



News from the Rose Creek Watershed Coordinator

A Project of San Diego EarthWorks

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In This Issue

- Love Your Wetlands Day**
- New Rose Creek Mural**
- Friends of Rose Canyon**
- Pacific Beach EcoDistrict**
- Mission Bay Wetlands Feasibility Study**
- Clapper Rail Release**
- New Photography Book**
- Creek to Bay Cleanup**

Thanks for your interest in the Rose Creek Watershed. Please read on to learn about the projects taking place to improve our watershed's beautiful environmental and recreational attributes.

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www.rosecreekwatershed.org
A Project of San Diego EarthWorks



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Love Your Wetlands Day - this Saturday!

Looking for something to do this Valentine's Day weekend? Why not share a little love with the Kendall-Frost Marsh at the mouth of our watershed? Join us for Love Your Wetlands Day, an annual free service event where you can help plant native plants, take a marsh tour, and learn about current upcoming marsh restoration and expansion projects from [San Diego Audubon Society](#) and the [US Fish & Wildlife Service](#).



Two snowy egrets find love in the salt marsh.
Photo by Roy Little.

When: Saturday, February 15 from 12:00 - 4:00 PM
Where: Kendall-Frost Marsh Reserve at 2055 Pacific Beach Drive

Come for a brief visit or stay all afternoon. The event is appropriate for children over the age of 10. Please wear closed-toed shoes and clothing that can get dirty. Visit [Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#) for more information or contact [Isabelle Kay](#) or [Roy Little](#) with any questions. Hope to see you there!

Rose Creek Community Mural is Unveiled to Public



The newly installed Rose Creek Community Mural in Pacific Beach, painted by volunteers at the inaugural Rose Creek Fest last February, was officially unveiled on December 3, 2013 at a ceremony at the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge, which spans the creek near its delta on Mission Bay. The mural, sized 12-by-40 feet, is an illustration depicting the natural environs of Rose Creek. Installed behind the handball courts at [Mission Bay High School](#), the public artwork is best viewed from the bike and pedestrian bridge that links a paved path that encircles Mission Bay.

"At the Rose Creek Fest in February, I saw how community members of all ages had fun and took pride in painting this beautiful public art and I even contributed to the artwork myself," said Second District City Councilmember and Mayor-Elect Kevin Faulconer, who served as the emcee at the unveiling. "This mural celebrates an often over-looked natural resource which provides an abundance of recreational and environmental opportunities for San Diegans. I hope it will help raise awareness for the important role Rose Creek plays in our community."



Second District City Councilmember and Mayor-Elect Kevin Faulconer gave remarks about the importance of Rose Creek to community partners. Photo by RHS Photo.

The successful event was attended by over 50 people, including Sixth District City Councilmember Lorie Zapf, [Campland on the Bay](#) President Michael Gelfand, and Chet Barfield from Interim Mayor Todd Gloria's office. Two television stations and several local newspapers covered the event. Watershed partners including [Friends of Rose Creek](#), [Friends of Rose Canyon](#), [Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#), [San Diego County Bicycle Coalition](#), [The Raptor Institute](#), and [Barona Cultural Center](#) displayed educational material about their organizations. Stanley Rodriguez, a local Kumeyaay Native American Educator, provided a native blessing and remarks about the importance of environmental stewardship. Councilmembers Faulconer and Zapf joined Michael Gelfand to officially unveil the mural from beneath a curtain to the onlookers, with much fanfare from the audience.

The mural was created on 15 wooden panels, each measuring 4-by-8 feet, for a total length of 40 feet and a

height of 12 feet. Local artist Thom Guerra designed the mural in a "paint by number" process so that Rose Creek Fest participants could simply paint inside the lines to create the cohesive image.

The artwork showcases the variety of native plants and wildlife that live in Rose Creek. The design includes an osprey, the large bird-of-prey often found fishing in Rose Creek, and the huge leafy native sycamore trees that are abundant in the upper reaches of the watershed in Marian Bear Memorial Park along SR-52.

San Diego EarthWorks sponsored the art materials and talent required for the mural. Campland on the Bay donated the cost of construction materials and the labor to create easels for painting, as well as final design and installation. Friends of Rose Creek provided logistical support.

These community groups say they hope that the mural will inspire the community to care for the creek's natural beauty and help prevent pollution and litter. "I literally grew up playing and discovering nature along Rose Creek," Michael Gelfand reminisced. "Many Campland campers prefer the tranquil creekside campsites.



