



Trout Tales



South Coast Chapter –April/May 2007

“ We all live downstream.”

Norris Brandt, Speaker for March Chapter Meeting

Our featured speaker for our May 14th, 2007 meeting will be Mr. Norris Brandt, Irvine Ranch Water District. He will first conduct a walking tour from the club parking lot to the grounds and ponds of the San Joaquin Preserve. The, back at the room, will give a presentation of the district’s reclamation, wetlands preservation and urban runoff containment policies. This has been a very interesting presentation in the past, as the IRWD is a pioneer in urban water issues.

We will hold a raffle for some good TU chapter apparel and, as always proceeds go to fund our restoration projects. Come join Mr. Brandt and us for an educational evening.

*Duck Club
Riparian Way (next to Audubon House)
Irvine, CA
7:00 PM*



President’s Report

by Drew Irby

Our chilly but largely dry winter is about over and we are looking forward to getting outside more with our restoration and educational agendas.

On the chapter level, much of time this year will focus on the San Mateo Creek (SMC) watershed. Trout Unlimited has an on-going 10 year agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board and we are planning more activities this year to reach its goals. In Feb. 07, TU volunteers placed a large fish weir (trap) in Loa Alamos Creek, which is one of the upper tribs of SMC. The goal here is to monitor and trap non-native fish and amphibians and try to identify their source. The main suspect is private landholdings, which built ponds on their property and sometimes overflow, spilling stocked non-natives such as bullheads, bass, sunfish and others into the watershed. We have held educational meetings to this end to educate the public but it is an on-going challenge and one of the biggest problems facing the restoration of SMC.

On the state level, our state volunteer organization is undergoing a change; adopting a new strategic plan to revitalize the grassroot level of TU in California. We have a huge state with a multitude of fish restoration issues and need a more cohesive org structure to get things done. That’s what all volunteers have in common—they want to get things done, make a difference, see measurable results and a sense of accomplishment. We think we re on the right track but, as always, appreciate any feedback from our members.

President’s report (continued)

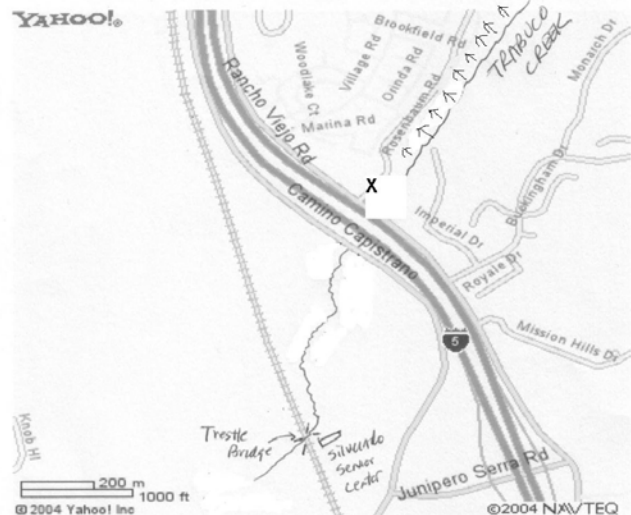
This strategic plan will be published soon, in the next few months or so. Please keep following our **new website** for more details.

