

Biweekly Wetland and Stream Corridor Restoration Update

Issue 48

February 27, 2003

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Welcome to the Biweekly Wetland and Stream Corridor Restoration Update. This Web site

- Provides current information on wetland and stream corridor restoration projects
- Recognizes outstanding restoration projects
- Offers a forum for information sharing

We welcome the submission of articles and announcements related to your restoration project. Just send your write-up to EPA's contractor at restorationupdate@tetratech-ffx.com or mail it to Rebecca Schmidt, Biweekly Restoration Update Coordinator, Tetra Tech, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 340, Fairfax, VA 22030. We will carefully consider your submission for inclusion in a future update. If your submission is selected, please note that it might be edited for length or style before being posted. Because this Web site is meant to be a public forum on restoration information, we cannot post any information that is copyrighted or information that advocates or lobbies for any political, business, or commercial purposes or has the appearance of doing so.

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Feature Article

Demonstration, Education, and Outreach in Lancaster Township

“It’s your stream, it’s your river, it’s your bay—help do something about it.” This was Lancaster Township’s call to arms to preserve local waterways and its slogan for the Maple Grove Park Riparian Restoration Project.

Armed with a \$31,000 Chesapeake Bay Small Projects Grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Lancaster County (Pennsylvania) residents, local businesses, students, and scouting groups joined forces to restore a section of the Little Conestoga Creek flowing through Maple Grove Park. Working together, the volunteers restored 1,050 feet of stream ecosystems, created 1.2 acres of forested riparian buffers, and stabilized more than 148 cubic yards of soil.

The volunteers worked to address storm water runoff, soil erosion, and sedimentation—problems that have increased because of recent land development. Repairing this section of the stream involved excavating floodway fills and depositions to increase floodwater storage capacity, re-grading and creating a buffer along eroded streambanks, and installing rock vane and channel deflector structures for erosion prevention.

The township engaged the public by offering hands-on volunteer workshops and field trips. Project kickoff meetings featured slide and video presentations regarding stream restoration techniques. Colorful directory signs erected at the project site and flyers, letters, and workshop schedules distributed throughout the community helped generate significant media coverage for the restoration project. Lancaster Township disseminated public service announcements through local newspapers and television stations, WGAL and FOX, and promoted activities on its Web site (www.twp.lancaster.pa.us). More than 5,000 households received invitation letters, schedules, and flyers publicizing project events.

By the time the project was completed, Lancaster Township had not only made great strides in restoring its watershed but also sparked environmental awareness in the community that will continue beyond the lifespan of the Maple Grove Park Riparian Restoration Project itself. Lancaster Township and the Little Conestoga Watershed Alliance plan to use Growing Greener grant funds to perform a comprehensive watershed assessment. For more information on Lancaster County’s programs, visit www.twp.lancaster.pa.us.

If you'd like your project to appear as our next featured article, e-mail a short description to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Community-Based Restoration Partnerships

Land Conservancy Is Instrumental in Reestablishing Native Vegetation

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, public-benefit corporation formed to preserve undeveloped land as open space for historical, educational, ecological, recreational, and scenic purposes. PVPLC has acquired land for conservation on the Palos Verdes Peninsula through purchases and donations and continues to support land conservation for public benefit. PVPLC supports a variety of habitat conservation projects on its land, including several large native vegetation projects. The conservancy has successfully restored a riparian area on one of its preserves and continues to plant native vegetation and restore habitat through several other projects.

At the Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates, volunteers have been working since 1994 to remove a large stand of *Arundo*, a tough, bamboo-like plant that is not native to the area and uses three times as much water as a native plant would. In place of the *Arundo*, volunteers have planted native willow trees and mulefat. In the future, participants who attend volunteer days (held on the first Sunday of every month) will continue to restore and plant native vegetation in riparian areas on the preserve.

At PVPLC's Forrestal property, a habitat restoration project is in its beginning stages. The steering committee is planning the strategy for the restoration that will take place upon completion of the native plant inventory being conducted at the site. The committee is conducting the plant inventory to gain a complete picture of what is at the site so that restoration work can be the most effective. So far, the steering committee has been able to assemble a nature trail plan, increase accessibility on the 160-acre site, and arrange volunteer days promoting the removal of exotic, nonnative plants.

PVPLC is also beginning to restore habitat at the White Point Nature Preserve. Acquired under a 3-year management agreement, this 102-acre preserve is the newest restoration project on the peninsula. Volunteers are restoring riparian areas and planting more than 40,000 native plants. Volunteer restoration days will be held every weekend through the spring to accomplish this task. For more information on restoration projects sponsored by PVPLC, contact Steve Heyn at 310-541-7613 x203 or visit the Web site www.pvplc.org.

