

**CARPINTERIA CREEK  
WATERSHED COALITION**



CCWC Meeting Minutes  
Carpinteria City Hall, Carpinteria, CA  
March 15, 2007

**Attendance:**

Doug Campbell	
Vince Semonsen	City of Carp; Biologist
Ken Owen	Channel Islands Restoration
Suzanne Feldman	CEC
Andy Bailard	
Moe Gomez	Coalition Chair
Kay Mercer	Ag. Watershed Coalition
Natasha Lohmus	Dept. Fish and Game
Andrea Adams Morden	Carp Nature Park/Bluffs
Caroline Kuizenga	Carpinteria Creek Committee

*Introduction/Announcements:*

Keep our Sea Plastic Free—plastic bag exchange, March 10 to April 10 (while supplies last). Carpinteria location for exchanging your plastic bags for a gorgeous canvas tote bag is Girls Inc., 5315 Foothill Rd.

*Discussion topics:*

1) Carpinteria Valley Watersheds Newsletter—S. Feldman

Suzanne shared the first *Carpinteria Valley Watersheds Newsletter* with the group. Many had already had it in hand due to the fact that it was inserted in the Carpinteria weekly *Coastal View News*. Group members thought the photos turned out wonderfully and that it came out great. Suzanne solicited two of the group members to write articles for the next newsletter, and requested any other members who might be interested to contact her.

2) Land 2 Sea Tours—K. Mercer, SLO and SB Ag Watershed Coalition

Kay presented on an upcoming series of watershed tours. The tours will take a combination of various community members from the top of a watershed down to the ocean, stopping at various locations with different land uses and seeing presentations on methods/practices in use at each spot. Tours are still in the planning stages, and Kay is looking for suggestions for speakers, lunch spots, tour stops, etc. She handed around an

overview of the project, with budget and general cost breakdown. She then handed around a spreadsheet with an example tour laid out on it (in this case the Carpinteria Valley Watersheds tour). Each tour will only have 1 bus with approx. 50 people, and the very first one might end up being in the Carpinteria area around June '07. The CCWC group looked over the possible Carpinteria area tour and had some suggestions. Andrea suggested checking out the debris that washes down into Carp. Salt Marsh from upstream growers. Ken suggested checking out a plant restoration project. Kay responded that those are GREAT ideas, and noted that the plan is to have about 3 tour stops per tour with the mouth/estuary of the watershed as an additional stop. General plans for Carpinteria's tour include a greenhouse stop, a lemon grower, and an avocado orchard w/ Rick Shade (vice president of the Avocado commission) speaking. The group noted that lemons seem to be leaving the Carpinteria area so perhaps that stop should be replaced with an organic Avo grower? Natasha questioned about the participants in these tours, and suggested including the County roads/planning/development departments and possibly utility companies who operate along waterways. The group suggested that the tour could be called a "training" to get them there. It was also noted that the tour needs to be targeted at those groups/individuals that will most benefit from the interfacing that these tours will provide. Caroline noted that no one needs "preaching to the choir", and using the tours as a training and networking opportunity would probably be one of the best uses for the program.

### 3) Non-native invasive removal, restoration techniques—K. Owen

Ken had a beautiful presentation about common non-native invasive plants and their removal. He gave an overview of his organization, Channel Islands Restoration to start. He reviewed the extensive volunteer recruitment and training program they have, public education efforts, group collaboration work, and then launched into their actual restoration projects. First touched on:

***Arundo donax* Removal.** The Carpinteria Creek arundo removal project will be completed in 2007...then its time to start focusing on the inevitable re-sprouts. If attempting the manual removal method, know that clay soils are really hard for manual removal, you hardly ever get everything, and leave huge holes which become erosion problems. In sandy soil or in the creek bed it is acceptable. Herbicide application is the most common method. One is the cut-stump method. After chopping down all the stalks of a stand, hauling the stalks out is one of the most time-consuming parts of the process, and you still need to go back in and re-cut the stumps extremely short...as close to the rhizomes as possible, for the herbicide to be effective. 'Roundup' is applied at 100% strength (approved for water use due to the lack of surfactants in the specific compound, and with blue dye added for safety in recognizing where the herbicide has been used). You need to be sure there will be no rain 24-48 hours after application. Another method is the foliar method. It takes lots of prep work to move the Arundo or natives out of each other's areas. Gently pull the Arundo stalks and bunch them for spraying in a safe 'open' area. In the foliar method you use herbicides up to 10% concentration. This method produces about a 90% kill rate, while the cut-stump method is thought to result in only

about a 60% kill rate (extra diligent work can improve that—as was the case with the Carpinteria Arundo removal project ).

**Invasive Tree Removal.** Ken shared the removal of some Eucalyptus on Santa Cruz Island. So far approx. 35,000 nonnative trees have been removed from Santa Cruz Island! Once you have cut a tree down, apply herbicide to just inside of the bark layer of the stump so the xylem and phloem can take it and get it where it's needed. Another example he shared was at Coal Oil Point where they removed tamarisk and myoporium.

**Vinca major Removal.** For the hand removal method with periwinkle, you must dig out all roots systems and rhizomes, ANY debris, and ANY stems left behind will re-sprout! You must follow-up to get 100% kill success. Chemical control can be used when the periwinkle is a monoculture. The plants have such a tough cuticle that they must be 'wounded' before application of the 3-5% solution of herbicide.

**Kikuyu Grass Removal.** Spray with a grass-specific herbicide (to avoid damaging other trees/brush around the grass) or the same herbicide used in arundo removal. Post-application you can leave it in place as a mulch, or remove the grass.

**Pampas Grass Removal.** Ken's hint was to be sure to spray into the center of the 'tuft' as that is the usual re-sprout area of the grass.

**Ice Plant Removal.** In the example Ken showed, black plastic was placed over the plant and kept in place at least 3-4 months (the timing depends on the season). Clear plastic can also be used as long as it is very hot and sunny, and it will kill seeds of other weeds too. The ice plant can be removed or left as mulch (it will drop its salts into the soil as it dies, so you need to be aware of what salt adapted species can re-grow in the area).

**Cape Ivy Removal.** Ken touched on an example at West Anacapa Island, basically hand removing (incredibly labor intensive) or spraying are your only two options with this nasty invasive!

#### 4) Projects update

##### a. City of Carpinteria

Nothing this meeting, stay tuned!

##### b. Steelhead Festival

The group was updated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Steelhead Festival coming up in May. They discussed the date and location options. Moe shared that a series of meeting in the next week and a half should get things set in stone.

##### c. Norman's Nursery—DFG grant funded restoration project

This now-funded project will be located approx. ½ a mile downstream from the 192, and will consist of dead Arundo removal, native plantings, and placement of large woody debris structures in the creek to create habitat for fish. Moe noted that recent findings show that the more complex the structure, a large number of fish are associated with them.

##### d. Carpinteria Creek Mouth Project—Grant application

Unfortunately, State Parks has shown a slight hesitation for involvement, and the grant application is due next Friday, so we'll have to see if this project can move forward.

e. Draft Rincon Creek Watershed Plan—[www.rinconcreek.com](http://www.rinconcreek.com)  
Now available online! Please check it out. Comments will be shared at the next RCWC meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, and a casual bbq/dinner will hopefully be held in April at the Carpinteria Veterans Memorial building to share the plan with the community.

Next CCWC meeting will be April 19<sup>th</sup> at Carpinteria City Hall, 10:00-12:00

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