Sixth District City Councilmember Lorie Zapf and Campland on the Bay President Michael Gelfand blew duck-call whistles to signal the moment for the mural to be unveiled. Photo by RHS Photo.

We are proud to support these dedicated community groups because we have never taken the creek's vibrancy for granted. We are daily witnesses to how connected it is to Mission Bay and it's important that the creek remains viable not only for all the habitat it supports but for safeguarding Mission Bay's water quality as well."

We hope you will take the opportunity to take a ride or walk over the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge to view this beautiful new piece of public art for yourselves!

Below are links to local media coverage:

- [KUSI News Clip](#)
- [Beach and Bay Press Article](#)
- [Clairemont Times Article \(page 4\)](#)

You can also visit the [Rose Creek Flickr Album](#) to view more event photos.



Kumeyaay Educator Stanley Rodriguez performing a native blessing of the mural. Photo by RHS Photo.

Friends of Rose Canyon Updates

Friends of Rose Canyon recently worked with Jim Karnik Films to produce a short documentary entitled *Acorns to Oaks*. The video showcases the work by Kids for

Peace and Girl Scout Troop #3222 to restore native trees, shrubs and flowers that grew in the watershed before people brought in cows and horses that changed the landscape. We think the video turned out great! Please click [here](#) to view it.

The Beach and Bay Press also recently featured a story about the non-profit organization's Sense of Wonder Program. This program, funded by [San Diego Gas & Electric's Environmental Champions Program](#), brings local students from schools in University City, Clairemont and Pacific Beach into Rose Canyon Open Space Park to experience nature firsthand. In 2013, the program provided 95 nature exploration events to over 3,000 people of all ages, providing a unique chance for residents of the nearby communities to learn more about opportunities to access, enjoy, and protect nature. The program will continue in 2014 thanks to an additional year of funding provided by San Diego Gas & Electric! Click [here](#) to view the article.



Debby Knight, President of Friends of Rose Canyon, exploring nature in the canyon with a group of local schoolchildren.

What is an EcoDistrict?

A significant effort is taking place to create an EcoDistrict in the community of Pacific Beach. An EcoDistrict is a new model of public-private partnership that emphasizes innovation of best practices to create sustainable neighborhoods of the future. These neighborhoods are designed to be resilient, vibrant, and resource efficient.

A groundbreaking new program from the [American Institute of Architects](#) provides assistance to communities that are interested in creating an EcoDistrict. Their [Sustainable Design Assessment Team](#) (SDAT) is an assistance program that focuses on the principles of sustainability. SDATs bring groups of volunteer professionals such as architects, urban designers, hydrologists, economists, attorneys and others to work with community stakeholders, helping them to develop a vision and framework for the future.

Communities apply and compete against others to receive a pro-bono visit from the SDAT, and Pacific Beach was one of the lucky recipients in 2013. The SDAT's assistance includes a three-day visit from a multidisciplinary team, a report highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the community along with opportunities and obstacles to change, and follow-up consultations and visits to review progress.

The three-day visit from the multidisciplinary team took place in December 2013 and involved a series of public workshops which took place at Pacific Beach Middle School. The team explored opportunities with residents and stakeholders for



Lower Rose Creek flows through Pacific Beach and provides many opportunities for environmental and recreational improvements.

community improvements, including but not limited to approaches to reduce water pollution and potential improvements to biking and walking trails. Teams of experts also explored funding mechanisms.

Several members of the [Rose Creek Watershed Alliance](#) participated in this process, including the Rose Creek Watershed Coordinator, [Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#), [Friends of Rose Creek](#), [Friends of Rose Canyon](#) and [San Diego Audubon Society](#). They were able to provide input on a variety of watershed and marsh improvements that could enhance Pacific Beach and increase opportunities for recreation and tourism. The SDAT was very interested in the Alliance's reports, including the [Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment](#) and the [Rose Creek Watershed Wetland, Riparian and Water Quality Opportunities Analysis](#) and intend to include several of the recommendations in their report along with suggestions for funding of long-term maintenance for the area. We all look forward to reviewing the final report and learning more about how we can help implement the team's suggestions.

Mission Bay Wetlands Feasibility Study

[San Diego Audubon Society](#) and several other groups have submitted a proposal called the Mission Bay Wetlands Feasibility Study to be included on the [Wetland Recovery Project's](#) (WRP) Work Plan. This proposal concerns a large-scale feasibility study to analyze methods to expand and improve at least 100 acres of tidal marsh and mudflat habitats and re-establish the historic connection between Rose Creek and the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve. Other benefits of this significant project would include expanded opportunities for education, research, recreation and community engagement.