If you are part of an innovative community-based partnership that is working to restore river corridors or wetlands, we'd like to hear from you. Please send a short description of your partnership to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Achieving Restoration Results

Indian Ridge Inmates Work to Restore Watershed

Information for this article was gathered from an article written by the Associated Press and published on January 2, 2003, in *The Olympian* of Olympia, Washington.

Inmates from the Indian Ridge Corrections Center in Arlington, Washington, are working with the Stillaguamish Tribe to restore the banks of the Stillaguamish River. The Indian Ridge Work Crew has developed a unique partnership with the tribe's BankSavers Project, a native plant nursery and restoration company owned by the tribe and aimed at rebuilding native runs of wild salmon in the Stillaguamish River watershed. The idea of the partnership came from the Snohomish County Department of Corrections and County Executive Bob Drewel, according to Doug Kenfield, project director with BankSavers.

The tribe's BankSavers Project is managing the 3-year restoration effort, and the inmates are providing the labor. "This crew buzzes," Kenfield said. "The mileage we're getting out of this crew is tremendous." Kenfield said the manpower from Indian Ridge will equal about \$300,000 worth of work over the life of the project.

The restoration includes about 30 projects over a 16-mile stretch of the river. Inmates are removing noxious weeds, replanting native flora, replacing culverts, and building fish ladders. Recently the eight-member work crew planted hundreds of trees and shrubs on the Grisson family property southeast of Stanwood along the old Stillaguamish channel. Before the project is completed, an estimated 75,000 native plants will be added to the watershed.

In the end, the plantings will provide shade for the river and woody debris that can fall into the water, a key element to enhance salmon habitat. Pat Stevenson, environmental coordinator for the tribe, noted that the plantings also will provide nutrients and bank stability. Crews will maintain the newly planted areas for 2 years by removing any invasive growth so the new plants can thrive.

The project is being paid for with a \$360,000 state and federal grant from the Salmon Recovery Fund Board. To see the complete article, visit www.theolympian.com/home/news/20030102/northwest/39561.shtml.

Sangaree Intermediate School Students Take a Stand for Ducks

The "Lucky Ducky" team of Sangaree Intermediate School students from Summerville, South Carolina, decided to serve as the voice for the ducks in their community. Their main goal was to transform their neighborhood retention pond into a living classroom and a vital community resource. They wanted to preserve, enrich, and restore a small green space for wildlife habitat, water quality, and educational purposes.

The primary problem the duck population faced at this drainage pond was a lack of appropriate cover and areas in which to feed. The lack of native, herbaceous plant species was forcing the ducks to feed on non-natural food sources. The sterile landscape was also ineffective at removing nonpoint source pollutants from the water, thus creating a water quality problem. The students learned about water quality analysis, natural aquatic buffers, and the specific habitat requirements of the local duck population. With the help of a nearby technical college, they designed a landscape that uses native herbaceous plants.

Working in cooperation with the Sangaree Parks and Recreation Department, and with grant money awarded through the South Carolina Forestry Commission, the students installed a buffer of native vegetation, planted trees, and created educational brochures about the new wetland area. The team also plans to build an educational pavilion near the site. The Lucky Ducky team is currently creating identification signs portraying images of the various trees and the wildlife that uses the pond. They are also designing water quality and aquatic buffer education pamphlets, as well as special activities for wildlife habitat studies.

The Lucky Ducky team has won awards from the South Carolina “Champions for the Environment” and the 2002 Sea World-Busch Gardens Environmental Excellence Awards programs. For more information, visit www.seaworld.org/EEAwards/2002/nfwf.htm.

If you are part of an innovative restoration project that has had positive results, we'd like to hear from you. Please send a short description of your project to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Funding for Restoration Projects

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives

Bring Back the Natives supports on-the-ground conservation projects that protect, enhance, or restore native plant communities on public and private lands. Preference is given to projects that benefit multiple species, reduce the causes of habitat degradation, demonstrate critical conservation need, involve multiple partners, and benefit fish and wildlife on federal land or land that directly affects federal land. Full proposals must be received by July 15. For more information, visit www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm and look for the link for the Bring Back the Natives program.

