Restoration Committee (Grant Project)

- Establish and monitor seasonal fish count program, identify and monitor red (breeding pools) zones, work closely with Trouts Unlimited and other agencies, keep accurate records and collect historical data.

Stewardship

Creek Restoration and Preservation (Grant Project)

- Schedule clean-up events, establish Adopt a Creek Program, establish neighborhood assistance program to aid in creek preservation and restoration projects, serve as a resource to requests from local residents for assistance with animal waste management, establish creek stewardship program utilizing best management practice (BMP) guidelines, monitor/assist in riparian habitat restoration and conservation effort.

Education and Outreach

Publicity, Brochure and Signage Committee (Grant Project)

- Produce and maintain road signs to inform public, i.e.: Entering/Leaving MW Watershed/Headwaters, Home to Protected and Endangered Species: Peregrine Falcon, Steelhead, Coho Salmon (when we get them back); No Dumping; Drains Directly to Creek, etc.

- Produce a comprehensive brochure that describes the watershed, its habitat, agriculture, the wild life, and the people.
- Produce educational materials, handouts, regarding critical issues and action plans.
- Identify and map the landowners along the creek from Calistoga Road to the headwaters.
- Identify and list sensitive and vulnerable areas in our watershed for wildlife, riparian habitat and native species.
- Identify downstream neighbors for collaborative work and shared interests.
- Network with agencies available for local education programs.
- Schedule and execute local education programs according to need and request.
- Create Resource lists and Mark West Watershed library for local interest materials.
- Establish Children's Creek Preservation Program.
- Collect historical data regarding indigenous riparian habitat in the Mark West Watershed.
- Create resource lists of native and exotic species of plants and animals.

 Friends of the Mark West Watershed markwestwatershed.org (under construction) 

Membership Application

Please join FMWW today! Membership includes biannual newsletter and logo sticker. Plus you are supporting our environmental efforts!

Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$10/year/family)

Name _____ Phone _____ email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

October 23

Harvest Dinner Dance Reply

5 to 10 p.m.

Sponsorship

\$100 (2 tickets) # of Tickets _____

\$375 (Table for 8) # of Tables _____

Individual Ticket

\$40 (1 Ticket) # of Tickets _____

Total \$ _____

Sorry, we can not attend but would like to contribute \$ _____

Volunteer for other efforts, please call me

Method of Payment:

Check Visa

Mastercard American Express

Credit Card No. _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please RSVP no later than October 1, 2004

**Please Return to: 5515 St. Helena Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

Name _____ Phone _____ email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Contributions Are Tax Deductible!

For more information: Phone: (707) 538-2673 Fax: (707) 537-1069 Email: skysaddle@earthlink.net