--DI

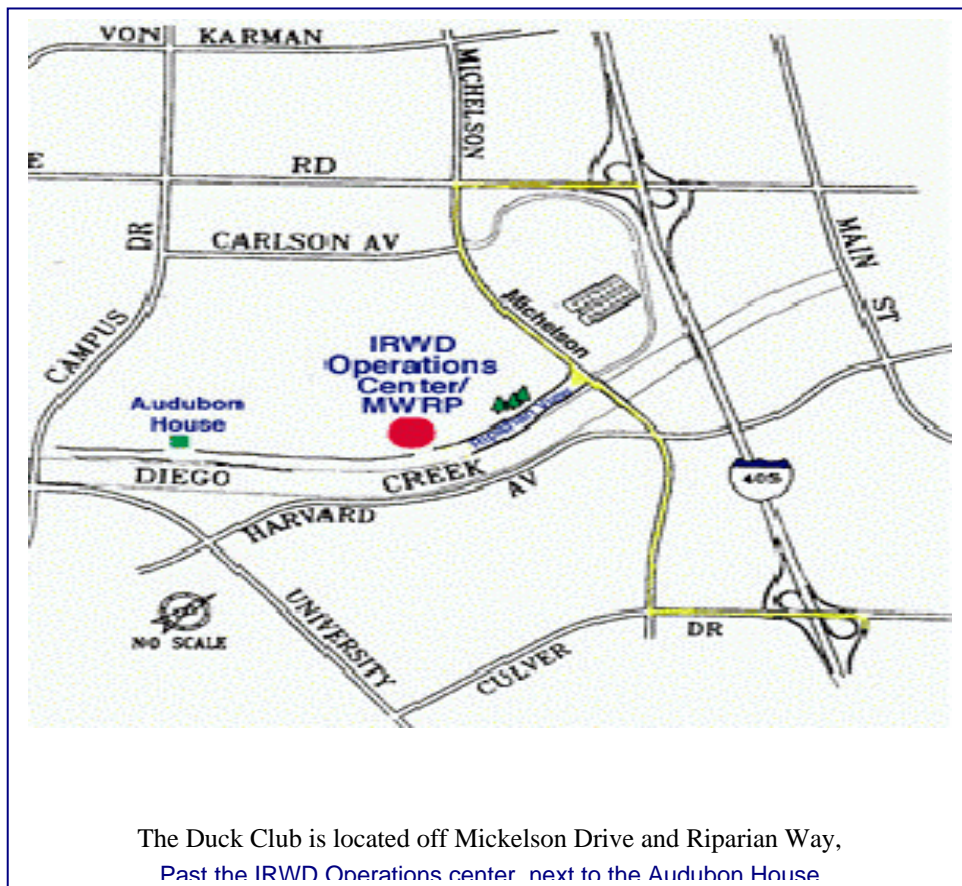
Trabuco Creek Work party Sat. May 19th. 9AM--12 noon

Maintenance work replanting native plants, irrigation repair and arundo trimming

Take I-5 south to Junipero Serra exit (one exit past Avery Parkway) Go west toward ocean one block, turn right (north) on Camino Capistrano Drive approx. ½ mile until you see the Trabuco Bridge and concrete apron underneath Park anywhere on either side of the road and follow the Trout Unlimited signs.



For other details or information, please call Drew Irby TU Project Leader at 949-588-5458 days, 949-951-0824 nights.



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MEMBERS! Upcoming Volunteer activities are being arranged. These events will be posted in future newsletters and, on [our new website: www.southcoasttu.org](http://www.southcoasttu.org).

No Chapter Meetings in July and August--General Meetings resume in September. Please see website Calendar/Events for outline of meetings and events as they are scheduled, for rest of 07. If you wish to make suggestions for future programs, please call Drew Irby at 949-588-5458



Conservation Report Briefs

(Oldest Projects first)

I-5 Fish Ladder – Planning and permit stage is about done. Groundbreaking should be starting in Oct.2007

San Juan Watershed stream assessment –Done; last Public meeting held in Feb. 07. Recommendations for future projects are coming out soon.

San Mateo Creek –All allocated equipment has been purchased and ready to get used! We are putting together a volunteer calendar as this is being published.

Metro Link fish passage study–Done. Final report and recommendations are due soon.

Cow Camp and Casper's Park bridge studies—both of these culvert and riprap bridges are barriers to upstream steelhead passage on the San Juan and need to be replaced. The Cow Camp study is finished, pending final report/recommendations. Casper's Park study has not yet started.

Steelhead signs—with the help of 2 Boy Scout Eagle candidates, we have finished installing 6 out of the 8 signs on key locations in our local watersheds. Cleveland National Forest is installing 4-5 signs on trailheads into San Mateo Wilderness in new kiosks, coming soon.

Contact us for more information; info@southcoasttu.org and check out our new site at www.southttu.org

Member Update

Please help us update our records by giving us your email address. We absolutely do not share this information with anyone. We send out 'blind' email broadcasts occasionally with TU Chapter news only as a courtesy to our members.

You may bring this info to our meetings or email us.

Name _____

Member# _____

Email address : _____

Share Your Favorite Fish Pics with us--

To show he is not all work and no play, Jamie Hunter shows off a beauty of a 'half-pounder' wild juvenile steelhead caught on a recent driftboat trip on the Trinity River, east of Eureka in northern CA. Six members of the South Coast Chapter 'pre-fished' the Trinity prior to a state meeting at the Smith River House near Crescent City. Six anglers caught a total of 8 fish the one day we drifted, biggest being 8 lbs. Jamie tried to claim that but-- we all voted for 6 lbs. on this one. Great wild river, great time.

You want to see one of these steellies occasionally just to remind you of how magnificent they are--



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