Community Salmon Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and King County WaterWorks grant program recently established the Community Salmon Fund to stimulate small-scale, voluntary action by landowners, community groups, and businesses to support salmon recovery in the central Puget Sound region. Grants will be jointly selected by King County and the Foundation and administered by the Foundation's Pacific Northwest Office. The goals of the Community Salmon Fund are to fund stream corridor protection and restoration projects that substantially benefit salmon habitats, encourage local landowners and other community groups to care for these projects in the long run, and encourage creativity and leadership to address conservation needs. The Fund will award grants of up to \$50,000. Pre-proposals are due August

15. For more information, contact Nick Pearson at 206-691-0700 or npearson@evergreenfc.com, or Ken Pritchard of King County at 206-296-8265 or ken.pritchard@metrokc.gov, or visit the Web site www.nfwf.org/programs/csf_rfp.htm.

Pancakes for Preservation: Recognition Breakfast Raises Funds for Restoration Activities

Several hundred participants shared a meal prepared by the San Pedro Lion's Club and volunteered for clean-up and restoration activities at the 3rd Annual Make a Difference Day Pancake Recognition Breakfast on October 26, 2002. The event, sponsored by the San Pedro Girl Scouts with help from the Lion's Club, was held at the White Point Nature Preserve. In addition to the pancakes, it featured a silent auction, face painting for kids, seed collection, and planting of native plants. The event raised over \$1,000, which will be used to fund various restoration activities at the Preserve. White Point is the newest nature preserve on the Palos Verdes Peninsula outside Los Angeles, California. The White Point project will restore native plants and create a place for visitors to observe and enjoy local wildlife at home in coastal sage brush habitat. For more information on the pancake breakfast and the restoration work at White Point, visit www.pvplc.org.

Please send any news you have on funding mechanisms available to local community organizations to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

News and Announcements

Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Habitat Restoration Plans

On February 11, 2003, the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) announced it will fund two wildlife habitat restoration projects in the watershed of Mobile Bay within Baldwin and Mobile County. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for two projects, one for \$40,000 and one for \$20,000, is now available. The MBNEP has identified loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat due to population growth and associated urbanization and development or conversion to agricultural use as an area of priority.

Proposed projects may involve restoring wildlife habitat on the land or in the water (including Mobile Bay and its tributaries). Restoration activities are broadly characterized and include such activities as planting native vegetation or aquatic vegetation, removing pollutant sources from land or water, removing invasive species, and creating wetlands. Full details regarding eligibility, submission requirements, and evaluation criteria are contained in the RFP. The RFP is posted at the Administrative Offices of Dauphin Island Sea Lab at Dauphin Island, Alabama, and on the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program Web site at www.mobilebaynep.com. The RFP will be advertised for 30 days.

“Although these dollar amounts are not likely to be sufficient in themselves for a major restoration project, we hope they are sufficient to initiate a project that might not otherwise have been undertaken. They are intended to leverage local community efforts to accomplish on-the-ground actions,” said David Yeager, director of the MBNEP.

The MBNEP is a community-driven program to promote and maintain the wise stewardship of the water quality and living resources of the Mobile Bay and Delta. It is governed by a Management Conference that includes representatives from all sectors of the community and is financed through a mix of federal and state and local matching funds. For more information contact David Yeager, Mobile Bay NEP, at 251-431-6409. To view the press release, visit www.mobilebaynep.com/news/Habitat%20RFP.htm.

Preserving Shoreline Habitat on East Sandusky Bay

Imagine a 1-mile strip of bald eagles, migratory bird habitat, and protected shoreline with public access along the Lake Erie shore in Ohio!

A unique opportunity exists to preserve the last large, unprotected coastal marsh on Lake Erie. Several landowners have come forward expressing their willingness to sell and preserve 1,200 acres of land on East Sandusky Bay in Erie County. This area is adjacent to other conserved lands, including Sheldon's Marsh State Nature Preserve and Putnam Marsh. Some of the land might also be donated. The total cost for preservation of this land will be about \$6 million dollars. The area to be preserved was once home to the only bald eagles that had survived in Ohio when DDT and other factors wiped out the eagle population in the 1960s. The area currently has a nesting pair of bald eagles.

The properties are in close proximity to the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Reserve, one of 25 National Estuarine Research Reserve System sites around the country and currently the only site on the Great Lakes. Protection of East Sandusky Bay offers tremendous water quality and ecological benefits, as well as numerous recreational and educational opportunities.

Because East Sandusky Bay has become a heavily visited recreational area, development has moved into the area quickly and developers have shown interest in the available property. Acquisition of the 1200 acres will help to protect dwindling shoreline open space amidst a rapidly developing area. It will also help to protect water quality along two tributaries of East Sandusky Bay flowing through the project area, Plum Brook and Dildine Ditch. Acquisition of this land will also prevent an increase in storm runoff and other nonpoint pollution, which could result from its development, thus helping to stop further erosion and nutrient loading into the streams and Lake Erie.