Recently, the WRP's Board of Governor's voted to add this proposal to their WorkPlan, which is an important milestone in their efforts to conduct restoration of the marsh that exists at the base of the Rose Creek Watershed. The WRP Work Plan is a mutually agreed upon list of priority wetland restoration projects for Southern California that has been reviewed and vetted among the 18 WRP partner state and federal agencies. Each of those agencies has their own grant programs with their own requirements.



Fishing Class 101 for Great Blue Herons taken by Roy Little at Kendall Frost Marsh.

Once a project has made it onto the Work Plan, WRP staff provides assistance to the project managers to identify funding opportunities that fit well with the project's goals and outcomes. Being added to this Work Plan is a significant first step in the implementation of this important project. Project partners include [Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#), [UCSD Natural Reserve System](#), the [Mission Bay Gateway Project](#) and the [Rose Creek Watershed Alliance](#).

400th Captive-Bred Light-Footed Clapper Rail Released

November 19, 2013 was a historic day in the field of local endangered species conservation. The 400th captive-bred light-footed clapper rail was released into the wild right at the base of our watershed in the Mission Bay Marsh Reserve. Wildlife biologist and Refuge Manager for [Tijuana Slough and San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuges](#) Brian Collins says "The 400th bird raised within this program marks a milestone... and is evidence of the success of our cooperative endangered species recovery efforts."



A clapper rail shows off its leg bands, which help researchers track the program's success.
Photo by Roy Little.

Click [here](#) to read the full story on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's website. Visit [San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex's Facebook Photo Album](#) to view more photos from this exciting day. You do not need to be a member of Facebook to view the albums.

New Photography Book by Roy Little



The front cover of Roy Little's new photography book.

Roy Little, a long-time volunteer with [Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#) and amateur wildlife photographer, has produced a book of his photography from the base of the watershed. This book features wildlife from the Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve, many of which were taken from his balcony that overlooks the marsh. The book features 60 of Little's favorite photos accompanied by text explaining each image. Little says he hopes that the book will interest and educate local people who live near the marsh. You can purchase a copy of the book for \$25 by emailing [Roy Little](#).

Save the Date for 12th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup

[I Love a Clean San Diego](#) (ILACSD) is managing the 12th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup on Saturday, April 26th from 9 AM to Noon. ILACSD is looking for site captains to host each of the 100 coastal and inland cleanup sites involved. If you know of a beach, bay, canyon, or neighborhood in need of volunteers, contact [ILACSD](#) to include it into this year's event! ILACSD offers training, supplies, promotional materials, and volunteer support to our site captains to make their cleanup sites successful.



If your company or business is community minded, environmentally conscious, and would like to let the community know of your generosity, become a 2014 Creek to Bay sponsor! ILACSD is seeking out sponsors at a variety of giving levels, making

it easy to get involved no matter the size of your business. More details about levels of giving and associated benefits are available in the [2014 Sponsorship Packet](#). Email [Morgan Justice-Black](#) or call her at 619-704-2772 to discuss partnership opportunities for this great event.

Become a Facebook Fan of the Rose Creek Watershed

Please become a fan today to receive watershed news, updates, and nature photography by Roy Little.

Like us on [Facebook](#) 

Rose Creek Watershed Alliance

Convener: [San Diego EarthWorks](#)

San Diego EarthWorks convened the Rose Creek Watershed Alliance in 2004 as an informal organization of stakeholders to help plan the future of the 23,000-acre Rose Creek Watershed. They developed a planning document to encourage watershed improvements called [The Rose Creek Watershed Opportunities Assessment](#). The Assessment includes recommendations to improve the watershed's biological, cultural and recreational attributes and was accepted by the San Diego City Council in 2008.

Members:

[Clairemont Mesa Planning Group](#)
[Clairemont Town Council](#)
[Friends of Mission Bay Marshes](#)
[Friends of Rose Canyon](#)
[Friends of Rose Creek](#)
[Friends of Stevenson Canyon](#)
[Marian Bear Natural Park Committee](#)
[Mission Bay Park Committee](#)
[Nobel Recreation Council](#)
[Pacific Beach Business Improvement District](#)
[Pacific Beach Planning Group](#)
[Rose Canyon Recreation Council](#)
[San Diego Audubon Society](#)
[San Diego Canyonlands](#)
[San Diego County Bicycle Coalition](#)

Partners:

[City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department](#)
[Campland on the Bay](#)



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