Senator Mike DeWine has helped secure a \$2 million appropriation from the Federal Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program in the fiscal year 2003 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill, which still has to pass the full Senate and House. Because a local match is needed for these funds to be allocated, additional funding will be sought from the Clean Ohio Fund. The Trust for Public Land is managing the purchase; however, if the purchase is finalized, the area will be managed through Erie MetroParks.

For more information, contact Kate Pilacky, Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat and Fund Advisory Panel Member, Friends of Wetlands, 184 North Main Street, Oberlin, OH 44074. Phone 440-774-4226; e-mail: swampdog@apk.net.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

New Listings

Hydrology Days 2003

March 31–April 2, 2003

Fort Collins, Colorado

Hydrology Days has been held on the campus of Colorado State University each year since 1981. It is a unique celebration of multidisciplinary hydrologic science and its relationship with other disciplines. The Hydrology Days vision is to provide an annual forum for outstanding scientists, professionals, and students involved in basic and applied research on all aspects of water to share ideas, problems, analyses, and solutions. The focus includes the water cycle and its interactions with land surface, atmospheric, ecosystem, economic, and political processes, as well as all aspects of water resources engineering, management, and policy. One of this year's special sessions focuses on advances in river restoration. More information is available at <http://hydrologydays.colostate.edu/callforpapers.htm>.

North American Benthological Society's Annual meeting

May 27–31, 2003

Athens, Georgia

The North American Benthological Society's Annual Meeting will feature a variety of workshops addressing the fields of wetland and stream corridor restoration, including tropical stream ecology, large river ecology, fish ecology, restoration ecology, and wetlands. For more information contact Anne Young, College of Agriculture Environmental Sciences, 204 Lumpkin House, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-4356. For more information, visit www.benthos.org/Meeting/nabs2003/programschedule.htm.

Symposium on Landscape Ecology and Wildlife Habitat Evaluation: Critical Information for Ecological Risk Assessment, Land-Use Management Activities, and Biodiversity Enhancement Practices

April 7–9, 2003

Kansas City, Missouri

The symposium was organized (1) to stimulate exchanges among risk assessors, wildlife managers, and landscape ecologists regarding better approaches to evaluating environmental conditions and assessing risk to ecological resources and (2) to explore existing standards and determine whether new approaches and new standards to characterize and quantify ecological resource conditions and to assess risk to those resources are warranted. For more information, contact Hannah Sparks at 610-832-9677; fax: 610-832-9667, e-mail hsparks@astm.org.

Previous Listings

Schuylkill Watershed Congress

March 1–2, 2003
Reading, Pennsylvania

Occurring annually since 1998, the Schuylkill Watershed Congress raises awareness of the watershed concept, offers training opportunities for river advocates, and fosters important partnerships for watershed protection and restoration. The first day of the conference will offer more than 30 sessions addressing a broad range of topics such as watershed education, conservation landscaping, groundwater basics, citizen group success stories, watershed assessment approaches, agricultural best management practices, riparian restoration, floodplain protection, storm water management, and watershed planning. The second day will consist of watershed tours. For more information, contact Chari Towne of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network at P.O. Box 459, Saint Peters, PA 19470. Phone: 610-469-6005; fax: 610-469-6025.

Wetlands '03: Ninth Annual Conference and Membership Meeting of the NYS Wetlands Forum

March 11–12, 2003
Saratoga Springs, New York

The ninth annual meeting of the New York State Wetlands Forum will examine a variety of wetland-related issues and developments and discuss the statewide and regional impacts of those issues. Sessions will include both research-related topics and information for local government officials. Abstracts are currently sought on a variety of topics, including tribal wetlands, habitat assessment, waterfront revitalization programs, legislative and regulatory updates, urban wetland restoration, tidal wetlands and special aquatic sites, and nutrient cycling in wetlands. For more information about the conference or for a complete list of topics, visit www.wetlandsforum.org or e-mail info@wetlandsforum.org.

Society for Ecological Restoration, Northwest—2003 Regional Conference “The Restoration Toolbox”

March 24–28, 2003
Oregon Convention Center

Restoration ecology is a rapidly growing field with broad participation from diverse technical and cultural groups. The conference brings ecologists together to share their questions and learn from each other's experience in this complex but essential endeavor. Conference sessions will include weed management, native plants, soils, fish and wildlife, and cultural restoration. For more information see www.fisheries.org/wd/news/2002/Ecological_Restoration_Northwest_2003_Regional_Conference_CFP.htm.

To post your restoration news and announcements, please send information to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Restoration-Related Web Sites

www.riversalive.com/aas.htm

Georgia Adopt-a-Stream. Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating Georgia citizens about nonpoint source pollution and providing them with the tools and expertise necessary to protect and restore local waterways, encourage partnerships, and monitor water quality. This Web site lists workshops offered by Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, publicizes volunteer activities, and provides links to wetland, restoration, and water quality information. *This Web site would be useful for anyone looking for information on protecting and restoring streams at the local level.*

<http://rrnw.org/>

River Restoration Northwest. River Restoration Northwest is a nonprofit scientific and educational organization. Its mission is to promote education and information dissemination that will advance the science, standards of practice, and design of river restoration projects. The organization hosts an annual symposium and works with professionals involved in river restoration to promote information exchange. *This Web site would be useful for anyone looking for technical expertise to assist with a river restoration project.*

www.friendsoftrees.org/home/index.php

Friends of Trees. Friends of Trees builds community partnerships to plant, preserve, and care for urban trees to strengthen neighborhoods, create an ecologically healthy environment, and enhance the quality of urban life. The organization has assisted with stream restoration projects by providing trees for riparian area plantings. *This Web site would be useful for anyone looking for assistance in gathering resources for an urban stream restoration project.*

<http://streamkeeper.org/>

Adopt-A-Stream Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to teach people to become stewards of their watersheds. Through workshops, publications, and outreach, the Adopt-A-Stream Foundation has taught thousands of people, young and old, about the importance of stream and wetland ecosystems and how to protect these vital resources. *This Web site provides resources useful for anyone interested in developing an organization or partnership to protect a local stream.*

www.wildplaces.net/WP_frameprojdescrip.html

WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education. The goals of WildPlaces are to repair damage that has adversely impacted ecosystems and to raise awareness about the effects damaged ecosystems can have on human communities. WildPlaces works to achieve its goals by connecting volunteer-driven habitat restoration projects with ecosystem-based education programs. *This Web site would be useful for anyone looking for volunteer opportunities or training dealing with ecological restoration.*

www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/adfghome.htm

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This Web site provides information on Alaska's salmon recovery initiatives. Many initiatives offer financial support for stream corridor restoration projects. *This Web site would be useful for anyone seeking funding or regulatory information regarding restoration projects in Alaska.*

www.michigan.gov/deq

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Wetland Restoration Site. To access the wetlands site, click on the Environmental Programs link, the scroll down to the bottom of the page and click the Watersheds link. This Web site is dedicated to educating Michigan residents about how they can help with wetland restoration. It also contains a link to numerous frequently asked wetland questions, including how to identify wetlands on private property, state and federal permits, and the Michigan mitigation banking program. *This Web Site would be useful for anyone looking for a strong foundation of education on which to base a wetland restoration effort.*

<http://www.affoundation.org/conservation/sharedstreams.shtml>

American Forests Shared Streams. Shared Streams is a conservation program created in 1995 to restore and improve riparian habitat. The program provides participants with information on how good forest and riparian area management can lead to improved water quality. This program is designed to sustain habitat for fish and riparian habitat-dependent species. *This Web site would be helpful for organizations seeking technical assistance and support on their riparian restoration projects.*

Let us know about your restoration-related Web site. Please send relevant URLs to restorationupdate@tetrattech-ffx.com.

Information Resources

Wetland Design: Principles and Practices for Landscape Architects and Land-use Planners

By Dr. Robert France, WW Norton Publishers, December 2002

Wetland Design lays out the key principles of wetland design, including creation, restoration, enhancement, and construction. It also reviews the impact of wetland design projects on watersheds. This book includes specialized scientific material on wetlands that allows design professionals to apply the principles to their own disciplines and practices. For further information contact Robert France by e-mail at: rfrance@gsd.harvard.edu.

A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place

By U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's *Community Culture and the Environment: A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place* is now available. The guide provides tools for identifying, assessing, and working cooperatively within the social dynamics of a community. These tools help those involved with ecological restoration projects to gain the support of the community. To learn more about this resource, visit www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf.

The Laguna Madre of Texas and Tamaulipas

by the Texas A&M University Press

The binational Laguna Madre extends along 277 miles of shoreline between southern Texas and northeast Mexico. It contains a diversity of habitats that sustain avian, aquatic, and human populations. This book is a compilation of essays by scientists and conservationists. It is enhanced by more than 150 figures and photos that represent more than 70 years of literature and research. Information is provided on Laguna Madre's geography, climate, natural history, habitats, and wildlife. This book is available by calling the Texas A&M University Press at 800-826-8911, or it can be ordered on-line from www.tamu.edu/upress. The cost is \$60, plus shipping and handling.

If you'd like to publicize the availability of relevant information resources, please send information to restorationupdate@tetratex-ffx.com.